



Victoria Street Summer Newsletter – August 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

We have been very busy bees here at Victoria Street! We have been enjoying our sunny and rainy days out, walking around the local area, parks and libraries, exploring the environment and visiting our Wee Green Space!

Staff in each room have assessed the children's interests and have been adjusting the playrooms to meet their needs. We have ordered some lovely new resources and will be adding these to further develop inviting spaces within the rooms! New resources include naturals loose parts, counting/matching and sorting games, as well as new construction toys, including hard hats, rulers, measuring tapes, high viz jackets which are especially popular in the pre-school room.

As we are all sad to see our wonderful pre-school boys and girls off to school, we would like to take this opportunity to say a big warm Summers welcome to our new families who have joined us, and to those who will be joining us in the near future!



Staffing

Kirsty Leslie has now been promoted to Room Leader of the Pre-school room.

Isla Johnstone will be joining the Pre-school room, week commencing the 12th of August. Isla has over 3 years' experience in childcare and has previous experience working with children aged 3-5 years. She is really excited to be joining us!

Trips/Visits

The 2-3's trip to **Haddo House** on the 24th of April was a great success! The children were all in awe as they gasped and looked up high at the beautiful stately home – discussing its size, colour and how many bedrooms they thought it had! Everyone enjoyed exploring in the sensory garden, smelling flowers and exploring textures, and getting musical using all the fantastic instruments. The children came together for a picnic lunch and wandered off in groups to explore the beautiful grounds of Haddo!

The 3-5's also had a blast at **Dizzy Rascals** on the 19th of April as they put their gross motor skills to very good use - swinging, climbing, running and jumping through the apparatus! The children also enjoyed the interactive play side of Dizzy's where they could pretend to be pirates, race cars, shoot soft balls from canons and do lots more! This really built on their social interaction skills, and teamwork was the topic of the day!

On Monday the 29th of July, the 3-5's visited **Brechin Castle Centre** where the children explored the courtyard with pedal tractors and enjoyed using the climbing structures. The giant sandpits and the jumping pillows were all great fun!

Graduation took place on the 5th of July and was a huge success – not a dry eye in the building as the children put on a fantastic show for their families. We celebrated with a party snack and lots of boogying afterwards. We are all extremely proud of our 2024 Graduates and wish them all the very best of luck as they head off to school!!

We had a wonderful visit from Shaz **The Relaxation Lady** on the 10th of July. Shaz had great fun with the children as they explored various relaxation tools, head and shoulder massage and the children were eager to take part in yoga, with lots of bending and twisting!

Development Plan

Our new development plan can be located at the hall entrance to your right on our display board which gives information regarding the development aims of the nursery. These will be updated shortly once we analyse the results of the questionnaires.

We are keen to receive parental feedback. At our front door we have our menus displayed, and we welcome any feedback regarding meals you would like to see in the menus. As you come into the main door on the left, we have our parents' information board where we also have a feedback sheet for parents to comment on. Please feel free to add any comments to the board.

Learning Experiences

0-2 Room

We started the term in the 0-2 room with a Spring and Easter themed topic. We used this as an opportunity to introduce a variety of problem-solving activities. We had a range of different sized egg-shaped tubes which the staff filled with sensory items and loose parts. The challenge lay in the children figuring out how to get into the egg-shaped tubes, with children trying to push, pull, open and twist the tubes open. After they discovered this, they used their initiative to collect items from around the room and fill the eggs themselves. We also provided a simple two step matching activity in which the children were provided with one half of a patterned egg, and they were then encouraged to find the matching part. This activity also sparked conversation about colour and the children were given opportunities to identify colours such as red, blue, yellow, green and purple.



A big thank you to all who took part in our 0-2 room Easter egg competition - they were proudly displayed in the room for all to see! We have been excited about receiving items from our local resource centre which we can show to the children. They provide a range of items for children to use for all ages, and we've taken advantage of this on several occasions. Rachel picked up some books, including the Gruffalo and Old MacDonald. Both stories came with interactive toys, allowing the

children to get involved by picking up and identifying the character as they appeared in the story – it was the source of much excitement!

Focusing on the children's next steps this term involved some fine motor skill development activities, and we planned for this using our loose parts, adapting each activity to suit each child's age and stage of development. The older children took part in a threading activity where they threaded large beads onto string – the perseverance the children showed (despite not being able to do it first time around) was excellent, and they were very proud of their achievements. For the younger children we used a mug holder and wooden hoops – which develops hand eye coordination as they took them off and made attempts to hook them back on.



We love to recycle, and we've been making use of natural materials by turning cardboard boxes into houses!



Links to home are important to us. We celebrated Canada day in July after we were informed by a parent of this celebration! The children loved decorating the Canadian flags! Please do tell us of any special days or celebrations and we will try to incorporate these into our planning.



We've made the most of the good weather and spent much of our time outdoors for walks and picnics in the garden.

2-3 Room

In April, we have had several Birthdays, so we have been baking a lot. During this, the children have learnt about different measurements, identifying numbers on the scales, as well as developing their turn taking skills.

The children have been practising their fine motor skills using threading activities and building cubes. We have also been using scissors - the younger children are starting to learn how to hold scissors and snip, and the older children are learning to cut in straight lines and around pictures.

We have a new natural resource area which the children have enjoyed exploring. Developing their imagination as to how they can use the new items, they have made hopscotch with the wooden log slices, and the children are able to use varied sized hoops to slide and balance onto a branch. We have also written numbers on the wooden logs to help counting and number recognition, and the children also enjoy using the plastic half cut pipes to roll bottle tops down.

Colour mixing and colour recognition has been a big part of learning, using flash cards and different painting materials. We looked at what colours we can mix to create new colours, and for our younger children, learning new colours has been fun! We decided to change our role play corner into a doctor's area where the children developed their role play skills by taking care of each other using a variety of equipment - dressing up and putting plasters and bandages on each other. We had group discussions, played bingo and did matching games to learn about how other people who can help us. This led onto conversations about what everyone's mummies and daddies do for work.

Messy play is a big part of our week, and the children always get stuck in whether its shaving foam, sand, water, coloured lentils or rice. We add in scoops, bowls, cupcake cases and funnels etc for the children to move them around, using their imaginations. Sometimes we add in small world creatures which can further develop children's imagination during role play.

The children have learnt about minibeasts – we found a slater in the garden, which led onto questions about what they eat, how many legs they have and where do they sleep? We also talked about how many legs a spider has. We used the iPad to learn further facts, as well as books, and we also looked at the San Diego camera to see what the minibeasts were up to.



3-5 Room



The pre-school room started off the term learning about minibeasts. They cared for and watched the butterfly cycle from start to finish. We made the caterpillars some food with sugar and water, and we spoke about why they need this to grow. We have all learnt so many facts about minibeasts, and the butterfly cycle, and we have enjoyed exploring the garden, looking for many insects, which have included ladybirds, snails and woodlice. We did a variety of arts and crafts activities and watched some videos about minibeasts.



We moved on to a healthy eating topic where the children were able to take part in group talks and games. They were able to separate healthy and unhealthy foods into the correct group, and we then looked at a healthy eating plate, making our own big one, sticking foods onto the right sections of the plate. All the children have thoroughly enjoyed preparing simple foods such as sandwiches, pizzas and baking different treats. We spoke about nutrients, and hygiene when preparing foods, as well as discussing portion sizes as well.



Here is picture of our Graduation a few weeks ago. The children did an amazing job of practising their songs and they put on their best show. They will soon be heading off to school, and the ladies and your friends will miss you all. We wish you the best of luck in your new chapter!

There are floor books in all the rooms that detail projects covered, and all parents are welcome to view them at any time.

Charity

Our chosen charity this year is Kayleigh's Wee Stars which support families financially with a child who has a terminal illness. Monies raised goes towards families throughout Scotland and supports those parents financially who need to take time off to be with their children in these tragic circumstances. It has strong connections with hospices and hospitals across Scotland.

So far, we have raised **£890** from the staff doing a recent Kilt Walk. We also raised **£55** from our Easter Bonnet Competition, too! We aim to raise more for this wonderful charity at Sports Day on Saturday the 3rd of August.

Last year, all the nurseries raised a total of £11,486.69 to help the Great Ormond Street Zayed Centre for Research into Rare Diseases in Children. Great Ormond Street works along with University College London tackling some of the most challenging children's diseases.

The money raised will be used: -

- To develop groundbreaking treatment for babies born with rare birth defects to the oesophagus (OA) where the upper part of the oesophagus fails to connect with the lower portion of the stomach.
- To evaluate the impact of early genetic testing and diagnostic outcomes for babies with epilepsy, monitoring seizures and measuring progress of diagnosis.
- For delivery of not-for-profit Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products for rare diseases.

Upcoming Dates for your Diary

🚩 **Saturday 3rd August - Sports Day!**

🚩 **Saturday 12th October Coffee Morning at the nursery**

🚩 **Saturday 14th December Summers Christmas Fair @ Victoria Street**

Many thanks for your ongoing support to our nursery. As always if you have any questions or feedback please don't hesitate to get in touch

Many thanks & warmest regards

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