

Inverurie Newsletter – May 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

Spring has sprung already, with summer on the way, and we are all ready for it! With the weather being as nice as it has been, we can't wait for it to stay and get busy out in the garden over the coming term.

Staff News

Erin has started her Level 4 and is getting on well so far.

Elize & Becky are still working through their SVQ Level 3's and are progressing well.

Rebecca Ramsay has now joined us in the 3-5 room and will work a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

We have hired two new girls, Hannah Singer and Molly Mitchell as relief. They will help cover each of the rooms over the holiday period as well as any staff absences. We will pop photos up in due course.

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 and Transitions, and our Induction process.

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

Charity of the Year 2025

This year's chosen charity is The Archie Foundation - Archie's Bereavement Services. Archie's Child Bereavement Services offer support to families and professionals working with children and young people free of charge within Grampian, Tayside, and the Highlands and Orkney, giving them individual, tailored support to help with bereavement. Many referrals are received from schools and health professionals.

The charity is very personal to us as our Finance Manager, Loretta Gray, sadly lost her husband, George, very suddenly at the end of January this year, leaving behind Loretta and their two children, Lucas(10) and Kiera(8). Prior to having her children, Loretta was Nursery Manager for eight years at our nursery in Inverurie.

Deborah Mathers, who worked previously with us, and volunteers with the charity, bringing it to our attention, also lost her own husband very suddenly a few years ago. Deborah's two boys were also very young at the time.

The charity recognises that every child is different, and believes that with appropriate support, information and guidance, all children and young people will manage their grief. ACBS supports children who have experienced bereavement no matter the relationship.

The Archie Foundation was formed in 2000 to support the building of a new Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital which opened in 2014, and the Grampian Bereavement network joined the Archie Foundation in 2019.

Please see the link for more information: [Archie's Child Bereavement Service - Archie](#)

We are delighted to announce that we raised a fantastic **£1335.00** from our coffee morning on Saturday the 29th of April. Many thanks to all of you who came along and supported the charity, and to those of you who donated items for our raffles. There were some great bakes and fantastic stalls on the day! We are very grateful to all the effort our staff have put in to make it another great day!

Medication

Please make sure that all medication brought on to the premises is in its original box/package, 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.

As the weather is improving, can you ensure your child (children) have a sun hat, which is labelled. Can I also ask that you ensure your child/children's bags are well stocked, ensuring pants and 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 3-5 room had their first trip of the year to the Fairy Woods at Fedderate. The children and staff loved it!! Everything was made from loose parts and natural resources, and the children showed such good imagination as they played, using the different resources to create various creations.

They ventured around the fairy trail, and each child had a turn of being the leader, listening to the clues and following the path to find the next fairy house - each house had a wee story to go along with it and the children loved getting to know the fairies a little better! Everyone received a small bag of 'Magic gems' that they used to deliver a little bit of magic to each fairy house by popping a gem into the pot.

We all enjoyed a yummy picnic snack, before being able to make s'mores, toasting a marshmallow around a campfire and enjoying a wee hot chocolate.

Each child received a small Fedderate Woods Teddy for being so kind, considerate and friendly during our visit – we were told that the children were the best behaved bunch they have had!! Brownie points!! The ladies couldn't be prouder of the children!



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 3-5's enjoyed an extra special session from Book bug this term as it was World Book Day.

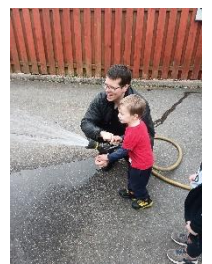
The 3-5 Room have had a variety of experiences so far, with some of our lovely parents helping us to learn about the different jobs people do.

We have had a visit from a nurse – everyone sat well, listening to what she does each day, and then we looked at some photos of what a nurse wears whilst working in the hospital. There were discussions about operations, and the children got the chance to use bandages on each other, pretending that they had sore arms and legs.

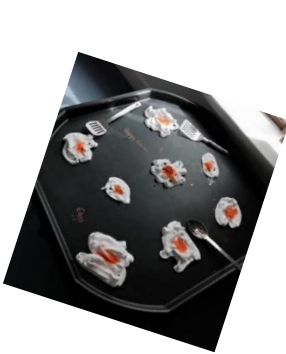
When the GP visited, she spoke about what it was like to go to the Doctors, and the children really enjoyed trying out the stethoscope, listening to each other's heart beats.

We also had a visit from a teacher who discussed what the P1 classroom would look like, and what sort of things you need to take with you to school. The children also looked at a menu and they learnt how to choose their food from the canteen. Mrs Henderson also played a game of 'heads down thumbs up' and 'what is in my bag'.

The Police and the Firemen came up with their vehicles and equipment, and all the children got a turn in the vehicles, and were able to try on the police uniform as well. The Fireman even let them have a shot of the hose.



0-2 Room



The babies started off learning about the Jungle – the children found out about the different animals you get in the jungle - their favourite being the Lion, and there was lots of “Rooooaring”. When outside in the garden, the children did an animal stomp where they had to stand on the Bear footprints, as if they were stepping stones! (The children said it was the ‘Gruffalo’). At the craft table, they made their own parrot pictures using the colourful feathers.

We moved onto weather, where the children made clouds with paper plates, and they then threaded beads onto ribbon as the rain drops. During this topic there was lots of discussion around the different colours from the rainbow, developing language and colour recognition.

We went for lots of community walks in all weathers, and we visited the Book Neuk to get some new stories to read back at nursery.

The boys and girls were engrossed in watching a science experiment with shaving foam, water and food colouring, where they helped use the droppers, and they watched as the colours ran through the 'cloud foam' and into the water.

Moving onto Easter saw the children explore various materials within the tuff tray, developing their senses and curiosity whilst exploring, and they had a mini egg hunt out in the garden. For craft, the children used pens to mark make and design their own egg picture. They developed their turn taking and baking skills, making cookies. Some of the older children are very good at pouring and mixing, while the younger children are supported. The boys and girls also enjoyed looking at the lambs when out for a daily walk.

Children have been developing their independence skills and have started to enjoy making their own pizza for lunch when it is on the menu.

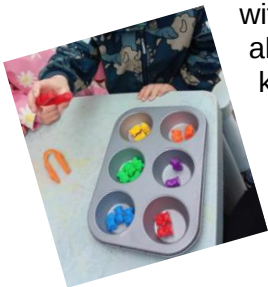
2-3 Room



The children in the 2-3 room have been learning about spring, and all the different animals that come out at this time of the year. Frogs being one! The children participated in a frog spawn messy tray, learning all about the life cycle, and this developed into learning about other creatures such as caterpillars and learning their life cycle. The children made their own finger-painted butterflies, and then they participated in some butterfly problem solving, seeing if they could match the wings.



The boys and girls have enjoyed playing in a mud tray – where they dug for 'carrots'. This then developed into a counting activity, counting the number of carrots dug up. Also, within the tray, children had opportunities to 'design your own sheep' which was made from cotton wool balls. We provided pots of coloured water so that the children could use the dabbers to drop water onto the cotton wool.



With the lovely sunny weather we have recently experienced, the children have enjoyed taking the indoors, out - having yummy picnics in the garden, as well as drawing with the pens, colour sorting with the coloured bears, and developing some counting along the way. We also did a wee science experiment, where the children drew on kitchen roll with the pens and then dropped water on top, watching as the colours smudged and made pretty colours. We have displayed them proudly on our window.



The 2s room have loved gaining more independence when it comes to self-serving their own breakfast, snacks and lunch, and they have loved making their own pizzas and sandwiches for lunch. This is a great skill to learn, helping with the transitions between rooms.

3-5 Room

The 3-5 children have been learning all about mini beasts and nature this past few months. They have been developing their scissor skills, cutting out body parts of a ladybug and bumble bee to then stick all the parts together to create the real thing!



The children have loved having an 'animal' race, wrapping the small world animals in some string and then standing back, pulling the string towards them to see who was fastest! Some of the boys and girls froze some minibeasts and then, as a group, used real tools to break into the ice to release the minibeasts.

With the weather being on our side lately, we have had lots of outdoor time, visiting the Wee Green Space weekly. When out in the garden, the children made their own 'cloud finder' using cardboard with a cut out hole at the top, and then they wrote out some different cloud names, alongside a photo of that cloud - developing their literacy and writing skills. They then took the cloud finder, looking up to the sky to see if they could identify any of the clouds in the sky. They managed to find 'Stratus', 'Cumulus' and 'Alto cumulus' ones.

Within the 3-5 room, we like to promote independence as much as possible. The children love to be involved in daily activities, especially helping make their own lunches. They are encouraged to make their own sandwiches and wraps when it is a soup day, choosing what they put in their sandwich. They also help spread their bread and then wrap it up and name it, ready to eat. Pizza making is also a great event!

We like to involve the children in real life experiences. When doing so, the children enjoy sitting down as a group and completing a risk assessment. Particularly when doing something that may pose a risk, such as using real tools. Giving the children these experiences help to build their curiosity, as well as their knowledge, engagement and understanding of safety.



We got a delivery to grow our own butterflies. This has been a great hit with ALL the children. We received live caterpillars, living within a special tub full of the nutritious foods that they need to grow. We watched as they ate, spun silk and grew 10 times their original size. After nearly 9 days, they hung themselves upside down and formed chrysalides on the lid. It then took about another 7 days to harden in their cocoon and transform into beautiful butterflies. Once they had all hatched, the children released the butterflies in the garden. This spurred the children to learn all about the life cycle, watching a short clip on the smart board and then making their own butterfly pictures. learning about symmetry. In the messy tray, there was green penne pasta and string for the children to make their own caterpillars, helping develop their concentration skills as well as fine motor skills.



Wee Green Space

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



Some of the children have played football. They have also explored the tree and collected fallen twigs to create a fake 'Campfire'. They have done some nature colour matching, finding objects of the same colour - green grass, purple flowers, brown twigs and they pointed out that the sky was blue.



This term, we have six groups who will rotate on a weekly basis. You will have been informed who is in each group and the day they plan to go. Can you please ensure that your child is fully equipped for their trip that day.

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

Parents Evening – Tuesday 10th June

Sports Day – Saturday 21st June – Garioch Sports Fields

2-3 Summer Trip – Wednesday 9th July – Info TBC

3-5 Summer Trip – Friday 4th July – Info TBC

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

Thank you

Suzanne Stephen

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