



Parents as Partners at Govan Family Learning Centre



News at GFLLC

Making connections with our community

At our recent In-Service day, the whole staff team took part in an Empathy Walk of Govan. The aim of the walk was to deepen our understanding of the local community and its history so we can support children to develop a sense of identity and a sense of belonging for Govan & Glasgow as a city. We began with a walk through Elder Park. We reflected on the importance of shared community spaces which are on our doorstep while also visiting the statue of Lady Elder erected in 1906 who was one of the first three women to have been awarded an honorary degree by the University of Glasgow. We then visited the Fairfield Heritage Centre (Shipbuilding Museum), gaining an insight into Govan's proud industrial past and the history of the Clyde shipyards. Finally, we stopped at the Govan Old Parish Church, also known as the Viking Church, exploring the accident history and heritage of the Govan Stones. Throughout the walk, we were reminded that these cultural and historical experiences are free and right on our doorstep here in Govan. The walk allowed us to reflect and become proud of Govan as a community and discuss how local knowledge can enhance and scaffold our work with our children and families. If you are looking for somewhere to visit at the weekends with your children, then we would highly recommend visiting any of the above. We learned so much about Glasgow as a City and Govan as an area. We were inspired to aim to share this rich history with our children through active learning & play opportunities so that they can also feel a sense of pride as we did.

Voice of the Baby

Brian, Claire and Sam from Starcatchers will be visiting the nursery every Tuesday afternoon for the next 8 weeks as part of research project being submitted to the Scottish Government. They will deliver creative play sessions for the children working alongside practitioners in our Birth-2 playroom. Each session will last about an hour each week. The researchers aim to discover what skills children use and develop at nursery through play, creativity and interactions with practitioners. As part of the workshop, parents and carers of the babies and children they are working with will be invited to join three of the sessions alongside the artists. Parents will be encouraged to join in and play during the session with their wee one. Please speak to a member of the Leadership Team and we can arrange a date and time if you wish to attend.

'Voice of the Baby refers to a wide range of communications including, verbal voice, nonverbal communications like movement, expression, action, sound, gestures and silences.

Current staffing at Govan Family Learning Centre

For several months now we have only been operating during the hours of 8am-4.30pm due to no backfill for practitioners who are absent or have left. Although Ashley has returned from maternity, we have other staff absences and maternity who we have had no cover for. This is due to an increase in vacancies and absences which is a national picture across the country. However, I would like to reassure you that Glasgow City Council are working tirelessly on resolving this issue and continually ensuring recruitment processes are in place to overcome this national obstacle. We will keep you updated as we are issued with backfill or staff return to work and as soon as we are able to operate normal hours we will be in touch. However, in the meantime please find below our current staff team at Govan Family Learning Centre.

Leadership Team

Head of Nursery: Marilyn
 Depute Head of Nursery - Jillian
 Lead Practitioner of Attainment - Carly
 Child Development Team Leader (Acting) - Sophie
 Admin: Pauline



Birth - Two Playroom

Child Development Officers: Arlene, Michelle & Frances

2-3 Playroom

Child Development Officers: Lisa, Denise, Sarah, Ashley & Ghazala

3-5 Playroom

Child Development Officers: Michelle, Jen & Lucy

Child Protection Coordinators:

Marilyn Steele - Head of Centre
 Jillian Logan - Depute Head of Centre
 If unavailable, please speak to Carly or Sophie (LPA & TL)

Weekly Learning Fund Contribution

Thank you to everyone who contributes to our Learning Fund of £2.00 per week. (previously known as Toy Fund). This contribution allows us to purchase resources for the playrooms to promote children's learning indoors and out and ensure their day-to-day interests are developed. We like to provide a birthday card and birthday book for each child and buy sun cream, baking ingredients, sensory resources along with various other items which all allow us to support learning and scaffold children's curiosity & interests. The Learning Fund is £2.00 per week and can be given to Pauline at reception or can be transferred using our online bank details. If you would prefer you can pay monthly/termly/yearly, please speak to Pauline who will give you the details required.

Dates for the Diary

- 12th November – Photographer will be coming into the nursery to take photos of the children for a Winter Photo Session
- WB 24th November – St Andrews Day Stay & Play for each of the playrooms. Times and dates for the different playrooms will be confirmed asap (We would love you to attend)
- WB 8th December – Christmas Book Bug sessions: Dates and times to be confirmed (We would love you to attend)
- 12th December – Christmas Jumper Day: children can wear a Christmas jumper or something festive if they wish
- 18th December – Christmas Party Day: more information to follow.
- 19th December – Nursery closes for TT children for the Christmas break.
- 24th December – Nursery closes to ALL children
- 5th January 2026 – ALL children to return after the break
- WB 9th Feb – Family Book Bug: dates and times to be confirmed (We would love you attend)
- 16th & 17th Feb – Nursery closed to all TT children
- 18th Feb – Nursery closed to ALL children for staff in-service day
- 5th March – World Book Day: Children can bring in their favourite story and dress up as their favourite character. (If there is anyone who would like to come in and read a story to the children, please speak to a member of the staff team)
- WB 23rd March: Stay and Play sessions for each room: dates and times to be confirmed. (We would love you to attend)
- 2nd April – Easter Party for all playrooms
- 2nd April – Nursery closes for the Easter break for all TT children
- 27th April – Photographer coming for an Outdoor Spring Shoot
- 4th May – Nursery closed to ALL children for bank holiday
- 7th May – Nursery closed to ALL children for in-service day
- 22nd & 25th May – Nursery closed to ALL children for bank holiday weekend
- WB 25th May – Stay and Play sessions for each room: dates and times to be confirmed. (We would love you to attend)
- WB 8th June – Family Book Bug for all playrooms: dates and times to be confirmed. (We would love you to attend)
- 25th June – Nursery closes to all TT children for summer holidays
- 26th June – Graduation party for school leavers (subject to change nearer the time)

Parents/Carers as Partners

At GFLC, we are continually looking for ways to strengthen our partnership with parents & carers recognising that collaboration between home and nursery plays a vital role in each child's development. To support this, we are hoping to introduce a range of new sessions and programmes designed to engage families more closely in their child's learning journey. These will include parent/carers workshops on early childhood development, stay-and-play sessions that allow parents to experience our learning environment first hand, and information meetings to share updates on curriculum and wellbeing initiatives. Our aim is to ensure every family feels heard, valued and is actively involved in shaping their child's experience in early learning and education.

If there is a particular area of child development you wish support with or advice about general parenting, then please approach a member of staff and we will do our utmost to try and support and guide you in the right direction.

We also work closely with third sector agencies in the community such as Govan Helps and Glasgow Helps. Therefore, if there are any queries you have regarding housing, finances, or are maybe just feeling a bit overwhelmed then please speak to us as we may be able to help or point you towards a service who maybe able to support you.

Nurture Nature Outdoors

Practitioners in the 3-5 room will be offering a six-week programme of Nurture Nature for small groups of children. Our first group will begin in November. If your child is in the first group, a practitioner will be in contact soon to invite you to join them for the first and last session, if manageable for you. (If people want to attend more of these sessions please speak to a practitioner). We are aiming to begin Nurture Nature groups for the 2-3 room soon too, so keep you are eyes peeled for further information.

Improvement Plan 25-26

Mission -1: Create a Vision, Values and Aims that informs our daily practice & defines the quality of early learning & childcare we provide.

What does this mean for you? We will review the current vision, values and aims working in partnership with all service users. We will discover your thoughts on what makes GFLC unique and work in partnership to ensure all children have opportunities to develop skills for life and become confident individuals, respectful citizens, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

Mission-2 Lead a change in practice and inspire all staff to become familiar and confident using the Quality Improvement Framework

What does this mean for you? Education Scotland & Care Inspectorate have published a new document called The Quality Improvement Framework which is now used to inspect Early Learning & Childcare from September 2025. We have started to use Quality Indicators from this document to evaluate our practice and identify strengths & areas of development. This will take time to familiarise ourselves with. However, we hope you will support us in this journey as we consult you and ask for your feedback as we evaluate the quality of our practice & improve outcomes for children & families

Mission-3: Understanding data and that using data effectively will lead to improved outcomes for learners

What does this mean for you? We will review our processes and systems to gather and evaluate data so that we can get better at identifying gaps in children's learning. This will allow us to identify what interventions are required, what aspects of practice need to develop and what training is required to ensure all children have opportunities to develop their full potential.

Appropriate Clothing

Could you please ensure that all children attending Govan Family Learning Centre have appropriate clothing for all weather conditions. At this time of year, we can experience a mixed bag of weather from each season. Warm weather along with cold, wet, windy and rainy days. As you know, we access the outdoor area daily regardless of the weather conditions (within reason, based on risk assessments). Therefore, it is essential that your child has a waterproof jacket, wellies, hat, gloves and a scarf in nursery so that they do not miss out on the fabulous outdoor learning experiences that occur each day. Can you also ensure they have a change of clothes in case of any accidents, we have very little storage, therefore, have a limited amount of spare clothes. Could we also ask that you write your child's name on all clothing/shoes to avoid confusion and items going missing. We are aiming to take children to our local amenities such as Elder Park or Elder Library this year. Therefore, appropriate clothing is essential.

Thank you.

Eduspot

If you previously had the Xpressions App downloaded, you will have noticed it is now changed over to Eduspot. Could you please, if you haven't already, download the Eduspot APP. This is a free resource and allows us to contact you as much as we need to without incurring charges. This APP is available for both Apple and Android phones. If you have any questions, please ask a member of the Leadership Team for support.

Govan FLC has a zero-tolerance policy against harassment, bullying and discrimination. If anyone has any issues/concerns, please speak to Marilyn in the first instance. However, if Marilyn is not available, please speak to a member of the Leadership Team. (Jillian, Carly & Sophie)

We are a nut free zone- Please do not bring any nut products into the nursery.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter



Making Connections in our community

