



Glen Urquhart Childcare Centre

November 2025
Newsletter





Oak Room News

We've had a wonderful start to this busy term! The children have settled beautifully and continue to enjoy learning through our topic "All About Me." We've been exploring what makes each of us unique — learning that while we are all different in our own special ways, we also share many things that make us the same. The children have loved talking about their families, interests, and favourite things, helping them build confidence and celebrate their individuality.

As we move further into the term, we can hardly believe how quickly time is passing — before long, we'll be thinking about Christmas! There will be lots of exciting activities and special dates coming up, so please keep an eye out for more information soon. Our Forest School sessions continue every Tuesday, and the children are thriving outdoors — exploring nature, building resilience, and working together as a team. The weather is getting much colder now, so please ensure your child comes dressed appropriately for outdoor play. Layers are best, as they can easily be removed if needed. Hats, gloves, and waterproof outerwear are especially important to help everyone stay warm and comfortable.

We are excited to introduce free flow play every morning as the children arrive. This means that children will be free to choose whether they would like to play indoors or outdoors, moving between the two spaces as they wish. To make this work smoothly, if your child would like to go outside on arrival, please keep their jackets and outdoor gear on when they come in. This will help them get started with their play right away and make the transition easier.

We're looking forward to another busy and joyful few weeks in The Oak Room — full of learning, laughter, and new experiences.

Stay Connected

Please don't forget to follow our blog on the nursery website to keep up to date with what we've been doing, as well as important dates to remember. We also have our floor books out for you to look through—these are a lovely way to see all the wonderful learning and fun that has been taking place in Oak Room.

<https://www.glenurquhartchildcarecentre.com/blog/>

Chestnut Room News

Our children are continuing to show a strong interest in transport, and it's been wonderful to see their excitement grow! To build on this curiosity, we're planning a few more outings to give them more hands-on learning experiences with different types of transport.

Our recent boat trip was a big success – a huge thank you to Ali Matheson for volunteering and taking the children out on his boat. They loved exploring and talking about how boats move on the water and had lots of questions about boats.

We'd also like to thank Kit and John for welcoming us and allowing the children to enjoy an amazing train ride experience. They were thrilled to see how trains work up close!

Big thank you to Frasers parents, Tiffany and Mark, who visited to talk about railways and planes. The children loved having you both, asking lots of questions, and seeing Mark's work truck - it was such a highlight for them!

As we begin the new term, we'll be sending home our "Look What I Have Done" sheets next week. These are a lovely way for families to share children's achievements from home-big or small! You might include a photo or note about something your child has learned, such as putting on their jacket, sleeping in their own bed, or riding their bike (send all this to the chestnutroom@glenurquhartchildcarecenter.co.uk)

With the colder weather, we've been practising putting jackets on and off independently. The children are growing in confidence each day! Please continue encouraging self-help skills at home, like dressing and tidying up – they make such a difference to children's independence and sense of pride.

Stay Connected

Please don't forget to follow our blog on the nursery website to keep up to date with what we've been doing, as well as important dates to remember. We also have our floor books out for you to look through—these are a lovely way to see all the wonderful learning and fun that has been taking place in Chestnut Room.



Our Forest School

- We are absolutely delighted to have received a woodland space from GURCA to relocate and develop our much-loved forest school, which was sadly vandalised during the summer holidays. Without the support of Anne, Gordon, and the rest of the board, this project simply would not have been possible, and we are forever grateful for their collaboration and encouragement. We take great pride in the hybrid provision we offer to the children and families in our growing community, both in our setting and in our outdoor learning spaces, and we are thrilled to have begun work on the new space. Our volunteer parent, Chris Clarke, has been incredibly generous in donating his time, skills, and materials to build our new shelter, and we are deeply grateful for his dedication to the centre. As a charity, this is not something we would have been able to remedy quickly on our own, and his support has made an enormous difference.
 - We have also been deeply touched by the positive and supportive response from members of the community on our social channels, with so many people offering help to re-establish our space. This has not gone unnoticed, and we are humbled by the kindness shown. It's moments like these where true community is felt most strongly, and we are truly grateful for the support around us
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Holiday Club

Our October Holiday Club was a great success, and we'd like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to everyone who supported us—your contributions were truly appreciated. Throughout the holidays we enjoyed a range of spooky Halloween-themed activities, an exciting trip to Farm Ness, and we wrapped up the week with a fantastic Halloween party.



Opening Hours

We understand that some parents and children may arrive a little early and wait outside before sessions begin. Please be assured that we are not ignoring you while you wait — we are simply making sure we follow our protocols consistently. We are unable to take children into the building before our official opening times, as this ensures we are fully covered by our insurance, and all safeguarding measures are in place. Our doors will open at 8.00am for Breakfast Club, 9.00am for Early Learning and Childcare, and 3.00pm for Goosc. Thank you for your patience and cooperation in helping us keep everyone safe and protected.



Our Improvement Plan

In line with the Education (Scotland) Act 2016, all local authorities must prepare, plan and publish an improvement plan for their setting detailing strategic priorities for the coming year. The National Improvement Framework and Improvement Plan for Scottish Education has been designed to deliver excellence and equity in education, and to reflect both the vision and approach of Curriculum for Excellence in developing the four capacities.

Please click the link below to see our most recent improvement plan and what actions we will be taking for successful completion.

<https://epum7h65gse.exactdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Improvement-Plan-Session-2025-2026.pdf>



Parental Engagement

It is widely acknowledged that parental engagement plays a significant role in a child's development and educational experience. This is evident within various frameworks, policies and legislative infrastructure that underpins the sector.

As an illustration, the **How Good is our Early Learning and Childcare** (Education Scotland, 2016) framework stipulates that families must be welcomed and encouraged to actively engage in the activities of the setting. Education Scotland's (2022) **Getting it Right for Every Child** framework states, working in collaboration with families is something that early year's settings ought to be actively pursuing to support an inclusive, strengths based and rights-respecting approach. Finally, though not in any way exhaustive, **Realising the ambition: being me** (Education Scotland, 2020) recognises that long-term economic and health benefits are brought about by meaningful social relationships as well as community/parental engagement. It's critical to acknowledge and value the contributions of parents and caregivers while also fostering strong, trustworthy relationships with them. By acknowledging the importance of parental engagement in these fundamental documents, it further demonstrates the validity and significance for its inclusion within everyday practices.

Here at the centre, we actively encourage parents to be involved in their child's education both within the centre and in a wider capacity. For example, through:

- Care plan meetings
- Stay play & learn sessions
- Workshops
- Forest School Excursions
- Trip days
- Home learning
- Fundraising committee
- Holiday club activities
- Membership/have your say
- Roles within the board of Trustees
- Open evenings/meet & greet the Trustees
- Annual General Meetings

If there is something you feel you could contribute to the centre, please reach out – we'd love to hear from you!

Want to have your say – join our members list:

<https://www.glenurquhartchildcarecentre.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/GUCC-membership-form.pdf>



Lunch Menus

As an Early learning and Childcare provider in Scotland we use the setting the table guidance here at the centre to develop our lunch and snack menus. These nutritional standards and practical guidelines provide continuity across the sector ensuring all children from birth to 5 years are receiving foods which meet their nutritional requirements and are conducive to good health.

Please see link below for info:

[Setting The Table Guidance - October 2024](#)

We review our lunch and snack menus each term. Before this takes place, we reach out to our parents and children working in partnership to hear all views/feedback on meal choices. We strive to meet the views of all service users regarding preferences, cultural and dietary requirements. Please get in touch if you would like to discuss any aspects of our snack and lunch menu's. You can view our menus on our website here:

[Glen Urquhart Childcare Centre Menus](#)



Some Recent Feedback:

"For snack my child love's watermelon, cucumber, bananas, muffins, pancakes and meal wise anything pasta related especially cheesy pasta! Also soup, curry, chilli, mince and tatties, noodles and anything served buffet style"

"XXXX loves having the soup options, she would also like to suggest burgers, lasagna and pesto pasta (you get nut free pesto) - thank you so much for asking"

"I totally appreciate how difficult it is to get healthy and balanced meals. I think it's pretty important to have something more basic on offer that will be eaten by more picky eaters"

"I feel the lunches and snacks you provide are all a good variety and similar to what XXXX would have at home"

"We are so grateful for all of the lovely food that is provided at the centre. Healthy, balanced and made with lots of care and love"

Investment in our Staff

We pride ourselves on the retainment of high-quality staff members. Behind the scenes, the staff at the centre work tirelessly to better their skill set, improve their practice and learn new skills – a journey of self investment.

- Sian undertook a three-part training programme in coaching and self-evaluation. The programme focused on developing Sian's coaching skills, including how to guide others, ask insightful questions, and provide constructive feedback. It also incorporated self-evaluation techniques to enhance reflective practice and continuous improvement in a coaching context.
- Marika, Chloe, Sian, Kelly, and Melissa all undertook mandatory training to renew their SSSC registration. The training covered essential topics including trauma-informed practice, person-centered care, and other key aspects of professional social care practice. This ensured they remain up to date with current standards and best practices in supporting individuals safely and effectively.
- All staff undertook Words Up: Key Messages training, along with a coaching session delivered by a Speech and Language Therapist. The programme focused on enhancing communication strategies, promoting language development, and embedding effective practices to support individuals' communication needs.
- Caron, Iris, Kirsty, Sian, and Andrea all undertook their mandatory Level 2 Child Protection training, ensuring they remain up to date with safeguarding procedures, policies, and best practices to protect children effectively.
- Marika and Emma completed their Level 3 Child Protection training in their roles as room leaders, enhancing their knowledge and skills to effectively safeguard children and lead best practices in their teams.
- Kerry undertook Trauma-Informed Practice training to enhance understanding of the impact of trauma and develop strategies to provide sensitive, supportive, and safe care.



Investment in our Staff

Cont..

We pride ourselves on the retainment of high-quality staff members. Behind the scenes, the staff at the centre work tirelessly to better their skill set, improve their practice and learn new skills – a journey of self investment.

- Melissa undertook Phonics and Literacy training for Early Years, developing skills to support children's early reading, writing, and language development effectively.
- Kelly and Kirsty have begun their SVQ Level 3 Children and Young People qualification, with Sian acting as their assessor to guide and support their progress throughout the programme.
- Caron, Kerry, Kelly, Melissa, Iris, and Kirsty have all completed their First Aid training, gaining essential skills to respond confidently and effectively to a range of medical emergencies. The training covered practical techniques, emergency procedures, and best practices to ensure the safety and well-being of children and colleagues in their care.
- All staff have undertaken Claire Warden's Floorbook training, developing skills to create engaging, reflective, and child-centred learning journals. The training focused on documenting children's experiences, supporting observation and assessment, and enhancing planning to promote meaningful learning outcomes.
- All staff have undertaken regular supervision sessions with management, providing opportunities for reflection, professional development, and support. These sessions focused on reviewing practice, setting goals, addressing challenges, and ensuring high standards of care and performance across the team.
- Melissa, Marika, and Iris have undertaken Gestalt Language Processing training, enhancing their understanding of language development patterns and strategies to support children's communication and learning effectively.



Meet the Trustees

Our Scottish Charitable organisation is managed by a group of volunteer trustees. At present, we have 6 trustees who ensure the overall management and policy making at the centre. Each trustee member brings with them a specialised skill set that enables innovative and dynamic leadership.

Their varied careers bring balance and expertise to the decision making. These include backgrounds in teaching, policing, social work, self employed business owners, administration and health & wellbeing practices. This combined with the experience, knowledge and expertise of the Manager and staff employed at the centre, ensures that the whole Glen Urquhart Childcare team can provide high quality care and education whilst enabling the Trustees to act as the 'guardians of purpose'



<https://www.glenurquhartchildcarecentre.com/trustees/>



Want to join our board? Pop into the office to discuss or email manager@glenurquhartchildcarecentre.co.uk

Small wins for big things

We work quietly behind the scenes to fundraise, and grant find so we can directly source toys and equipment for the centre. Recently have made:

- Rag Bag: £78.60
- Loch Ness Marathon volunteers donation: £60.00
- Money Tin at the garage: £46.27

We have also secured grants from:

- Highland Council October Holiday Club: £1,046.00
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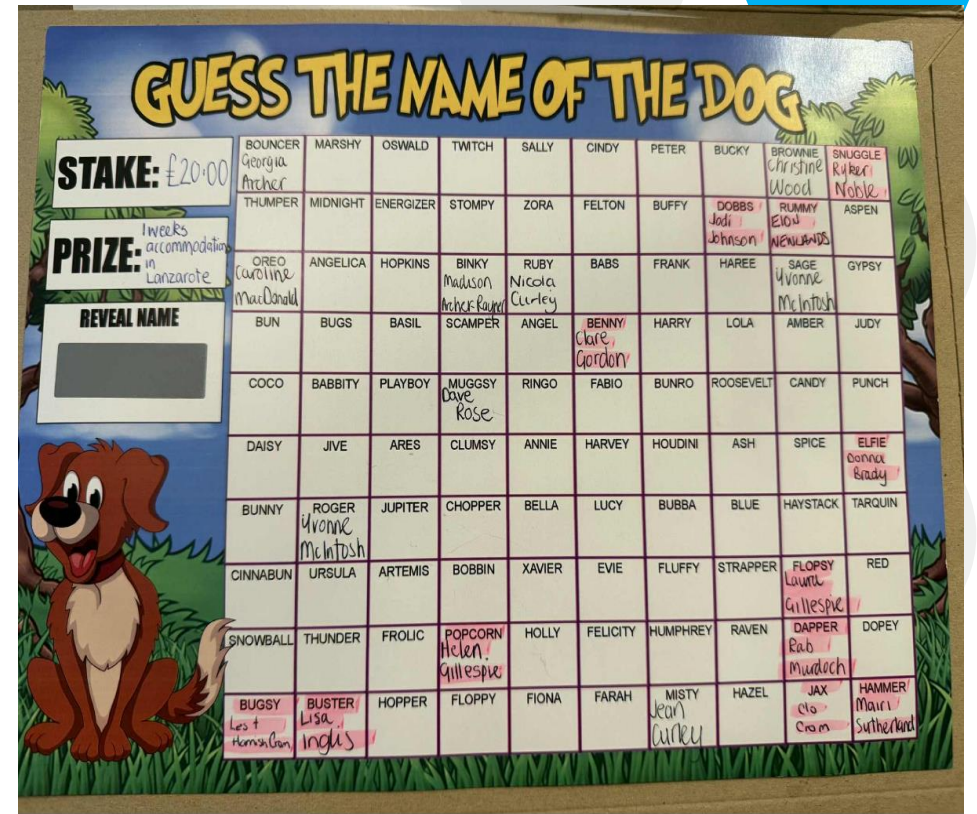
Lanzarote Fundraiser

We have our guess the dogs name fundraiser on the go.

All you need to do is guess the name of the dog for your chance to win.

£20.00 a guess and you could win a 1 weeks stay at Casa de ensueno – Costa Teguisse Lanzarote.

We would love to have this filled for Christmas – please spread the word



Help us earn!

Use easy fundraising every time you shop online! Click the link below to see the retailers that are part of the campaign. Over 4,000 shops and sites will donate, so you can raise FREE donations for us no matter what you are buying. These donations really help us out, so please sign up for free!

For every 5th time you shop you'll receive £3 to either spend on a coffee for yourself OR you could donate it to us at the centre! Last year £179.56 was donated to the centre from shoppers.

For extra bonus points, add the easy fundraising browser extension to your phone or desktop so you can donate to us without even thinking!!

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/donation-reminder/?efr_source=website&efr_medium=easyfundraising&efr_campaign=header-navigation



Rag Bag

Do you have any old shoes and clothes that no longer fit you or your child? We have a rag bag station at the front of the nursery that will happily recycle any unwanted items of clothing. This scheme is a fantastic way of ensuring clothes don't go into landfill but instead can be recycled for other uses. The Glen Urquhart Childcare Centre also receives money per kg of donated clothes which goes directly back to the children.



We Accept:

Wearable clothing
Paired Shoes
Handbags
Belts

Will not Accept:

Work wear/Uniforms
Wet/soiled clothes.
Curtains/carpets/towels
Duvets/Pillowcases
Blankets/Cushions/Linen
Suitcases/Books/Bric-a-Brac



Illness

It is important that you contact the nursery by 9.15am each morning to inform us if your child will not be attending – 01456 450679.

Please see the link below to Public Health Scotland guidance which can support parents to know whether they should keep their child at home and how long for.

<https://publichealthscotland.scot/media/25008/2024-04-child-off-school-a4.pdf>

Should I keep my child off school or childcare?

✓ Yes

Illness	Until...
Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the advice on NHS inform if they've tested positive for COVID-19
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics



✗ No

but make sure you let their school or childcare know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Head lice	Threadworms
Glandular fever	Tonsillitis	Slapped cheek

Parents and carers can find further health advice on nhsinform.scot

Advice and guidance
To find out more, scan the QR code or visit publichealthscotland.scot/hpcyp



1271 | 2024 | © Public Health Scotland 2024

Outdoor clothing

As we move into the more inclement weather, please can we request that all families ensure their children have appropriate outdoor clothing. In addition, a spare of shoes/boots to change into can be left beside your child's peg in the foyer.

We will continue to offer outdoor learning/play opportunities in all weather conditions.

Please have items named where possible to prevent the build up of lost property.

Stramash, centre for outdoor learning, has very kindly shared their cold weather clothing guide with us. Please click the link below:

[Cold Weather Gear Guide.pdf](#)



Winter Weather

As winter weather approaches, we want to take a moment to remind you of our centre's policy regarding closures and delays due to adverse weather conditions. The safety of our children, staff, and families is our top priority, and we understand that winter weather can sometimes present various challenges.

In the event of inclement weather, please be assured that we will closely monitor conditions to determine whether a delay, early closure, or full closure is necessary. Management will notify you of any changes (or closures) to the centre's schedule by 7:30am through the following channels:

- **Email**
- **Social media (Instagram and facebook)**
- **Centre Website/Blog**

If you feel that weather conditions in your area, make travel unsafe, please use your discretion regarding whether it is safe for your child to attend the centre. Your child's safety is the most important consideration, and we encourage families to communicate with us if they have any concerns.

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding as we work to keep our centre community safe during the winter season. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions regarding our adverse weather policy

You can also find out adverse weather policy on our webpage [Adverse-Weather-August-2025.pdf](#)



It's good to be social!

Modern platforms allow us to reach you at time that suits you best.

We update our pages on a regular basis to with information such as:

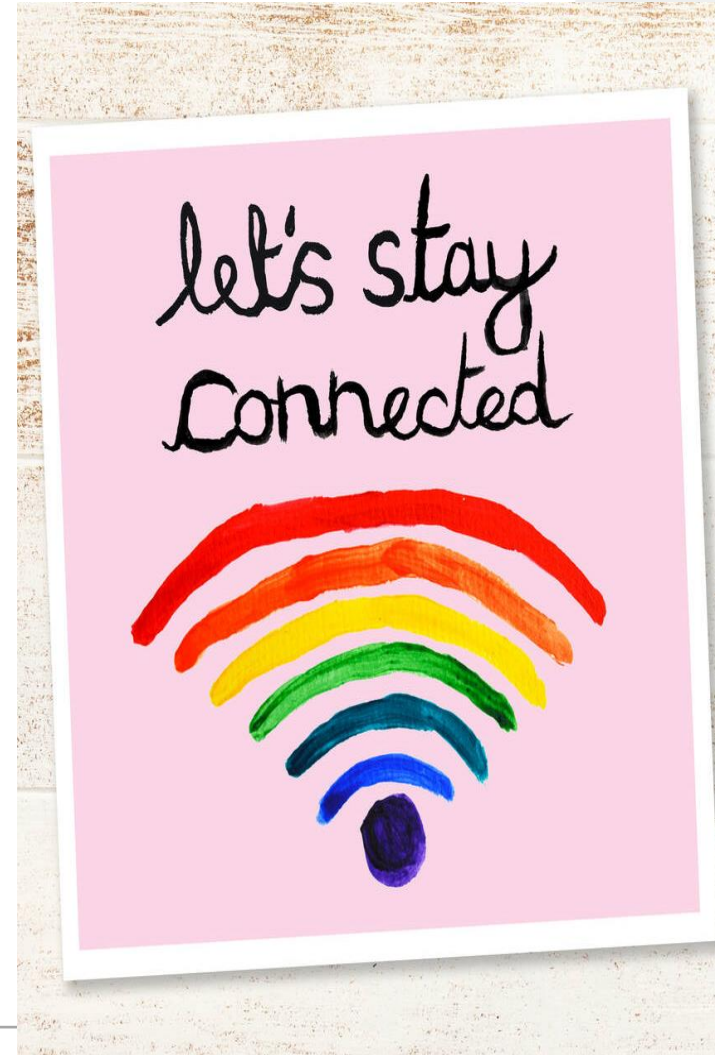
- Upcoming events and important dates
- Improvements to our provision
- Fundraising efforts
- Volunteer requests
- To simply spread some joy with happy little pictures & reels



<https://www.facebook.com/glenchildcare/>



<https://www.instagram.com/glenchildcare/>



Contact us

As always, we'd love to hear from you! If you have any feedback for us on our provision, ideas to help with fundraising/improvement or to simply seek some advice, get in touch:

Is there something you would like to see in our newsletter? Get in touch and share your ideas.

Sian Tembo:

manager@glenurquhartchildcarecentre.co.uk

Chloe Cromarty:

assistantmanager@glenurquhartchildcarecentre.co.uk

Andrea Martin:

adminstrator@glenurquhartchildcarecentre.co.uk



Telephone 01456450679



Important Dates



- **Monday 27th October:** Centre reopens for all
- **Wednesday 29th October:** Artsplay session
- **Thursday 30th October:** Halloween parties for nursery and GOOSC
- **Tuesday 4th November:** AMG 7pm
- **Monday 11th – Friday 14th November:** Nursery Rhyme week
- **Wednesday 13th November:** Childsmile Toothbrushing visit
- **Monday 24th November:** Decorate Christmas tree decoration (will be sent home to do)
- **Monday 24th November:** Stay, Play & Learn session @ forest school for Chestnut Room
- **Tuesday 25th November:** Stay, Play & Learn session @ forest school for Oak Room
- **December:** pre school transitions Balnain Primary – dates to be confirmed
- **Monday 1st December:** Eye testing for pre school children
- **Tuesday 2nd December:** Glenurquhart Primary transitions - Mr Macleod to visit centre
- **Wednesday 17th December:** Christmas Concert 1030am
- **Tuesday 23rd December:** Christmas parties for ELC & GOOSC (more details to follow)
- **Tuesday 23rd December:** Centre closes 530pm
- **Wednesday 24th December:** Centre closed