

November Newsletter 2014

Meet the Team – Megan

Which part of Cowgate's ethos do you feel most passionate about?

The outdoor play. I love seeing the children running around and feeling free and happy

What's your top handy hint for treating children as creative and productive people?

Giving the children the time and space to explore and adventure new things, and let their imaginations run free

What's your favourite way to spend the weekend?

I love spending time with my family, going for dinner, to the pictures or just a simple walk

If you could choose any holiday destination, where would it be and why?

Hawaii, the beaches look amazing

What would you put in to 'Room 101'?

Ribena. I have a horrible memory of drinking it in the car and being sick all over my mum's car. Sorry Mum!

What would your Desert Island Disc be?

Culture club – Karma Chameleon. I used to love singing and dancing along with my mum when I was little – I still do!

Life at Cowgate

Spanish classes

We have been in touch with a company who offers Spanish classes in nurseries and hope that we will soon be able to offer Spanish classes again. They have been very popular in the past. The cost per class would be £5 and the sessions have a musical theme. This is what they say

“In our music sessions, your children will learn Spanish through music, movements, some puppets representing a character of the song, stories and storytelling. We are passionate about music education.

In grammar, children's minds must sort the sounds they hear into words, phrases and sentences, and the rhythm of speech helps them to do so. In music, rhythmic sequences give structure to musical phrases and help listeners figure out how to move to the beat"

Children in Need

Thank you to all our parents and staff. During our latest collection for Children in Need, we collected £73.66. This will now be passed on to the charity. Again, a big thank you to all who contributed towards that total.

New website

Great news. Our new website is now under construction. It is being designed by Lucy Ross, mother of Ronnie who is one of our children in the Sala Infantil. We look forward to seeing it when it comes online soon. Thank you Lucy for taking the job on. We are sure the new website will be wonderful.

Can we also take this opportunity to thank all our parents past and present who have done work on our existing website. It has been very much appreciated.

We would also still welcome any testimonials you would like to give to add to the website.

Moving On

Leaving us soon will be Angela who works in the Birth to Three space. She will be starting her maternity leave on December 5th. We wish her and husband Felix good luck for the future.

Can we also take this opportunity to thank Katie Hobbs who has been with us these last few months on secondment. Thank you for all your hard work and congratulations and good luck in your new post at Craigentenny Family Centre. Katie leaves us on 28th November.

Baby News

You will all be aware that Susan [Birth to Three space] went on maternity leave recently. She has had a beautiful bouncing baby boy who weighed in at a whopping 10lbs and 5oz. They are both well and Susan and Lee have named their son Jonah.



New staff members

We are welcoming two new members of staff to our Cowgate family – Emily and Rachel. They will both be working at the end of day shift and you will see them when you come to pick your child up. They will be working in the Sala Infantil

Treasure basket time

Karen has recently introduced a seasonal treasure basket experience for some of our younger children, and younger siblings of children already at Cowgate. More news of this to come soon.

Cowgate Eco news

We have recently applied for and been awarded our 5th green flag from EcoSchools. The report said –

“It is clear to see that the ethos at Cowgate Under 5s lends itself to a clean and green way of living and learning. The children are creating connections with the natural world and reducing their impact on the environment through every day play and discovery. This is powerful because they are directly involved in every day routines and activity. Baking their own bread, making lunch, picking up litter and taking the recycling to the recycling centre, for example. With each Eco-Schools topic, I could see that the children had made decisions and followed their own interests. There are vast opportunities for learning and play both indoors and outdoors. I was really impressed at how much you reduce what is going to landfill through the creative ways you use everyday objects for art, particularly bringing the outdoors indoors. This is where you have the power as an Eco-School to influence others in a positive way, showing local people and parents that a ‘toy’ or ‘decoration’ can be made with little or no cost and reduce the amount of new things being introduced”

Kadi

As you will know, we sponsor a child through Plan International. Her name is Kadi and she lives with her grandmother in the Niger. At Christmas time, our parents are always very generous, but can we ask that, if you wish to give a gift to the nursery or staff, can it be a donation towards this sponsorship. A collection box will be on the reception counter for this. Thank you in anticipation.

Spare Clothes

Can we ask that your child has at least one spare set of clothes at nursery for changing. This is important even if your child is not prone to 'accidents' as we don't have a big stock of nursery clothes.

Food for Thought

Here are some links that may interest you

- <http://www.balancedandbarefoot.com/blog/the-real-reason-why-children-fidget>
- <http://www.wise-qatar.org/noam-chomsky-education>

Coming up

Alight! Christmas Tree Festival

The Edinburgh Christmas Tree Festival is an annual event running throughout Advent bringing together businesses, charities, church and city. Over 40 Christmas trees light up their sanctuary, each telling a different story. Children and nursery schools love to add to a children's tree and to hear the Christmas Story told with music and puppets. Local musicians and primary school choirs provide a free programme of live music which is open to everyone.

This year will be the fifth and it has been our pleasure to take part in it every year.

On 5th December, a group of our children will go there to decorate our tree. They have already been busy making the decorations for it.

On the 12th and 19th December, there is an Open Day and we will be taking the children in small groups to see the trees.

On 15th December, some of our older children will be going to hear the Nativity Story.

Learn more about the festival at

<http://www.stagw.org.uk/work/edinburgh-christmas-tree-festival/>

Nativity

The children have been busy rehearsing all their Christmas songs and will be performing them at our annual Nativity in the Garden on Thursday December 18th. We will have a morning and an afternoon performance. Times to be arranged and tickets will be on sale soon.

Hare and Tortoise

We have a group of children going to see the Licketyspit performance of "The Hare and the Tortoise" on Monday 1st December. I am sure they will enjoy it.

Other Christmas Performances

Joanna Miller [William and Thomas' mum] sent us these links to Christmas shows for your children if you are interested.

Cloudman – It's on 17 Dec at 1.30pm and conveniently located for the nursery! It's aimed at 4–7 year olds and looks lovely. There is good availability.

<http://www.edtheatres.com/cloudman>

White – The Traverse also has a show called White which is for 2–4 year olds, I think that's £10.

<http://www.traverse.co.uk/whats-on/event-detail/452/white.aspx>

Painting in Centre

Between Christmas and New Year, we would like to do some painting in the centre to freshen up the place, and we would love it if some of our parents can come and join us. This is normally a quieter time in the Centre. We have still to confirm dates for this.

Trevor

- Parents evening
- Forest school

New Gate

We are having a new gate made for the entrance to the Birth to Three space, to give the youngest children more autonomy on where they would like to be. They will be able to move around more freely. The gate is being made by the “Grow” project in the Grassmarket.



Holiday dates

December 24th – we close at 1pm

December 25th – closed [public holiday]

December 26th – closed [public holiday]

January 1st – closed [public holiday]

January 2nd – closed [public holiday]

January 5th – closed [in-service day]

May we wish you a very happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.
Lynn and the team