



Victoria Street Newsletter – February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

A warm welcome to all our new families who have recently joined Summers. The children have settled in very well and have quickly become part of the team! As we head full speed into 2025, we are now well away from our wonderful festive break. The children loved telling us about their Santa presents and time spent with family.

Trips and Outings

The children have been out and about in the local area for walks - visiting local parks, libraries, and of course exploring the snowy days, building snowmen and bringing the snow indoors to play with too!

We had an amazing Book Bug session in November for the Toddler and Pre-school children, led by the wonderful Sian from Aberdeen City Council Central Library.

The Pre-school children enjoyed a spectacular performance at His Majesty's Panto, watching 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and they loved the catchy songs and vibrant costumes! The Toddlers spent an amazing afternoon at the Lemon Tree to see the 'Unicorn Christmas Party', joining in with the glittering magical Unicorns - Melody and Luna, as they sang and danced the afternoon away.

A fun filled first week back was had by all as each room celebrated their New Year's party with dancing, singing, pass the parcel and lots of party games! Pre-school were mesmerised by their visit from Dean Spruce – Divine Magic, as he captured their attention with lots of laughter and surprises!

Learning Experiences

0-2 Room

The term started with a blast in the 0-2 room as we used a variety of materials to create a firework display and mini bonfires. The staff cut cardboard tubes into spirals and the children were given the option of a variety of paints and glitter to create fantastic effects onto their black card. Throughout the activity the staff promoted colour recognition through one-to-one conversation with the children, identifying both primary and secondary colours "blue, pink, purple, green, red, and one child was able to tell us their paper was "black".





December was a very busy month with the start of the Christmas celebrations. As always, our days were filled with festive activities, including lots of arts and crafts to create gifts for families. The children helped us decorate our Christmas tree and we had a tray filled with baubles and tinsel to allow the children to decorate around the room for themselves. We took the children out for walks around the local area to look at the Christmas lights, and we also visited the Christmas market.



We introduced more early science and numeracy this term with measuring, mixing and baking. The children are encouraged to scoop ingredients and count as they put the spoonful's in. We use descriptive language when mixing to identify how the textures change as wet/dry ingredients are added. In the tuff spots and sand tray we added measuring jugs,



spoons, bowls, as well as materials, including water, sand, lentils, snow and ice, promoting curiosity and encouraging exploration and discovery, as well as extending language, using terms such as heavy, freezing and cold.



Our return in January came with a fabulous New Years party.

The children had such fun joining in with a dance party,

followed by a party snack, and afterwards, the staff set the room up with lots of equipment to encourage jumping, climbing and sliding, as well as the bubble machine for more partying and dancing.



We have been working on simple Makaton signs with the children and have been so impressed with their development that Laura has challenged them further by introducing Makaton to Nursery Rhymes. Laura has been spending time with a small group, going through the songs line at a time and encouraging repetition of her actions. Some of the children have picked this up

incredibly quickly and were even able to show off their actions to their parents at pick up time. Our Makaton resource sheets are available in the 0-2 room corridor, so please do help yourselves.



2-3 Room



The children in the 2-3 room had so much fun exploring the local community in November. We had a visit to the Little Science Centre in the Bon Accord Centre, and we all had so much fun, using our problem-solving skills to explore how all the science worked!

The children took part in a fantastic Bookbug experience with the wonderful Sian from Aberdeen Central Library where the children spent the afternoon singing, rhyming and dancing to their favourite stories and songs, developing their social/language skills as well as building their confidence.

The children created bonfire/firework paintings, mixing paint together to form various colours. Some children went to see a Bonfire and fireworks, and they were excited to share their experiences with us!



We had a fun filled December in the 2-3 room, decorating the Christmas tree in the room, and the children used their imagination and creativity skills to place the baubles and tinsel on the tree. They created their own unique Christmas tree baubles using wooden lolly pop sticks, painting them and glueing a photo of themselves in the middle! The children also enjoyed learning new Christmas songs and took part in various festive crafts throughout the month.

Nicola the cook made us a delicious Christmas dinner and Santa surprised the children with a lovely gift to take home!

We had lots of trips around the local community again, exploring all of the festive trees, lights and decorations around the city! We went to Bon Accord, Trinity and the Christmas markets, exploring our local community and we had big discussions about what we had seen.



We started off the New Year with a bang! – with our New Year's party. The children discussed the festive period in group time, talking about their new toys, and family members who came to visit at Christmas - and they all spoke about all the fun they had! We then had party food, followed by lots of party games and music, dancing away the afternoon... it was so much fun!

We have had a couple trips to the Aberdeen city library, where we explored the children's books, and the children sat in a small group, picking stories to read.

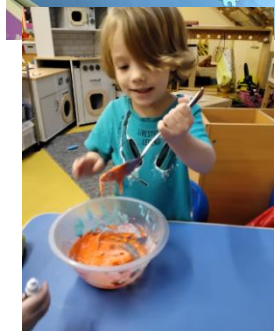
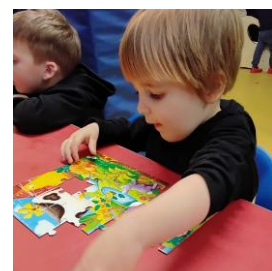
For Burns night, we used different coloured paints to create tartan and thistles which was lots of fun.

We have a lot planned for 2025, ensuring it is a fun filled year with great experiences for your children. We update our learning wall every Friday so please have a look at it, and ask if you have any questions! The ladies in the 2-3 room would also love to have some parent suggestions if there is anything you want us to do with the children, so please do let us know!

3-5 Room



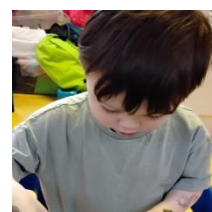
The children from the 3-5 room have shown a keen interest in doing puzzles, and some of the children can do a 60 piece plus puzzle! To develop fine motor skills, the children also partake in threading experiences, and they also love using the Hama beads to follow patterns and create their own ones as well.



Everyone has enjoyed lots of different messy play experiences during the term. We have enjoyed exploring ingredients to create slime, cloud dough, gloop, and using sand to mark make. This helps to develop awareness of textures – soft, hard, sticky, smooth. The children have been developing their independence through making their own messy play experiences and have begun to remember what ingredients they need.



The boys and girls in Pre-school really enjoy preparing food, and they have recently created pizzas, sandwiches, smoothies, baked cookies and shortbreads, biscuits and lots of birthday cakes. The children have been following simple recipes and using scales to weigh out how much of each ingredient is required.



There were lots of fun Christmas experiences throughout the whole of December. We made a Christmas themed train track with flour as snow. The children enjoyed role playing with the trains and some small figures! Lots of time in December was spent preparing gifts for all the parents - the children made cards, canvases, calendars and even reindeer decorations for the tree. They wrote out their Santa letters to post and were able to tell the ladies what presents they hoped to get from Santa! Alongside writing Santa letters, the children have been practicing writing their



names. They have used pencil grips to develop their tripod grasp and have been practicing letter recognition through this too.



Kayleigh's Wee Stars – 2024 Charity

A massive thank you to our families for your support in raising money for our chosen charity throughout 2024. We had open mornings, coffee mornings, Sports day, a staff kilt walk, and in house nursery events, all in aid of our charity **Kayleigh's Wee Stars**.

Kayleigh's Wee Stars provides financial support for families when a child has a terminal illness. The charity has connections to hospices and hospitals across Scotland, and funds raised goes to families who need to take time off to be with their children.

Thanks to all of you, we managed to raise a whopping **£1910. 64**. Our total raised for all the nurseries was **£12,297.39**.

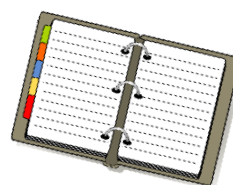
We will be writing to you shortly with details about the charity we will support for 2025.

Kind Regards

Amber Davidson

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Dates for your diary

- 📅 Saturday 29th February 10am-11:30am -Parent Partnership Coffee Morning
- 📅 Friday 7th February – National Wear Red Day – wear something red to nursery this day 😊
- 📅 Saturday 10th May 10:30 – 12:30 - Spring Open & Coffee Morning