



Wee Rascals Newsletter June 2023 - Term 4

Dear Parents/Carers

Isn't it lovely to have some sunshine again?! Although it's back to sticky suncream which comes with VERY muddy children, it has been great being able to allow the children to have picnic snacks outdoors again!

Staffing

We would like to give a warm welcome to some new staff this term.

We have Lisa Mitchell who joined the Little Bunnies team, working a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 8:00am-5:30pm.

Sabrina King (known as Sam King) has joined the team, working a Monday and Wednesday within the Cheeky Monkey room, and a Friday within the Busy Bee room. Sam works 7:30am-6:00pm.

Emily Robertson has joined the Cheeky Monkey team, working a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 7:30am-6:00pm.

They have all settled in amazingly well and they are all a great asset to our team!

We would also like to say a huge congratulations to Alice Berry (3-5 Room Leader) and her partner Euan on the birth of their gorgeous baby boy, Grayson Euan Low, who was born on the 23rd April, weighing a healthy 9lbs 7oz. They are doing amazing and settling into their new life as a family of three.

Staff recognition

We are in the process of introducing a staff awards board. A member of staff will be nominated for Employee of the Month, and this will be displayed within the hall for you all to see. We are going to have blank slips and a post box which will be situated above the bag boxes at the front door. We would love for you to have your input on these nominations. These will be anonymous. All we ask for is the staff name and a reason why you think they deserve this. The Employee of the Month will be rewarded during the first week of every month.

I feel the staff deserve to be recognised for all of their amazing, hard work that they do, and what better way to do it than be rewarded by both staff and parents.

We aim to have this up and running for June.

Outings/Trips

The Busy Bees thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Dizzy Rascals on Monday 27th March for their Spring trip. They had lots of fun, burning off their energy whilst climbing the soft play, jumping on the bouncy castle and using the machines to fire foam balls at each other. There was LOTS of laughter!

They have now arranged their Summer trip which will be to Duthie Park on Tuesday 27th June. We hope to have some lovely weather for this!

The Cheeky Monkeys are currently arranging their Summer trip to Haddo House. This will take place on Thursday 29th June. Permission slips will be handed out to all the children who attend on this day.

Trips are rotated on a different day each time to ensure that most children can attend.

Charity of the Year

For 2022, all five Summers nurseries supported and raised money for two charities for the Ukraine crisis appeal. We raised £3,263.10 for CAFOD (an international developmental charity), and £4130.25 for UNICEF, giving a total of £7393.35 raised altogether for Ukraine. Thank you again for your kind generosity!

For 2023, the nursery is supporting the Great Ormond Street Zayed Centre for Research into Rare Disease in Children. The centre is a partnership between Great Ormond Street hospital for children, University College London (UCL) Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health, and Great Ormond Street Hospital children's charity. Great Ormond Street forms the largest concentration of children's health research in Europe.

The centre opened in 2019 and focuses on developing genomics expertise, pioneering cell and gene therapy approaches, as well as regenerative medicine therapies. The centre houses a state-of-the-art stem cell facility that allows researchers to develop new stem cell treatments for children with rare and complex conditions.

The centre is a catalyst for global collaboration and unique national and international partnership opportunities. Research is also unlocking invaluable treatments for more common diseases, and adult disease on a worldwide scale. It helps children with rare diseases, saving lives through accurate diagnosis and better therapies that are tailored to each individual child on a personalised approach to treatment.

New scientific breakthroughs and technologies offer hope for diagnosis and treatments for children that were unimaginable a few years ago. It is recognised that paediatric research is even more critical because early breakthroughs are likely to continue to come from the study of children with rare disorders, with findings having the potential to feed into treatments for more common conditions or those affecting adults.

So far this year, we had a beautiful day for our Spring Fayre on Saturday 13th May. It was a great turn out, with the bonus of glorious sunshine! We raised an amazing £981.00. Thank you to all who attended. It was great to see you all!

We have planned more upcoming events and will inform you of these in due course.

Christmas Closure

It is a while away, but I just wanted to let you all know in advance the dates for our Christmas closure 2023/2024, to allow you to plan accordingly.

This year, we will be closed from Friday 22nd December 2022 and will re-open to resume business at 7:30am on Monday 8th January 2024.

Sunny Days

Scottish weather is so unpredictable, isn't it?!

Could we please ask that your child is equipped with weather appropriate clothing e.g sun hat, shorts, t-shirts, trousers etc.

We are happy for you to bring your child in to nursery in trousers and have shorts/t-shirts within your child's bag for us to change them into, should the weather change to warmer weather later on in the day.

We provide suncream which is Nivea - Factor 30 or above in which we ask for your permission to apply to your child(ren). If you would prefer to provide your own sun cream, could we please ask that you provide an unopened bottle. This is to allow us to write the date of when it was opened so that we can have a note of the use by date. Most bottles have to be used within 12 months after opening. Thanks.

Learning Experiences

Little Bunnies

The babies have been busy this term learning about 'transportation', after showing a particular interest in the small world vehicles.

During this topic, they have been learning about road safety, and we had cones set out in the garden to create 'a road'. The children held a member of staff's hand and they all looked left and right to ensure it was safe to cross.

We stuck down some paper on to the children's slide, along with some paint, to allow the children to get creative whilst running the various vehicles down the slide and through the paint to create colourful tyre prints. The children had great fun shouting "WEEE" as they watched their cars glide down the slide.



Using the playdough, the children explored their senses, creating various vehicle shapes using the playdough cutters, and there was A LOT of splashing in the water tray as they used soapy water to wash the cars. "All clean" one child said as they showed off their sparkly clean car.

The Little Bunnies are currently learning about animals, after hearing the children mimic various animal sounds whilst playing with the animal toys. There was a lot of "MOO's" and "BAA's" coming from them during this topic.

They got VERY creative whilst using various loose parts, along with the animals, to create 'animal' houses. Everyone did a great job, working together!



All the Bunnies used their problem-solving skills to hunt for the animals that we had hidden around the garden. There was a lot of excitement when they found an animal!

The children practised their colour recognition throughout various activities, such as colour matching the pom-poms onto the coloured caterpillar, as well as matching the coloured bears to their corresponding cave. They showed great determination during these activities!

Cheeky Monkeys

The Cheeky Monkeys have also been learning about transport, after the small world vehicles were a huge hit within the room.

The children have been practising their shape recognition, whilst matching the shapes at the top of each car on to their corresponding shape on the car parking space. They all did fantastically well during this activity, and some children were even able to name the shapes that they saw!



We looked at distance and speed whilst rolling bike tyres around the garden! We talked about fast and slow, and one child stated with pride "Look how fast mine is going, it is going VERY fast"

Using problem-solving skills, the children collected a variety of transport and sorted them into groups of whether they can be found on the road, in the sea or up in the air.

They showed a great understanding of this! Some children even spoke about when they had been on an aeroplane, in the car or on a boat!

The children worked together to paint a recycled cardboard box to create their own 'bin lorry'. Once they had painted it, the staff then printed out a picture of each child's face, and the children found their own picture and stuck it onto the bin lorry. It looked GREAT!



The Busy Bees received a visit from a Fire Engine and the Cheeky Monkeys were thrilled to have a turn, heading out to the car park to speak to the Fire Fighters and sit in the Fire Engine. This has led onto their current topic 'People who help us'. We can't wait to share the exciting learning experiences that the children get up to during this topic in our next newsletter.

Busy Bees

After hearing the children discussing their Health Visitor appointments and what this entailed, they went onto discuss and learn about People who help us.

We discussed that a Health Visitor is there to support parents with young children. We spoke about them looking after a child's health and wellbeing.



The children then went onto discussing their favourite fruits and created a chart with this information before looking at and sorting out the different foods into their groups, which included fruit, vegetables, dairy, protein and cereals/bread/potatoes/rice/pasta etc. They then went onto discuss other ways we can look after our bodies, with some children saying "exercise", "brushing our teeth", "ballet dancing" and "press ups".

We talked about the role of the Police. During this, the children discussed that everyone has different fingerprints, and that these can be used to solve clues at crime scenes. We all participated in a 'Crime Guess Who' game. This entailed the children giving clues about a peer such as hair and eye colour etc and the rest of the children had to use the clues to identify which child they were describing. This was a LOT of fun!

The children then went onto learning about what they should do in a situation where they get lost. We discussed contacting the police and during this phone call, we may need to tell them where we live. The children all then discussed and learned what their door

number was, their street name and the town they live in. The children then sorted themselves into groups of who stayed in the same town. It was very interesting to identify how many lived close by each other.



They participated in a variety of other educational activities such as practising their shape recognition using road signs, having a visit from a REAL fire engine, bandaging their peers up after being taught some first aid, and LOTS more.

We touched on the King's Coronation after we had many discussions about this. The children watched a short clip of Queen Elizabeth's Coronation to have an idea of what this entailed prior to the event.

We learnt that Charles is now King of the United Kingdom, so the children created their own UK flags. They also wanted to draw their own King and Carriages, as well as have a 'Coronation Tea Party' where they enjoyed some scones with jam!

Although we share our daily activities on our private Facebook page and the ILD, we have Floor books within each playroom that contain drawings, pictures, the children's voices and a summary of their learning experiences for you all to look at. If you are unsure where these are, please ask a member of staff within your child's room. We would love for you to have a look!

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 20th June - Pre-School Graduation - Kintore Public Hall

Tuesday 27th June - Busy Bees trip to Duthie Park.

Thursday 29th June - Cheeky Monkeys trip to Haddo House.

Tuesday 4th July - Parents Evening

Saturday 8th July - Sports Day

Kind Regards,

Jade Webster

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