

Inverurie Newsletter – Term 2 - December 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

We are into December already, what a quick year it has been! We are thoroughly enjoying all the festive excitement.....we do Love Christmas here at Summers!

Staff News

My last day at nursery was Thursday 1st December, and I will keep you updated on the arrival of my little girl.

Lauren Donald – 3-5 Room Leader has taken over as Acting Manager in my absence, working a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday full day, and a Thursday 9am – 2pm, having a Friday off.

Kayla Dawson – Assistant Room Leader within the 3-5 room has been promoted to Room Leader in Lauren's absence. Kayla's hours will remain the same, working Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, having a Wednesday off.

Krista Wilkin has picked up permanent hours within the 3-5 room, working Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning.

Winter clothes

Thank you to those who have supplied and stocked up their child's bag.

A reminder to those who have still yet to do this, can you please make sure that you provide your child with warmer clothes as the weather has become much colder – a set of hats and gloves can be kept here along with any wet/winter suits and wellies.

Charity of the Year 2022

So far, up to October, all of the Summers Nurseries have raised and donated money to the following charities:- (Money donated will be used directly to help the Ukraine crisis).

We have donated £3263.10 to CAFOD, of which Inverurie raised £430. CAFOD is an international development charity and the official aid agency of the Catholic Church of England and Wales. They are part of one of the largest aid networks in the world, and through their global church network, they have the potential to reach everyone. CAFOD works through local experts in Ukraine and the surrounding areas, helping those fleeing conflict to survive. Donations will help local experts to keep providing food, water, healthcare, shelter/clothing and give counselling.

We have also donated £2402.85 to UNICEF, of which Inverurie raised £638.95. UNICEF is working tirelessly to keep children safe, remaining in Ukraine to reach the most vulnerable children and families. They work tirelessly at the borders of neighbouring countries, providing clean water, health care services and other critical support.

We will continue to fund raise for Ukraine up until the end of the year. Many thanks for your continued support.

Fundraising events from September have included £80 for our Pyjama Day, and the 3-5's held a Pizza Making week commencing 14th November where they raised a whopping £206. The 0-2's and 2-3's followed suit, week commencing 21st November, and raised £155. Thank you all very much, and we hope you enjoyed the easy supper!

Accident/Incident forms

We have now gone paperless with any accident/incidents. These will now be recorded on your child's ILD.

Outings/Trips

The 3-5's visited Crathes Castle for their autumn trip on the 10th of September, where they got the chance to look inside the castle, climbing 140 steps to get to the top!! (The ladies and children were super tired after this). When inside the castle, they found a room which had an old nursery with small chairs, an old baby walker, rocking chair and cot! They also saw swords, antique ornaments and lots of pictures of family members who lived within the castle. They even got to take sticker books home!

We then got to explore the castle gardens where there were monuments, lots of flowers, and a huge green house. The children followed the paths all the way round - it was beautiful! They then finished off with a picnic lunch and a play in the park!

The children were very well behaved, listened so well and were a credit to the nursery when walking around the castle grounds!

The 2-3's went on their first trip to Haddo House on Friday the 7th of October. They were able to explore the fairy gardens, had a nice walk around the paths/woods and got to see the ducks, all before enjoying our picnic lunch. The children did really well, managing to walk all the way round. The best bit was of course playing at the park where they had lots of fun going down the spiral slide, as well as going on the zip line.

Each trip will be rotated on different days to ensure that all children have the chance to attend one over the course of the year.

All trips are risk assessed and permission is sought from parents prior to attending.

Parental Questionnaires

Thanks to all of you who took the time to complete a questionnaire. We are presently collating these and will be contacting parents in January with feedback.

Learning Experiences

All activities are popped popped up daily on your child's room learning wall. If you get a free minute at drop off or pick up – have a look at what they have been doing.

0-2 Room

Autumn



The children were focusing on autumn during the month of October, exploring autumn playdough with the scents of cinnamon and mixed spice through it. The children created beautiful hedgehogs using clay, and spaghetti as the spikes. The children also loved exploring the different textures of pine cones, bark, sticks and leaves that they collected from outdoors when out for their daily walks. Working as a team, they also created their own pumpkin patch using the potato mashers as their chosen tools to print with.



Halloween



Staff planned a Halloween party over two different days so all children were included. They had a fantastic time dancing to different Halloween themed music, catching a party ring biscuit from the string with their mouths (maybe some hands were used), playing a game of pinning the face on the pumpkin and coming together to have a picnic snack. Using their team skills, the babies also decorated and carved their pumpkins. All children made a great effort with their costumes, well done!

Remembrance Day

To commemorate Remembrance Day, the children created poppy biscuits using red icing and a chocolate button. The children also created their own paper plate poppies using red paint and black tissue paper.



2-3 Room

Halloween & Bonfire Night



The children had the opportunity to use some of the real tools, using nails and a hammer as well as a nice soft pumpkin during a supervised activity. The children enjoyed getting this opportunity, speaking about tool safety and what risks there might be. It also gives them a sense of responsibility.

While learning about fireworks, we set out lots of coloured glitter in the tuff tray and placed some visual aids of lines & wiggles. Then using earbuds, the children created shapes they could see on the cards into the glitter demonstrating great mark making technique and fine motor skills when grasping the earbuds!

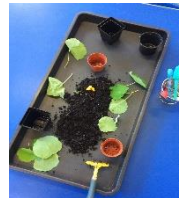


After speaking about what kinds of fireworks they might see in the sky, we decided to try a rocket experiment in the garden. We made sure we were safe by standing back from the tuff tray where there was a bottle of coke, and Adele added a mento sweet. The children were fascinated to see it explode like a rocket, fizzing with lots of bubbles!



3-5 Room

The 3-5 room got a new small indoor Greenhouse – so the children have been busy doing some gardening and planting, using soil and leaves from the garden, gardening tools and some plant pots. There were lots of discussions about the things needed for the greenhouse so they can start planting things! The children came up with lots of ideas and contributed so well. Many of the children mentioned their sunflowers we planted at nursery earlier in the year!



The children then used the soil to put inside a pumpkin. Trying a little fun experiment where you plant the seeds and it grows some green plants/leaves. We're not too sure if this will work but we are going to wait and see!



Halloween & Bonfire Night



The 3-5 children had their Halloween party, and it was great to see everyone dressed up in their different Halloween costumes.

We started the party off with a game, where the children tried to catch the doughnut on the string with their mouths without using their hands. We played lots of games, including musical statues, musical bumps, pass the witches hat and then had a glow stick party, doing lots of different zombie, skeleton and witch dance moves in the dark!

While half the group did some craft by colouring in Halloween paw patrol or Peppa masks, the other half played a pin the smile on the pumpkin game by wearing a blind fold and trying to stick the smile sticker onto the pumpkin, we loved this game!



Baking



Once we carved the inside of our pumpkin, we pureed up the insides (minus the seeds) and made Pumpkin cupcakes – these were a big hit with the children and even the staff gave it a thumbs up.

We love getting creative and using a variety of foods to bake with, exploring different tastes and textures within our food.



The children have really taken to baking, which we have turned into a weekly activity. It was one of our friend's Birthday's, so we made them some more cupcakes. Children were able to use the scales, and they put on the correct weight for the flour, sugar and butter, measuring the correct amount of each onto the scales. They doubled checked the measurement using their numeracy skills on the number scales, and then mixed it all together and took turns to scoop the mix into the cupcake cases. After the cupcakes were cooked and cooled, icing was put on top then sprinkles added. The children then enjoyed the cupcakes for their pudding.

Visits

A HUGE thank you to Inverurie Fire Station who volunteered their time to come and visit the boys and girls at nursery!

The 3-5's all got to have a turn of the hose, wear the helmet, look inside the Fire Engine, investigate the different items that the fire fighters carry such as axes, ladders, ropes, mallets, oxygen masks and the helmets.

We also got to see the clothes and boots that they wear.

We saw the flashing lights and heard the really loud sirens too!



Wee Green Space

We continue to have our weekly visits to our 'Wee Green Space', learning more and more about the outdoors.

We have four groups that rotate on a weekly basis. You will have been informed who is in which group and what day they plan to go. Can you please ensure they are fully equipped for their trip that day.

We cover lots of activities when we are at the Wee Green Space – as Bonfire night was approaching, the children focused on fire safety.

They risk assessed before using the outdoor candle to toast their marshmallows, and they made a pretend campfire with the sticks they collected from the woods.

The children loved getting hot chocolate and marshmallows around our wee 'campfire'.



We did this next to the stream, using the water to extinguish our candle.



One of the children took in a bag of conkers they collected at the weekend. After doing various activities with them at nursery, we took some with us to the Wee Green Space where we then found sticks to create our own board and then placed the x's and o's on the board - taking turns and sharing.

We found lots of muddy puddles and a super muddy hill to slide down too!

Care home exchange letters

As we are not visiting the Care Home residents, we are still managing to keep in contact with them via letters, enabling us to exchange stories and build relationships with the elderly. We write to them about some activities that the children have enjoyed doing, and the residents take a turn at doing the same - we then exchange stories on how it went.

The children love getting these replies and so do the residents.

The photo opposite shows some of the children's beautifully painted rocks and stones they made for the residents' garden, which is full of lovely colourful flowers and painted stones.



Show & Tell

Show and Tell happens on a weekly basis. Children are able to take in an item/picture relating to the chosen theme. A list is situated on the 3-5 door as you enter and these are also put up on their ILD and the Summers Website.

Show and Tell helps to build children's confidence as well as their vocabulary when speaking in front a group.

Recent Christmas Trips

On the 1st of December, the Ante pre-school children attended the Playtown role play centre in Inverurie, and thoroughly enjoyed it. The pre-school children went to see Peter Pan on the 7th of December at His Majesty's theatre in Aberdeen and it was a long- awaited pantomime experience!

Closure

Just a reminder that the nursery will be closing at 6.00pm on Friday 23rd of December 2022, and will re-open at 7.30am on Monday 9th January 2023.

Wishing you all a merry Christmas and a happy New year when it comes.

Thank you

Suzanne Stephen

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