

February Newsletter 2021



Dear parents and friends
of Cowgate,

We were a little tentative
about sending a
newsletter this month,
providing an update on
what we have been up to,
but we decided we have
lots of good news that we
would like to share with
you.

We hope you enjoy ☺



Connecting Classrooms Update!!

Congratulations to, specifically, Emma and Jayne, who applied for connecting classrooms funding, which will fund a practitioner exchange with Ghana (when it is safe to travel). Exciting times ahead.

Dear Partnership Coordinator,

Congratulations you have been successful in your application for Connecting Classrooms through Global Learning funding.

Please carefully review all guidance enclosed particularly contract and payment requirements, and also visits and visa requirements further below.

grant agreement

Your partnership has been awarded grant funding to allow you to carry out activities as part of a Connecting Classrooms programme. Please refer to your contract for an extensive breakdown of the funding awarded to your cluster.

Your Grant Agreement, together with the activities specified in your original application, defines the terms and conditions under which your award is granted. Please read the Grant Agreement carefully, even if you have received Connecting Classrooms funding before, since the document is reviewed and updated periodically.



Nature Kindergarten

The last time we spoke about the nature kindergarten we informed you we were raising money for the shelter. Well this email is just to let you know we have raised the money.

We are still deciding on what to go for, whether it be a container, a log cabin or a yurt. However, after a lot of research, we are all keen on the log cabin.

One of our dearest outdoor experts, Juliette Robertson, gave us some valuable advice on 'what is often forgotten about by nurseries'. I am sure we have got this covered...but always good to revisit!!!



What's often forgotten by nurseries...

1. Where will wet clothing go... hung inside/outside/can it be dried quickly and easily?
2. How much time will staff spend keeping a shelter warm on a cold day? If someone is permanently having to stoke the stove, heat water for hand washing, sweep the floor support children to dry clothes, etc... can you afford this?
3. Entrance to the shelter... again invitation to look and find out and feel welcome to a child when shelter is needed. Practicalities - space for removing boots and storing, are slippers needed for warmth, hand washing facilities, break out space outside - a veranda or sheltered space, managing the draughts... so is a cloakroom/entrance needed before accessing main part of shelter?
4. Out of hours visitors - do you need fire retardant paint on wood cladding or hut. Do you need padlocked shutters over windows as an additional measure? What's your "fix it" plan for vandalism if you arrive one morning and there's an incident? Budget in advance. One option is to make the structure simple enough for a staff or friendly joiner to easily mend. Do you need a lighting system to deter visitors and a camera? It may be worth finding out from the local crime prevention officer what are the common crimes and any measures which are worth taking in advance.
5. Access to the shelter. What is the path network - is it sufficient to avoid a mud bath around the shelter entrance? What about children with mobility issues. Again, I have witnessed this issue countless times. Is the entrance facing the right way or is there a permanent draught because it faces the prevailing wind? Bear in mind most children work at floor or low level so will really feel the draughts more than adults.
6. Storage. Or is this a separate issue that requires it's own shed... the advantage of being part of a shelter is that it will get heat and keep resources in better condition.
7. Flooring. Just wood or other material. What will work for your children. Outside, decking can get slippery unless it is anti-slip. Invest in decent flooring.
8. Other uses... for example, do you plan a wee lean-to for napping children, do you need a raised platform/playspace/break out space - it can be a real blessing.
9. Lighting for dark winter nights. Think about inside the structure as well as around the outside of the structure.
10. Quirks - the planning officer, environmental health officer or other official with their own agenda that can throw a spanner in the works... can you befriend and quickly?

Some memories from February



Alex and Emma chat to our friends in Ghana



Winter experiences...exploring Rex and builder Victoria

Alex...dinosaur play!!

*So looking forward to seeing you
week beginning 22 February.
Look out for an email from Lian
with regards to your return.*

With the warmest of wishes

Lynn and the Cowgate team ☺

