



WELCOME TO BURNBRAE ELC

- *Play thrives in a culture where imagination and creativity are valued, where there is a shared sense of joy in wondering and discovering, where relationships are warm and responsive and where both adults and children are willing to take some risks and be adventurous.*
- Helen Tovey P32 'The Purple Book'



MRS LINDA CLARKSON

We are delighted to be back in school. This curriculum Evening is still virtual due to the guidance on parents in schools but we look forward to a day when we can do such events in person. The teachers have prepared information to aid your understanding of the learning experience your child will engage in at school so that we can fulfil our Burnbrae vision 'Play, Grow and Learn Together'.

This Curriculum Evening is one of the many ways we keep parents/ carers informed about their children's learning in school. Exploring our refreshed values Kindness, Respect and Curiosity will help us create a nurturing environment which promotes effective and inclusive learning.

Our Home Learning will continue online to keep parents informed about learning in school and maintain the skills children developed during remote learning periods. Please look on Twitter/ SeeSaw to see examples of children's learning. Pupil Progress Meetings with parents/ carers will take place in October.

We are all looking forward to an exciting and productive first term.

Your feedback is welcome -

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4WjOKVQJctawUZKVqb10AZW05Clw8ThXQqZJJUOTYxWU5NTFUOR0MzVDAyUkZSME81R0Y3Si4u>



[ELC at Burnbrae Early | Burnbrae Primary School \(mgfl.net\)](http://mgfl.net)

WELCOME

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome each family into our ELC. Our vision at Burnbrae is to 'Play together, Learn together, Grow together' and we look forward to having you join us in your child's learning journey. We take great pride in the relationships we build with our children and their families. Please do not hesitate to approach a member of staff if you have any questions or concerns. You can also email us - [BURNBRAEPS@MIDLOTHIAN.GOV.UK](mailto:burnbraeps@midlothian.gov.uk)

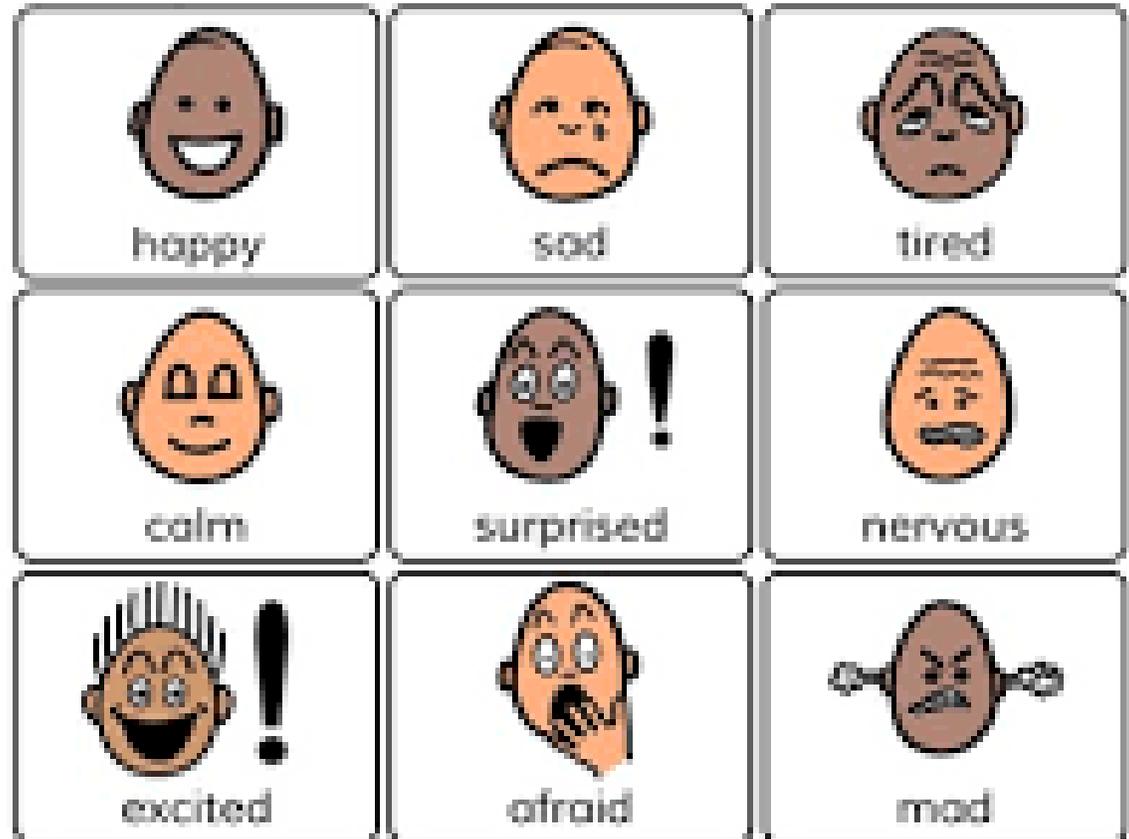
WHAT DOES A DAY AT BURNBRAE ELC LOOK LIKE?



On arrival to ELC your child will have the opportunity to express how they are feeling with an emotional check in. Burnbrae ELC is a free-flow play environment. Our doors are open for the full session to enable your child to play indoors or outdoors. As children access the different environments freely, they will develop a greater independence. Children are encouraged to take ownership of their environment and therefore are fully involved in the daily routines. Throughout the session the children experience uninterrupted play until gather time where children spend quality time in a small group sharing learning, ideas, stories, songs and games with a member of the ELC team.

WHY AN EMOTIONAL CHECK-IN?

- Our emotional check in is available daily for your child. This allows them to recognise and express how they are feeling when they arrive at nursery. It is a valuable tool for staff to support your child's emotional wellbeing in identifying and understanding their emotions





SETTLING IN

We provide a safe, secure, nurturing and stimulating environment. To ensure your child has the best possible start to their learning journey we expect parents to stay with us for an hour on their first session. Each child will manage this new experience in their own individual way and the staff team will support you and your child accordingly.

If your child brings a bag in to Nursery it must not contain any medication, snack or creams such as sun cream due to allergies and safety of others. Please use the bag only for supplying a change of clothes. If you need to bring in other items you must check with a member of the team.



SNACK

We provide the children with a healthy snack each day. The snack menu is planned in line with national guidance to ensure a healthy and balanced diet. During snack time your child will also be offered the option of water/milk.

We ask that families do not send in cake or treats to mark their child's birthday as there are many allergies in our setting.

Snack is a valuable social time for your child where they will spend time with adults and peers.

DAILY ORGANISATION

- Please try to keep toys and precious items at home, if your child requires a specific item to support transition please discuss this with their keyworker
- We would appreciate (where possible) if families can continue to follow social distancing guidance at drop off and pick up
- Any medication that your child may require should be prescribed and always supplied to the ELC in its original container and box clearly labelled with the child's name.
- Children are required to wear clothes suitable for outdoor and messy play
- Please ensure children bring a jacket as we are outdoors daily
- Children should be dropped and collected at the gate. Families will be invited in regularly for events once guidance allows.



ELC Times

Monday to Thursday 8:30am - 3:05pm

(Gates open 8:30-8:50am & 2:45-3:05pm)

Friday 8:30am - 12:10pm

(Gates open 8:30am-8:50am & 11:50am- 12:10pm)

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- As you can imagine, this is a very busy time of day so to ease congestion the doors are open for a 20-minute period after the specified drop off time and a 20-minute period prior to the specified pick up time. If for any reason you are unable to adhere to these times, please speak to a member of the ELC team.



TOILETING

- We understand that some children may come to nursery needing support with their toileting routine. Please let us know how best to support your child in this area of development. Please provide a named bag with a change of clothes and let a member of staff know if your child needs any other items.

Sickness

- If your child is unwell, please do not bring them along to ELC. If they are suffering from sickness and diarrhoea, they will not be able to return to ELC until 48 hours after their last bout of vomiting or diarrhoea. Please keep the ELC updated with any illnesses so we can adjust our registers and to ensure any infection control procedures are followed to prevent any contagious infections spreading.

Medication

- If your child requires the administration of any prescribed medication while at ELC please inform a member of the team who will support you to complete the required paperwork. Medication should always be supplied to the ELC in its original container and box clearly labelled with the child's name.

Allergies and Intolerances

- To ensure equity we aim to cater for all dietary requirements during the provision of snack. Please inform a member of the staff team who will support you to complete the required paperwork if your child has any specific dietary requirements.



LEARNING JOURNALS

Your child will have their own learning journal which will build up a story of some of their learning experiences at Burnbrae ELC. It consists of photos, observations, artwork and drawings by your child. These are available for you to look at any time.

NATURE PLAY

Once guidance allows, during their pre-school year your child will have the opportunity to experience Nature Play where they will spend time in the local woods. Nature Play allows children to develop an interest in and understanding of nature within their local community. The benefits of Nature Play include physical, emotional and social well-being benefits as well as providing a wide range of learning opportunities. Children benefit from having space and freedom to explore their personal interests and develop social and communication skills through team work and adventurous play. Children are supported to take responsibility for their own and others safety and can experience and manage risk in a safe way.

'The child who has cared for another living thing... is more easily led to care for his own life.'

(Froebel in Lilley 1967:128).



IMPORTANCE OF PLAY

"Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood" Fred Rogers

Play allows children to use their creativity while developing their imagination, dexterity, and physical, cognitive, and emotional strength. Play is important to healthy brain development. It is through play that children at a very early age engage and interact in the world around them. At Burnbrae we embrace a Froebelian approach to help us deliver the curriculum. A Froebelian approach is... a whole way of thinking about children and childhood', Helen Tovey writes. 'Learning should be joyous, meaningful and relevant. It should inspire further learning, or it is nothing.'



IMPORTANCE OF PLAY

- Friedrich Froebel, born 1782 in Germany pioneered new ways of thinking about provision for young children and is most commonly known as the founder of the first 'kindergarten' - a child garden. Froebel recognised the importance of children leading and directing their learning through their own play. By embracing a Froebelian approach we choose to recognise the uniqueness of each child. To build upon the positive characteristics that make them who they are and to celebrate and extend what they can already do. We value relationships with children, families and the wider community.
- Here, at Burnbrae we have a particular focus on natural and loose part play. Loose parts are materials that can be moved, carried, combined, redesigned, lined up, and taken apart and put back together in multiple ways. They are materials with no specific set of directions that can be used alone or combined with other materials.
- Play can be carried out both indoors and outdoors which will follow the children's interests. To ensure they gain the full experience in the types of play they are engaging in we ask that children wear appropriate clothing, taking into consideration our ever changing weather such as rain jackets, welly boots and old clothes in which your child will have the opportunity to explore new experiences, which can often be through messy and creative play..

FROEBELIAN PRINCIPLES

Mrs Knight, Mrs O'Hara, Miss Stephenson, Ms Swanson and Mrs McKnight have all completed the Froebel in childhood practice course with Edinburgh University. This course is designed for professionals working in Early Learning and Childcare with a desire to learn about Friedrich Froebel (1782-1852), one of the most significant of the early years pioneers, and how Froebelian methods are extremely relevant today. Froebel's work provides insights into how we can observe, support and extend children's learning.



MEET THE TEAM

Please click on the link below to take you to our ELC sway where you can see photos of staff in each room, we will update this throughout the year if new staff join our team.

[Welcome to Burnbrae Early \(office.com\)](#)

Linda Clarkson	Head Teacher
Kerry Knight	Early Level and CN Provision Deputy Head Teacher
Clare McCallum	Second Level and SCN Provision Deputy Head Teacher
Amy Richmond	First Level Deputy and P1 Deputy Head Teacher
Aileen Burns	Principal Teacher ELC
Karen McKnight	Senior Early Years Practitioner - Rowan Room
Heather Stephenson	Senior Early Years Practitioner - Chestnut Room
Pauline O'Hara	Senior Early Years Practitioner - Oak Room

Welcome to
Rowan
Nursery



- Karen McKnight Senior Early Years Practitioner
- Sharyn McKenzie Early Years Officer
- Susan McCairney Early Years Practitioner
- Loretta Lynch Early Years Practitioner
- Dawn Duffy Early Years Practitioner
- Cindy Lyon Early Years Practitioner
- Lauren Stewart Early Years Practitioner
- Weronika Lambert Modern Apprentice
- Debbie Thomson Modern Apprentice
- Sue MacAulay Learning Assistant

Photos of our ELC staff team can be found here –
[Welcome to Burnbrae Early \(office.com\)](https://www.office.com)





Welcome to
Rowan
Nursery



Welcome to
Chestnut
Nursery



- Heather Stephenson Senior Early Years Practitioner
- Sharyn McKenzie Early Years Officer
- Terry Gordon Early Years Practitioner
- Megan Dickson Early Years Practitioner
- Katie Igoe Early Years Practitioner
- Emma Agnew Early Years Practitioner
- Maitri Mehta Modern Apprentice
- Kim Evinou Modern Apprentice
- MaryAnn Molloy Modern Apprentice
- Katie Bell Learning Assistant

Photos of our ELC staff team can be found here –
[Welcome to Burnbrae Early \(office.com\)](https://www.burnbraeearly.com/)





Welcome to
Oak Nursery



- Pauline O'Hara Senior Early Years Practitioner
- Sharyn McKenzie Early Years Officer
- Marie Abrahams Early Years Practitioner
- Avril Carmichael Early Years Practitioner
- Jane Livingston Early Years Practitioner
- Catherine Swanson Early Years Practitioner
- Ashley Milne Early Years Practitioner
- Laura Hoggan Modern Apprentice
- Rebecca Conroy Modern Apprentice
- Vicky Stewart Learning Assistant

Photos of our ELC staff team can be found here -
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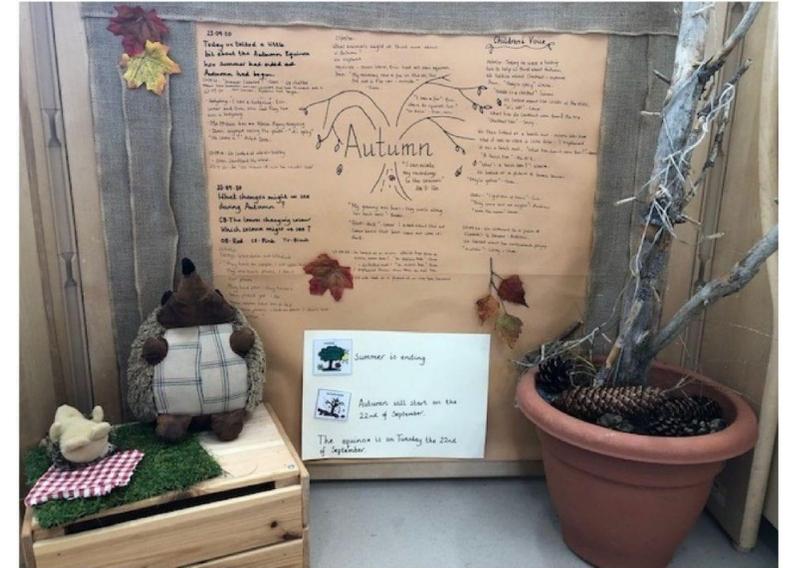
VIRTUAL TOUR

Please visit our virtual tour which can be accessed via the school website –

<https://burnbrae.mgfl.net/virtual-tour/>

PLANNING

We plan in four seasonal blocks. Children are involved in our planning when in the setting and you can contribute from home. We will share our weekly planning with you on Seesaw and encourage you to participate in planning with us by sharing any ideas or suggestions you may have.



LITERACY

I develop and extend my literacy skills when I have opportunities to:

- play in a wide range of areas
- take turns in conversations
- use new vocabulary to express my ideas and feelings
- make and tell my own stories through a variety of medium
- talk about the characters in a story
- make marks that relate to my play
- tell a story through my drawing
- keep the beat within songs and rhyme
- actively listen in :1-1, small groups and large groups
- make marks using a variety of materials





NUMERACY AND MATHS



I develop and extend my numeracy skills when I have opportunities to:

- Engage in block play
- Explore measurement through play (construction, baking etc..)
- Explore objects and use language of measure long/short, large/small, full/ empty, heavy/light
- Describe what happens in different seasons
- Create simple symmetrical pictures and patterns
- follow simple directions forwards and backwards, up and down etc
- share food/toys etc. among more than two teddies/children etc...
- share food/toys etc. among more than two teddies/children etc...



HEALTH AND WELLBEING

I develop and extend my health and well being skills when I have opportunities to:

- join a range of activities and groups
- follow routines on my own
- do things for myself
- make my own choices
- keep trying even when some things don't work
- Engage in play indoors and outdoors
- Manage myself safely when playing
- control my hands to: cut with scissors, use tools safely, do up buttons and zips, handle small objects and use a writing tool effectively
- Talk about and recognise my emotions



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Please:

- Contact the office via email if you need to make an appointment or ask any questions
- Ensure all clothing is clearly labelled
- Download and regularly check the school app
- Follow social distancing rules at drop off and pick up
- Regularly check Seesaw with your child
- We would appreciate a donation of 1 packet of wipes and/or 1 box of tissues from each child



At Burnbrae Early we use Seesaw to share your child's learning journey with you. During the first days of settling into the ELC routine we have and will continue to share photos of your child in your child's individual learning journal.

We believe that shared learning gives a lovely insight into the experiences and learning opportunities that your child accesses and gives the option for you to comment and share learning that is happening at home too.

Feedback from families has proven positive in the past when seeing their child form friendships, viewing our indoor learning environments when access is restricted and connecting with us.

If you are not yet connected to Seesaw please ask at drop off or pick up times for your child's family code. You can share your seesaw login details with up to 10 family members to allow them to see your child's learning journey too!

To access Seesaw please provide permission for your child to use this platform – <https://forms.office.com/r/J1YavNEpCZ>

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT TO SEE ON SEESAW



As well as sharing some of your child's learning journey we will also share important information and resources to support your child's learning at home and help you both to become familiar with the staff in our ELC.

We will share our weekly planning with you and encourage you to participate in planning with us by sharing any ideas or suggestions you may have.

At the start of the week we will share a story for you to enjoy with your child and at the end of the week we will post a few photos of the learning that has happened that week.

Please do like and comment on your child's learning journal, we really do love to hear from you and appreciate your feedback.

To access Seesaw please provide permission for your child to use this platform - <https://forms.office.com/r/J1YavNEpCZ>

Please remember, your child also has a paper learning journal which records the majority of their learning.



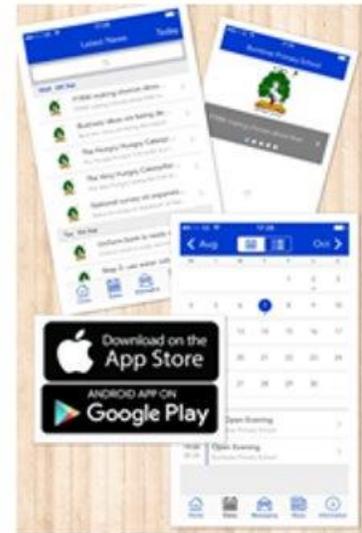
COMMUNICATION

- The school App is our main platform for sharing school newsletters and information – <https://appadvice.com/app/burnbrae-primary-school/1245620110>
- Information will always be posted to the school app in the first instance. Please contact the school office if you require support to download the app

Home learning platforms:

- Staff will post announcements and reminders to families between the hours of 9:00am and 5:00pm on Teams (P2 - 6), Google P7 or Seesaw (ELC, P1 and provision)
- Direct messages to staff should only be made through email to Burnbrae.PS@midlothian.gov.uk
- All communication for appointments should be made through the school office
- Good news and general achievements will also be shared on Twitter – @BurnbraePS and for the ELC @BurnbraeEarly

Please regularly check the school app for dates, news and messages



We have a page on Facebook set up to promote our website, twitter feeds, upcoming events in school and to provide families with links to support children at home. All comments are moderated. If you have any concerns please don't post on our Facebook page but contact the school directly. Burnbrae Parent Council has a Facebook page.



[@BurnbraePS](https://twitter.com/BurnbraePS)
[@burnbraeearly](https://twitter.com/burnbraeearly)

ROAD SAFETY REMINDER

All official school transport (taxi's and mini-buses) drop pupils off in our delivery drop-off zone at the main Burnbrae Early door. As school transport use the delivery area, it is imperative that parents do not use this area for drop-off/parking. Please park out with the school grounds if it is absolutely necessary to travel by car. When parking, always do so with consideration for our neighbours and for pedestrians, thank you.

Parents have also highlighted that some people are sitting with their engines idling; please can we request you turn off your engine when parking and waiting. Several pupils suffer from asthma which this exacerbates.

Remember parking is readily available at the pavilion car park (by the rugby club) with a School Crossing Guide sited on Rosewell Road to get them across to the school side if you/your child are able enough to walk from there.

Many thanks for your continued support

Parent Club offers up-to-date guidance from the Scottish Government on your child's health and education. It's full of hints and tips from other parents and carers who've been there before. It also has advice to help you look after your own wellbeing and to point you in the direction of the support available.

Parent Club have hundreds of articles across dozens of topics, from help getting their vaccinations to help getting them to eat their tea. Most articles are sorted by age, so no matter how old your children are, you'll easily find the information relevant to them. There are also plenty of articles for soon-to-be mums and dads to help you prepare for the adventures ahead. Plus all the information on the Baby Box.

All families are different and have their own challenges, but every parent wants their kids to grow up healthy and happy. Parent Club are here to help you every step of the way.

<https://www.parentclub.scot/>

The logo for Parent Club features a stylized lowercase 'p' in red with a purple dot above it, followed by the words 'Parent Club' in a bold, sans-serif font. 'Parent' is in red and 'Club' is in purple.