



Wee Rascals Too Newsletter - February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

We had a great start to the year and have been working extremely hard on our Improvement plan. A big part of this is developing our extra-curricular activities for the children. The Busy Bees are now receiving dance class visits every Tuesday at the nursery during term time from Flashdance in Aberdeen, and the children are also now visiting Garioch Gymnastics in Kintore every fortnight on a Tuesday during term time as well.

The older children have enjoyed a visit from a football coach who did a football session with them, promoting their gross motor skills and social skills with their peers, and the Little Bunnies look forward to a visit from Moo Music. We also have our Book Bug visits, which we plan to have once a term, with lots of stories and songs, bringing great excitement!!

Staff have also been working alongside parents to come and visit the nursery - one of our mums is a baker, and she came in and made some healthy blueberry cupcakes with the children. We are always looking for parent involvement and suggestions, so we welcome any ideas you may have!

The staff team are looking to develop holistic and loose part play within the rooms and outdoors - recently we made our own Fairy Garden! We are also delighted with the 'Outdoor Ranger' joining us at our Wee Green Space, which helps to support staff and children in how to use their outdoor spaces to their full potential!

0-2 Room Team -

Sadly, Katy Nugent left us during the Christmas break, moving back home to be closer to family. We are pleased that we now have Chloe Burnet who has joined the Little Bunnies Room. Chloe is fully qualified, and works a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday each week.

2-5 Room Team -

Sarah Shanks and Karen Genter have been working hard together as Room Lead and Assistant Room Lead to develop the Busy Bee room with natural resources, new areas and extra-curricular activities.

Many congratulations to Amber Adam who has now completed her SVQ Level 3 qualification - Well done, Amber!

Charity

Last year's charity was Kayleigh's Wee Stars, which provides financial support for families where a child has a terminal illness. Kayleigh's Wee Stars is based in Oldmeldrum, and the money raised goes to families throughout Scotland to support parents financially who need to take some time off to be with their children in these very tragic circumstances. It has strong connections with hospices and hospitals across Scotland.

We are thrilled that we raised **£1516.07** in total throughout 2024. We raised funds from our Sports Day, Sponsor forms, Coffee Open morning, Pizza sales, and in December we sold tickets for our Christmas Hampers, raising £50. We also included commissions from Tempest Photography. Many thanks for all your support and donations. All the nurseries managed to raise a grand total of **£12,297.39**.

This year, our chosen charity is **Archie's Child Bereavement Services** - further details will be going out shortly about this charity.

Outdoor Clothing

Please ensure clothing in your child's bag is weather appropriate, along with any outdoor clothing for your child - wetsuits, wellies, but also, as it comes into the warmer weather, please bring in sunhats etc.

Please ensure your child's clothing is all clearly labelled with their name to prevent items being mixed up or going missing!

Dates for Diary

Here are some dates coming up that you need to know: -

- **Week beginning 10th March - Stay and Play sessions (0-2 room)**
- **Tuesday 11th March - Moo music session (0-2)**

Learning Experiences

Little Bunnies:

In the week leading up to Bonfire night, the Little Bunnies explored messy play tuff trays, firework pictures through arts and crafts, and they talked about the noises that the fireworks made. We even saw some of what the children got up to at home on Bonfire night through the ILD - thank you for sharing with us!

During our Christmas festivities, there was great excitement putting up the Christmas tree and decorating it. The children had the opportunity to take part in various arts and craft activities - a favourite was looking at the Christmas sticker pictures where the children were able to identify 'Santa!!'. We had our Christmas party with dancing, a party snack and a special visit from Santa.

As the colder weather came, the children enjoyed exploring outdoors, and of course the snow that came with it! We made our own snowman which we named Snowy. We used imaginative play, creating our own sledges out of the crates! and we had so much fun with our friends, pulling one another around the garden.

Since the start of the New Year, the Little Bunnies have enjoyed learning about Transport. They have particularly loved being out and about in the community looking for different mode of transport. So far, they have seen cars, bikes, lorries and even spotted a train! Staff set up tuff trays and activities in the room each day to support the children's interests and talk about various modes of transport.



Busy Bees:

The Busy Bee children made firework pictures using collage materials, and a favourite was making their own sparklers for snack using breadsticks, chocolate and sprinkles. Children told us that they "flashed in the sky", went "BANG" and that they were "Noisy like the fire alarm."

As Christmas arrived, we were delighted to see some fantastic Christmas jumpers, and we discussed Christmas with the children. They made wreaths using collage material, counting out the number of leaves they had on their wreath. Throughout the festive season, the children did lots of baking, making sticky toffee pudding, gingerbread and

cookies. We all had great fun taking part in the Christmas Nativity and fun at the Christmas party!

The 2 to 3 years children attended Playtown, where they explored role play and got to meet Santa, and the Pre-School children attended His Majesty's Theatre to see Jack and the Bean Stalk. They particularly enjoyed wearing the 3D glasses! Lots of fun was had on both trips.

The weather changed in January, and we had interesting discussions about the cold, snowy, windy and rainy weather. The children learnt about science - how ice melts when it is warmed up and they also learnt about colour mixing with ice, where we set up various experiments in the tuff tray for them. The children also took part in various arts and crafts activities making their own snowmen, snowflakes and icicle pictures.

This term we have been looking at different countries, and we have been discussing the climate. We have looked at countries that can get very cold, and countries that get very hot, such as some countries in Africa.

Using the globe, the children have chosen countries to explore. The first country they chose was Scotland, and on Robbie Burns day, the children enjoyed eating Haggis, Vegetables and Tatties for lunch.



Manager

I am pleased to announce that Lauren Donald, Nursery Manager, will soon be returning to work from her maternity leave, after having her gorgeous baby girl, Lainey, last November. To start with, Lauren will work part time hours, which will start from the end of April. She will then return to work full time from the beginning of August. We will keep you updated with developments.

Kind regards,

Shannon Gallacher (Maternity Cover Manager) and Your Wee Rascals Too Team

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