



CAMBUSBARRON VILLAGE NURSERY

Our Service

We provide high quality early learning experiences for children from 2½ to school age. We operate in partnership with Stirling Council to offer fully funded (free) places to eligible* children. We welcome younger children on a fee paying basis. We place a high value on the benefits of outdoor learning particularly on learning in a natural environment and provide regular Woodland Play Session held in the local woodlands.

We offer 6 hour sessions between 0845-1515 Monday-Friday during school term times.

* Eligibility criteria can be found in Stirling Council's Nursery Admissions and Charging Policy.

We are a Community Interest Company

We are a nonprofit making organisation and any surplus is invested back into our service for the benefit of our community.

Contact Us :

Cambusbarron Community Centre,

St Ninian's Road,

Cambusbarron, FK9 9NU.

01786 430497

admin@CambusbarronVillageNursery.com

www.CambusbarronVillageNursery.com



Welcome

This has been an incredibly quick term and it's hard to believe we are already in October. Our "new" children are settling in well and the staff team are enjoying getting to know them better.

Funding

In general we tend to steer clear of political issues at CVN but the nature of how early learning and childcare (ELC) is currently funded is making it very difficult for settings like us to remain financially sustainable while continuing to deliver the high quality service upon which we have built our reputation. The funding model currently in operation is that each local authority is allocated an amount by the Scottish Government to deliver ELC to all eligible children in their area. Each local authority, including Stirling, uses this funding to operate their own nurseries and also to pay a "funded rate" for every eligible child who attends their funded providers or "partner" settings.

Stirling Council calculate their funded rate based on their costs which do not consider the different costs of partner settings which obviously can vary dramatically depending on individual circumstances. As an example, when we hold sessions in the woods, we have a higher than required staff:child ratio in order to keep children safe and to ensure they have the right support to achieve the best experiences. The funded rate we receive is based on the standard legal adult:child ratio.

You are likely also aware that local authority schools and nurseries were due to close last month because of strike action by early years staff (amongst others). This was averted by an improved pay offer to local authority staff only. The rate paid to funded providers is unchanged with the result that we cannot increase pay rates to our staff. Recently the real living wage was increased by £1 per hour. As Living Wage Employers we want and need to pay this increase to our staff but have no means to do so again because the funded rate has remained the same.

The lack of parity between local authority settings and those in the PVI sector is concerning. News articles such as "Private and Voluntary Nurseries expected to deliver more for less", "Enhanced free early learning and childcare hours provision is 'beginning to

fail' in Highlands" and "UK faces childcare crisis as staff shortages force nurseries to close" give more details on what is becoming increasingly difficult circumstances for funded providers who have no choice but to operate within council set budgets.

Funded providers have been petitioning to make the system of distributing ELC funding fairer for all concerned and are asking parents to lend us their support. We ask that you please consider either signing a petition lodged by the Scottish Private Nurseries Association (see Equality of funding for 1,140 hours for more information). You can sign the petition here, it is open until October 19th. Alternatively we have a letter we intend to send to local councillors and MSP highlighting this issue. We would like to send this on behalf of parents of children attending CVN and ask that you add your signature. The letter will be available in nursery this week.

If you wish to discuss this matter or seek clarity on any issue, please do speak with a member of our board of directors.

Soup Share

We held the first soup share of session 2022/2023 at the end of September. It was lovely to see some of our regulars again after the summer break. We are very grateful to the CFSLA lottery for awarding us funds to purchase 2 soup kettles - it was so much easier to keep the soup at a ready to serve temperature. There will be another soup share on the 23rd of November. Everyone is welcome to come along and join us for some home made soup and bread. Please let us know you are coming however so we can be sure to have enough soup!



Woods in Winter

We are delighted to be back in the woods and our new children are already becoming accustomed to the different routines and adventures we have on "woods days". Already we are seeing children becoming more independent and confident as they explore and enjoy the woodland environment. As we approach the colder and darker months however it is imperative that children are dressed appropriately for the conditions if they are to have positive experiences outside. Please be sure to provide spare clothing so that children can get changed when they get wet (an almost inevitable occurrence!) or dirty (equally likely!). We do have spare clothes available but we encourage children to take responsibility to manage and carry their own kit. Feet and hands are usually the coldest parts of our bodies and good socks and gloves can help. We know that wellies are the best thing to keep feet dry but they can also be really cold so we encourage children to wear thick socks or a couple of pairs of thinner ones. WarmWellies are more expensive than standard wellies but we have had good reviews from parents about them. If shopping with them, we have a discount code (CBPG10). We have also heard good reviews about Demar wellies, available from Amazon. We do not recommend ski or snow boots as they are usually not waterproof.



The definition of a puddle
"A body of water which attracts young children"

SeeSaw

We use SeeSaw to record and share children's learning and progress and also to share information and events. Please make sure you have access to your child's records. If not, please speak to a member of staff.



Hallowe'en

We will be celebrating Hallowe'en with some spooky activities on Monday October 31st and, hopefully, a special BookBug library session. If children want to dress up then we would love to see them in their outfits.



Christmas

It feels very early to be talking Christmas already! We are pleased however to say that we have been awarded funding to help host a special Christmas event in December. We are working closely with the Oasis group and plan to be organising Christmas gifts and making some Christmas crafts items at a joint party. The provisional date is Wednesday December 14th and all children will be welcome to attend. More details will follow.

Community Food Larder

Our Community Larder is going from strength to strength and it is lovely to see so much produce helping people and also in knowing that we are contributing towards reducing the amount of food sent to landfill. We are currently developing plans in conjunction with the Community Centre and the CCDT to expand and develop the food share service - watch this space!!

ChildSmile

We had our first visit of the year from Lisa at Childsmile last week. She demonstrated how children should brush their teeth and gave them the opportunity to show off their brushing skills.





Speech and Language

Sharon Davidson is the link speech and language therapist for CVN and we work closely with her to support children who need some extra help with communication. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's speech and language development please speak with a member of staff or, alternatively, there is a Speech and Language helpline open every Tuesday between 1 and 4pm (01786 434078).

Parent and Family Support

Stirling Council's Parent and Family Support team offer a range of services for parents, carers, children and young people with the aim of ensuring that all children get the best start in life. Family life can be very challenging and the team provide support which can be tailored to each family's needs. It's community based and offers generic as well as targeted support for children up to the age of 18. 1:1 support is available as are group parenting support sessions (including Dad's groups and an Understanding your teen programme). All programmes are delivered on a rolling basis. If you would like to know more please see the [Stirling Council website](#), speak to a member of staff or contact the team directly at parenting@stirling.gov.uk.

Session 2023/2024

Incredible as it seems we are already taking admissions for session 2023/2024. Enrolment forms are available on our [website](#) and should be returned to Lynda at admin@CambusbarronVillageNursery.com as soon as possible. Please note that children returning to CVN in August 2023 do not need to re-apply. Their space will be held for them.

Contacting Us

Please remember to let us know if your child will be absent from nursery, either phone us on 01786 430497 or email jane@CambusbarronVillageNursery.com or admin@CambusbarronVillageNursery.com. We also can receive messages via SeeSaw.

We use WhatsApp to keep you updated with any last minute change of plans on woodland play days. Please be aware that we do not check WhatsApp regularly and important messages should be sent via email or SeeSaw. Similarly, please do not use Facebook messenger to contact us as it is not checked regularly and we do not want to miss important messages.

As always, please feel free to speak to a member of staff or me if you have any questions or concerns

Kind regards

Jane

Dates for your Diary

We follow the Stirling Council School term pattern.

October

Nursery closed : Monday 10th October - Friday 21st October

Hallowe'en Spooktacular Party (Community Events Group) : Sunday 30th October @ 2pm in the Community Centre

Nursery Hallowe'en Party : Monday 31st October

November

Dark Woods event : Saturday November 5th @ 5pm

Soup Share : Wednesday 23rd November from 12noon - 1:30pm

December

Christmas Party : afternoon of Wednesday December 14th

Nursery closes for Christmas holidays : Thursday December 23rd at 12 noon (lunch arrangements TBC)

January 2023

Nursery opens : Monday 9th January 08:45

