



CVN Newsletter

March 2024



About Us

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:

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St Ninian's Road,
Cambusbarron, FK9 9NU.
01786 430497

admin@CambusbarronVillageNursery.com
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Open Day

We are hosting an Open Day on Wednesday 6th March 2024 for current and prospective families. We are excited to share general information about our service but also particularly the progress we've made in developing our outdoor provision and our plans to move to the woods during next session.

This will be an opportunity for families to learn more about the implications of being an outdoor nursery as well as why we are so passionate about learning outdoors and, in particular, in the woodland environment.

We also really value feedback from families to ensure the service we deliver meets children and parents' needs. We are collating a list of Frequently Asked Questions and working towards making sure questions and concerns are appropriately addressed.

Please come along and say hello. We have 2 sessions available, 3pm-4pm and 6pm-7pm.

If you can't manage along on the 6th there is a short update later on in this newsletter but please also feel free to contact us at any time (Admin@CambusbarronVillageNursery.com)

Makaton

We are increasingly using Makaton signing and symbols during our nursery sessions and, as we are aware that some people have never heard of it or know what it is, we thought a brief explanation might be useful.

Many people think that Makaton is a type of sign language to be used by people with hearing difficulties. Makaton however was developed to help hearing people with learning or communication difficulties. Many nurseries now use Makaton because it has also proven to be very effective in encouraging the development of speech and language in young children and can particularly benefit children who have delayed speech or who have English as a second language.

Makaton is always used in addition to, rather than as a replacement for, speech and the connection between signing and speaking is recognised to encourage the development of speech and language skills. So, while some parents worry that using Makaton signing may inhibit or delay speech it actually does the opposite and encourages it.

In nursery we are developing a core vocabulary of signs and symbols which we use throughout our sessions.

We are also creating our own Makaton dictionary with some of the signs we have been learning (available on our [website](#))

More information on Makaton can be found in this Makaton Leaflet and also on the Makaton Website.



Scottish Junior Forester Award

Over the next few months all of our children will have the opportunity to complete the Scottish Junior Forester award. This award aims to give children an insight into the skills needed to look after our woodland. To complete the award children will undertake 6 tasks including tree identification, tree planting, habitat creation and managing risk. The Junior Forester award is one in a pathway of nature based awards supported by the John Muir Trust providing hands-on, experiential learning experiences which benefit wildlife and biodiversity and help children see the difference they can make in their own community. You can find out more about the award on the John Muir Website.

Next week we will be ticking off one of our tasks when we help with some tree planting in the woods. Some of you will also remember Amos who was our woodland manager for some time. We are delighted that Amos will be returning to spend some time with us at CVN as he completes his Forest Leader qualification.



Scottish Forestry
Coilltearachd na h-Alba



RFS
ROYAL FORESTRY SOCIETY



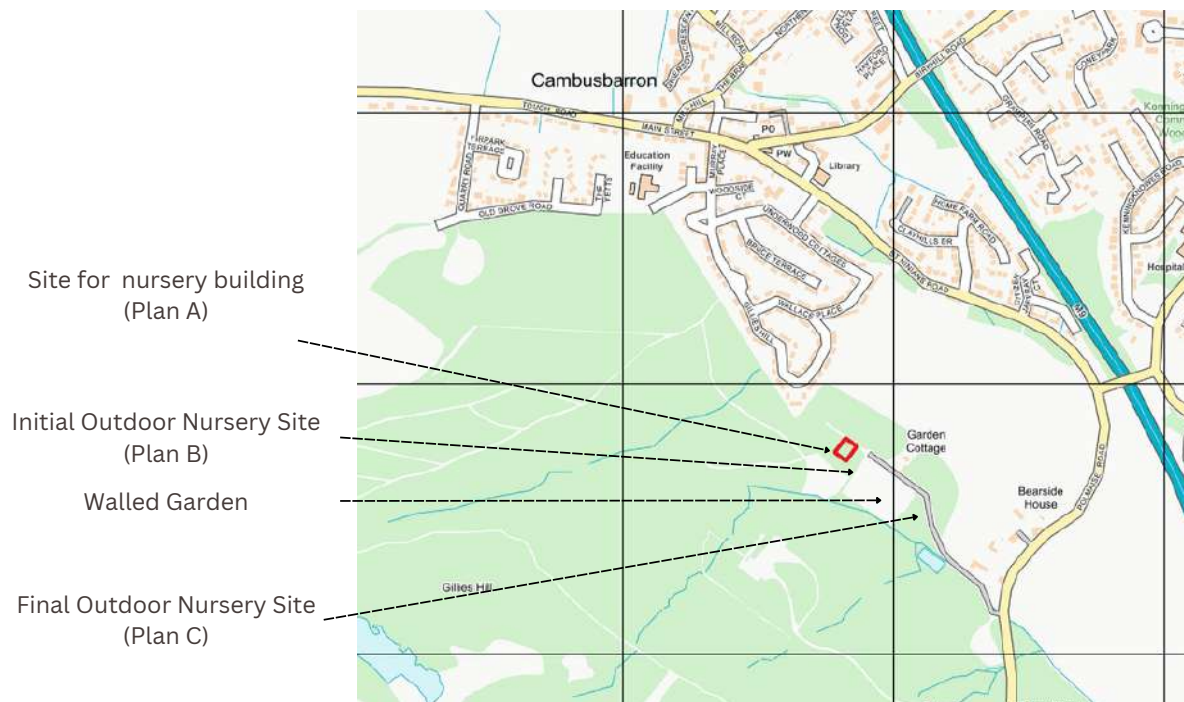
TEACHING TREES



CVN in the Woods Update

We continue to make steady progress towards our goal of becoming an outdoor nursery although we are now on Plan C! Following consultation, observation and feedback we have agreed with Cambusbarrow Community Development Trust to change the location of our base from the east side of the Walled Garden to the west side. This site has recently been cleared of rhododendron and now provides a great play landscape which is more private and secluded with fewer passers by. This area will form the base from which we can explore the woodland and will house our cosy cabin and the necessities such as handwashing stations and toilet.

The map below shows the location for our long term aim of a “proper” nursery building (Plan A), the initial proposed base site for the outdoor nursery (Plan B) and our new and, final, location (Plan C).



CVN in the Woods Update contd

Because of the change in location we have asked Echoes Ecology to update the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal they conducted for us last spring. This survey, like the one carried out in 2023, will assess and record any protected or notable sites, habitats or species in the vicinity of our site, will identify any ecological constraints and also identify opportunities for ecological enhancement.

Echoes plan to be on site sometime in mid March and we will get the report soon after.

Echoes Ecology Ltd
Protected Species and Habitats



We are continuing to work with our architect who is coordinating the range of surveys and other paperwork we need. We hope to be in a position to submit an application to planning very shortly 🍷.

We are also due to hear back from some funding applications in the coming weeks. As things stand we have funding in place to build our cabin but we'd like to install a solar power system to give us some access to power while an upgrade to our toileting and hygiene systems would also be beneficial - so the search for funding continues!



Over the past few weeks our staff team have been out visiting some existing outdoor settings to learn more about how they operate. These have been really useful networking opportunities and have provided lots of useful information to feed into our plans.



Our goal remains to open in August as a fully outdoor setting but we have to accept that the planning process can be lengthy so we are keeping fingers and toes crossed that things go relatively smoothly.

We are always keen to share our plans and to use information to inform how our outdoor provision develops so please let us know your comments and questions.

Remember our Open Day on March 6th - come along to speak to the team and find out more.





Reminder



Cambusbarron Village Nursery Open Day

Wednesday March 6th 2024 @ 3-4pm and 6-7pm
Cambusbarron Community Centre

Please come along and find out more about CVN and the play and learning experiences we provide for children aged between 2 ½ and 5. We are keen to share the progress we have already made and what remains outstanding as we progress to becoming a fully outdoor service for session 2024/2025.

We have limited spaces available for August 2024 start. Please contact admin@CambusbarronVillageNursery.com for more info



As a funded provider of early learning and childcare with Stirling Council we are pleased to be able to offer free places for eligible children. Non eligible children are welcome on a fee paying basis.

Socks!

We are delighted that our very talented friend Ginnie (AKA The Sock Lady) has decided to make CVN her Sock Cause for 2024. Ginnie is an amazing knitter (among other things) and over the last few years has donated the money raised from the sale of her hand knitted socks to a variety of good causes. Last year Ginnie raised over £800 for her chosen cause and has challenged herself to beat that this year. Ginnie doesn't take any money for the yarn or her time so all the proceeds will come directly to CVN. As a guide the average donation is £20. Please get in touch if you would like to order a pair 😊



Dates for your Diary

Note that our sessions in the woods happen regularly throughout the week but are subject to change depending on staffing. Generally we aim to be in the woods every at least every Wednesday and Thursday and on as many other days as we can!

CVN Open Day : Wednesday March 6th 2024 Community Centre (3-4pm, 6-7pm)

Close for Easter Holidays : Thursday 28th March 2024

Good Friday : Friday 29th March 2024

British Summer Time begins (clocks go forward) : Sunday 31st March 2024

Easter Treasure Hunt : Sunday 31st March 2024 (10am - 12 noon King George V's Park)

Easter Monday : Monday 1st April 2024

New Term starts: Monday 15th April 2024 at 0845.

May Bank Holiday weekend (Nursery closed) : Friday May 3rd (Staff Development) & Monday May 6th 2024

Gala Day : Saturday 22nd June 2024

End of Summer Term (Close for summer holiday) : Friday 28th June at 12 noon,

