



## Contact Us

Fortrose Pre-School  
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## Session Times

**Morning:** 9.00 – 12.00

**Afternoon:** 12.00 – 3.00

## Staff

**Senior Early Years Practitioner**  
*Catriena Forsyth*

**Assistant Early Years Practitioners**  
*Iona MacLennan*  
*Catherine Silversides*  
*Eilidh Cameron*  
*Sophie Lumsden*

**Administrator**  
*Julie Kennedy*

## Childhood Practice Manager

Kathryn Allen  
k.allen@calachildcare.co.uk

**Committee**  
**Chairperson**

Maru Fraser

**Treasurer**  
Stewart Tonkin

## **Members**

Lindsay Urquhart, Ali Cartwright,  
Julie Mackay, Amanda Maclean,  
Sophie Spence, Helen Bates-  
Mateus.

## **News from the Playroom**

Welcome back to a New Year and new term at Fortrose Pre-School. We hope you all had a good Christmas break and are enjoying 2019. A special welcome to all the new three year olds, who have joined this January!

Older children were encouraged to look after the new children and help them to understand the rules we have in pre-school. This gave the older children responsibility which they took on happily. The new children have settled in well to the pre-school routine and have been exploring all areas.

We noticed that the children have been really interested in the map in the reading area and we asked them individually what it was they liked about it. The main consensus was that they liked the pictures on the map and in particular the tiger and the whales. We spoke with the children and they voted on whether they wanted to learn more about tigers or whales. The children voted for tigers and we are beginning our topic, initially looking at the patterns on tigers and exploring other patterns on animals and in our environment.

## **Bags and Clothes**

As we have limited space in the playroom we are continually looking for ways to improve how we organise things. Please could bags of spare clothes be kept on the shelving unit as you come in the door; also please ensure that all bags, wellies and indoor shoes are clearly labelled with your child's name. As the weather is still cold can children have a hat, scarf and gloves named in their bag. Could they also have suitable footwear, as we do go out in all weathers! The children have the freedom to come and go from garden. Currently red suits are being encouraged as the garden is very muddy. Although normally red suits are optional, allowing the child to have the choice. This may result in a bit of extra washing at home and a couple of changes of clothes. We have found that we are short on girl's clothes and in particular; pants, tights and leggings. Please have a look and if you have spares we would be grateful for the donation.

## **Packed Lunches**

A note about packed lunches - we would like to continue with our healthy packed lunches. Therefore, can we ask that no chocolate treats or sweets are included?

Please also **no kiwi** and **coconut**, this is because of a severe allergy to these. Could children come with a water bottle for their lunch, as cups are easily knocked over on our busy lunch days? Thanks for your help with this.

## **Thank you from the Committee**

Thank you to everyone who helped with fundraising before Christmas, serving teas and coffees at the Nativity and making or buying the Calendars and the contributions to the Hampers. The Christmas fundraising made a grand total of £430! This will go towards funding the Summer Trip.

## Dates for the Diary

Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Feb Safe Strong Free  
Tue 5<sup>th</sup> Feb Alisa Dental Nurse  
Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> Feb PE Session  
Mon 11<sup>th</sup> Feb Safe Strong Free  
Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> Feb PE Session  
Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> Feb lovefromcala  
**Mon 18/19/20 Feb CLOSED**  
Mon 25<sup>h</sup> Feb **Enrolment Week**  
Mon 25<sup>h</sup> Feb PE Session

Mon 4<sup>h</sup> Mar PE Session  
Thur 7<sup>h</sup> Mar Info night for P1s at  
Avoch Primary 7pm  
Mon 11<sup>h</sup> Mar PE Session  
Mon 18<sup>h</sup> Mar PE Session  
Tue 26<sup>th</sup> Mar Meet peers and  
Buddies at Avoch

Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> April Meet peers and  
Buddies at Avoch  
**Mon 8<sup>th</sup> -22 April HOLIDAY**  
Tues 30<sup>th</sup> April Visit 1 with Parents  
To Avoch

Tues 7<sup>th</sup> May Visit 2 to Avoch  
(classroom)  
Tues 14<sup>th</sup> May Visit 3 to Avoch  
(classroom)  
Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> May Avoch Sports Day

**Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> June In-service CLOSED**  
Tues 11<sup>th</sup> June Sports Day  
(morning 11am)  
Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> June Sports Day  
(Afternoon 2pm)  
Mon 17<sup>th</sup> June Visit 4 to Avoch  
(optional Lunch  
11.45)

**Fri 5<sup>th</sup> July CLOSED  
HOLIDAYS**

**Blue for all those going into P1**

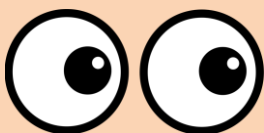
### Winter Weather Closure

We follow the lead of Avoch Primary School if we have to close due to adverse winter weather.

There are several ways to check for Avoch Primary School closure:

- Check online at [www.highland.gov.uk/schoolclosures](http://www.highland.gov.uk/schoolclosures)
- Phone the Highland Council's School Information Service  
Dial: 0800 564 2272  
Pin Number: 04 1470
- Listen to Moray Firth Radio

### Keep A Look Out



For further dates as the committee are hoping to have a shed tidy. It is more than likely to happen at the weekend.

## News from the Committee

We have just had our first Committee meeting of the year minutes will be available soon. We covered a wide variety of topics so please do read them. We also realised the new children might not have been made aware but we have **Preschool T-shirts** on offer if parents wish to buy them £8.00 per t-shirt. **Next Committee Meeting will be 7<sup>th</sup> May, 7pm in the Playroom.**



## CO-OP Fund

Just a reminder, as you will know we are being supported by our local co-op through their community fund and we need your help in raising our total. The money raised comes back to the preschool and we hope to update equipment and plant a sensory section in the garden and if all goes well do a bit of landscaping.

This involves you registering your membership card to our preschool cause on the co-op website. It takes about 3 minutes if you are already a registered member, have your card handy. If you aren't you can pick up a card from the shop for £1.00 and register it. [This is the link for OUR coop page](#), follow instructions on the page to register your card.

1% of your total spend in store is put towards the community fund so even if you only buy milk once a week a share of that money will come to us. However the more you spend the more we earn and what's even better is anyone you know who uses our coop or lives within a 15 mile radius of our store and uses a different coop can still pledge their 1% to us. So get on the phone to grannies, grandads, aunts, uncles and the dog walker we need your 1% the garden would look incredible if we raise the full amount.

Once you have signed up that's all there is to it. We receive the first portion of money in April and the Final instalment in November so there's still loads of time to get your card and have it registered.

If you haven't got internet access ask in store as they should have an I pad and they can set up your card for you.

Look in store for our display the children will be helping create it.

In the meantime we are also hoping to work in partnership with our local [men's shed](#) to create some outside wooden toys and possibly fix our shed.

## Upcoming Events

### Safe Strong and Free – for children going to P1.

Is a primary abuse prevention programme which aims to reduce the vulnerability of young children to abuse and assault. We firmly believe that children's vulnerability will be reduced by raising awareness with families and communities, in conjunction with providing children with resources for their own that they can use when they find themselves in a difficult situation. For more information on SSF please visit <http://safestrongandfree.org.uk>

### Enrolment Information

4 year olds born – 1st March 2015 -28th February 2016 will be eligible for a funded place from August 2019.

3 year olds born – 1st March 2016 – 31st August 2016 will be eligible for a funded place from August 2019.

1st September 2016 – 31st December 2016 will be eligible for a funded place from January 2020.

1st January 2017 – 28th February 2017 will be eligible for a funded place from April 2020

### Feedback

We welcome any comments or suggestions you may have in all aspects of pre-school life. Please leave a note in the playroom suggestion box or email [fortrosepreschool@live.com](mailto:fortrosepreschool@live.com)

### Upcoming Events

#### Enrolment Weeks

##### **Fortrose Pre-School Enrolment – 25<sup>th</sup> February – 1<sup>st</sup> March**

All current 3 year olds must re-register for their place at Fortrose Pre-School, ready to start in August 2019. Enrolment packs will be given shortly, these must be completed and taken to Pre-School together with your child's birth certificate during enrolment week.

We would also appreciate if you could tell any friends who have little ones who will be 3 years old by February 2020 that they should also register this February to ensure a place.

Come along on:

**Monday 25th February between 1pm and 2.30pm or Thursday 28th February between 10am and 11:30am Or 1pm and 2.30pm**

If you can't make it one these dates please contact Pre-school Staff.

Enrolment does not guarantee a place; this will be confirmed in writing.

#### **PE with S3 Students at Fortrose Academy**

We are also working in partnership with Fortrose Academy S3 pupils, meeting up with them initially once a week on a Thursday afternoon for a gym session up at Fortrose Academy. This session is planned and led by the academy pupils, with pre-school staff there as support. We have had our first session and most of the children joined in and enjoyed it.

#### **#lovefromCALA**

Care and Learning Alliance (CALA), have launched, a brand new initiative which encourages children, families, carers, staff, volunteers and partners of CALA to join our fundraising event on Valentine's Day: 14th February 2019.

[The Archie Foundation](#) and [Mikeysline](#) were selected at CALAs annual conference in September 2018, as local charities providing support across Highland, and all proceeds raised on the day will be split between the two organisations.

As we are holding regular PE session with the academy and learning about our body and exercise we are going to tie this in to our event, children will do an exercise of their choice for 1 minute.

Sponsor forms will be put into each child's pocket.

#### **Pre-School Washing**

The team are looking for volunteers to take home a bag of washing at the end of each term. Please help by putting your name on the sign-up sheet next to the register. Thanks it's a great help as the centre hasn't got a washing machine.

# Message from Kathryn



The Pre-school is very busy at the minute but seems to be working very positively. Staff have come up with various different methods to ensure a more smooth transition is made throughout the flexible drop off/pick up times throughout the day.

At the minute we have been focusing on taking forward the Care inspectorate action plan which I have just drawn up as it hadn't be drawn up when the initial inspection took place. The inspection findings were simply about some areas within the outdoors particularly literacy and numeracy so we have been updating the action plan with what the children now have on offer out there relating to these two main areas. We have recently implemented the Highland Council action plan which I drew up in June last year so we have been taking these areas forward e.g. SHANARRI bear and other meaningful ways to allow parents and children to be more aware of the importance of SHANARRI for the children's wellbeing and why we focus very closely on it. Alongside the action plans these areas all link into our current improvement plan where we are focusing on a more systematic approach to self-evaluation ensuring all practitioners are having their input on a weekly basis. The other area we are focusing on is taking forward the New Health and Social Care Standards ensuring families are aware how they are being implemented within the setting throughout our current practice. This is why staff have now decided to take forward photographic evidence based on a specific standard so parents can see how the standard is being met within the setting.

With regards to all action plans/improvement plans staff are working exceptionally hard to take these areas forward and it is proving as the children are thoroughly enjoying their experiences and opportunities offered to them within the pre-school.

If there is any questions I am at the end of the phone or if parents/committee would like any input to the action plans I can share them with all the committee also so they have a copy.

Thanks

**Kathryn Allan**  
**Childhood Practice Manager**  
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