

Inverurie Newsletter – February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

We are now into another great year, watching the children learn and grow.

Staff News

Elize Bruce is still working through her SVQ Level 3 and is progressing well.

Eilidh Littlejohn has now been given the title of Room Leader within the 2-3 Room, progressing from the position of Trainee Room Leader.

We welcomed Becky Angus to the 3-5 room back in November. Becky has been an asset to the team and has already started her SVQ Level 3 training.

Ellie Barron replaces Nicole Booth, working in the 2-3 room. She will have a Friday off.

Tammy Hutcheon will take over Ellie's hours, working a Monday and Friday, 7.30am to 6.00pm in the 2-3 room, and a Wednesday and Thursday, 1.30pm to 5.30pm in the Baby Room.

We say goodbye to Adele Mortimer from the 3-5 room. Adele is taking a break and will soon be travelling to various places, so good luck Adele with her adventures! We will be welcoming Rebecca Ramsay to assume Adele's position. Rebecca is a qualified and experienced practitioner and will be coming to us from another private nursery.

We have also welcomed Kirsten Brimacombe as relief. So far, she has mainly been within the Pre-school room, but you may see her within the other rooms when needed.

You Said – We Did

We collated the results of the annual questionnaires and created a "You Said – We Did" wall within the front hall for parents to see our ongoing improvements. Some of the changes are as follows:

- We have re arranged the hallway to provide a more utilised and tidier space.
- Our Improvement plan is in the front hallway, and we have added posts to Facebook with updates.
- We have updated our observations to cover both developmental observations, as well as introducing some general "Wow" moments specific to your child on the Interactive Learning Diary (ILD). We will be looking to change our planning and observations within the next few months, so you will receive more information about this once it is up and running.

Improvement Plan

We work closely with Aberdeenshire Council's Education Department, and we have an Early years Support Officer (EYSO), as well as a Principal Teacher who come in regularly to support us and help us work towards our Improvement plan.

We are currently focusing on Self Evaluation & Environment, ILD & Transitions, and our Induction process.

There is a wall display with more in depth information outside the Baby Room door. We add evidence of things we have changed or improved on.

Charity of the Year 2024

Last year's chosen charity was Kayleigh's Wee Stars. Kayleigh's Wee Stars provides financial support for families where a child has a terminal illness and enables them to take time off work when they need to be with their child. They have connections to Hospices and Hospitals throughout Scotland.

Throughout 2024, we raised money for Kayleigh's Wee Stars from our very popular annual Coffee Morning, Sports Day, Xmas Fayre, World Book Day, Pizza week, Bacon Roll sales, and commission from Tempest Photography..... and we managed to raise a fantastic total of **£4,257.08!!** which we are extremely proud of! Thank you for all the support with all your generous donations. Overall, all the Summers Nurseries raised a total of **£12,297.39.**

We will provide further details regarding the charity we will be supporting for 2025, which will be Archie's Child Bereavement Service.

Medication

The Care Inspectorate now state that all medication brought on to the premises is to be in its original box/packaging, with your child's name and date given, also clear instructions on dosage required.

All medication forms are now completed electronically on the Interactive 360 app - this means that the process is much shorter. You can sign in the medication on the first day brought in, and the form will cover the whole medication course needed for your child at nursery.

Weather Appropriate Clothing/bags

Can we ask that you are vigilant with appropriate clothing to suit the forecast, as we are an all-weather nursery and love to go out for some fresh air at least twice a day. If you could also make sure you provide labelled winter hat and gloves, as well as making sure there are enough changes of clothes in your children's bags.

Can I ask that you ensure your child/ren's bags are well stocked, ensuring pants & socks and a few changes are available in case of any mishaps/water tray etc.

Outings/Trips

All rooms have continued to go out for walks, with the younger children going out in the buggies.

The 2-3 room children enjoyed a trip in December to Alford Valley Community Railway, and it was a huge hit! The children loved singing on the train and having a drink of hot chocolate. All the children were very enthusiastic to meet Santa.

The Ante-Pre's loved a trip to Playtown over the Christmas Celebrations, and the Pre-School group went to the theatre in Aberdeen to see "Jack and the Beanstalk".

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

Learning Experiences

Book Bug

The 0-2's and 2-3's enjoyed a session from Book bug – the children loved seeing the Book Bug again – joining in with the book bug sessions whilst learning new stories and songs.



0-2 Room

The children and staff really enjoyed their Pyjama Day, with some spectacular PJ's from both children and staff!



When the snow arrived, we loved getting the snow suits out, putting on our hats and gloves, and the children did snow angels in the garden. It was very cold and the children realised how important it is to wrap up warm.

The children learnt about safety when out and about, and they love passing the Book Neuk, where we are able to borrow books and take them back to nursery to look at.

Christmas came, and we decked the room with lots of festive decorations and our Christmas tree. We had so much fun celebrating everything Christmas, making gifts to take home and taking part in lots of fun activities!



Promoting more awareness on transitions, the babies have loved introducing the new story books we made, one filled with photos of their families, and the other one filled with photos of the ladies. This has promoted a safe and nurturing environment as the children get to see their family photos when they wish. As well as this, we have expanded our Transition box, which includes the ladies booklet with photos of all the staff in the nursery to allow children to get to know new faces and names.



2-3 Room

We have been working hard, continuing to encourage independence in the 2-3 room through self dressing and self serving. The older boys and girls have been fantastic at supporting and encouraging their younger peers to be independent with guidance from the staff. This allows them to be more responsible as they get ready for that big leap to the 3-5 Room.



We use tuff trays in the room, focusing on children's interests and needs, helping them to engage and participate in activities. The trays can be filled with objects based on children's topics, which helps them to develop a range of skills. We also use them for sensory purposes. You can see one of our tea party trays which has real oranges!

December was a very busy month and the children had lots of fun making decorations for the room, and they particularly enjoyed decorating the Christmas tree. The 2-3's were so proud of helping to decorate the room, and they talked to the parents coming in about their achievements.



We had a fantastic Christmas party, getting a visit from Santa, enjoying lots of festive dancing with friends!



3-5 Room

At the start of term, we made Golden rules with the children, and we got our first visit from the pom pom fairy which was a great initiative for the children to earn pom poms as they followed their Golden Rules, earning a gift at the end.



We explored emotions, learning more about the colour monsters and each one's emotions, and the children talked about their interests, as well as expressing themselves in their drawing journals.

We introduced a self-sign in and out system for the children to do in the mornings and afternoons, and they were encouraged to look for their names independently and place them into the different colour monster baskets – this helped them to decide which emotion monster represented how they felt on that day.

The children enjoyed lots of party games and dancing at our Christmas party, and they loved the magician and his tricks! Santa also visited during the party, and everyone received a present.

The children created their own railway tickets, and they listened and followed instructions whilst making a train.



The 3-5 children did so well in their nursery nativity, showcasing their hard work to their parents at the St Andrews church hall.



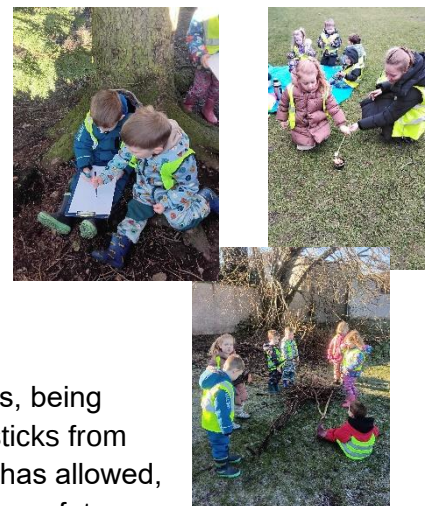
Most of all, the children loved taking part in a movie day on the last day of term, making their own cinema tickets, watching our Xmas movie in our 'homemade' cinema on the new smartboard.

Wee Green Space

The 3-5's love their time across at the Wee Green Space, and during each visit the groups do various activities.



This term, the children have experienced making their own S'mores, being involved with risk assessing the activity. They went on a hunt for sticks from the wood and then created their own mini 'hut'. When the weather has allowed, they have used the parachute to play some ball games. SIMOA, our safety elephant has been included and allowed the children to do risk assessments about things that are safe and unsafe when outside of the nursery.



Can you please ensure that your child is fully equipped for their trip on the day they attend WGS!

Show & Tell

Show and Tell happens on a weekly basis. A list is situated on the 2-3 and 3-5 door as you enter, and these are also put up on the ILD and the Summers Website. This helps to build children's confidence as well as develop their vocabulary when speaking in front a group.

Upcoming Dates For Your Diary

Stay and Snack (0-2 & 2-3 Room Only) – W/C 10th March

Annual Coffee morning – Saturday 26th of April

Parents Evening – Tuesday 10th June

Sports Day – Saturday 21st June

Pre-School Graduation – Friday 8th August at 1pm – St Andrews Church, Inverurie

Thank you

Suzanne Stephen

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