



Wee Rascals Too Newsletter – May 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

With the nicer weather arriving, we have now started to develop our garden. The children have chosen to plant strawberries, tomatoes, cucumber and green beans in our green house. They have been very responsible, looking after them and giving them what they need to grow. The boys and girls also visited the garden centre on Thursday the 8th of May - we now have some very colourful flowers in the containers at the front of the garden.

We are all looking at life cycles of minibeasts - the Little Bunnies room have had their very own caterpillars to look after, and the Busy Bee room have chosen ladybirds to look after.

Staff Update

Shannon has now started her maternity leave, and we are delighted to announce that her baby girl has arrived a little sooner than expected! Jaycee Lee Cowie Gallacher arrived on the 5th of May at 3.22pm, weighing 6lbs and 2oz. Many Congratulations!

Lauren has now returned from her maternity leave to her position as Nursery Manager, and we are all pleased to welcome her back. At present, Lauren will be doing a Monday and Tuesday full days, and then in August, she will return to her full-time hours, along with baby Lainey, who will be joining us for a couple of days per week at the nursery. Jorja Cameron, our Assistant Manager from our Inverurie nursery will work a Wednesday until August. In addition, Emma Johnstone from our St Swithin Street nursery will be coming on a Thursday morning to help with the new planning in the Busy Bee room.

Rebecca Laverton will continue to run the 0-2 Room whilst Shannon is on maternity leave, being supported by Lauren in her role.

The team have been working on developing their holistic play within the rooms to encourage open ended and imaginative play. All staff have contributed to their Improvement floor book for the room.

Charity of the Year 2025

This year's chosen charity for 2025 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 Ross, sadly lost her husband, at the end of January this year, leaving behind Loretta and their two children. Lucas (10) and Keira (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 what 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.

So far, we have celebrated World Book Day, raising a total of £69.80. For our Easter Egg Bunny competition, we raised £35.45. We have also raised £134 so far for pizza making, and the children loved being little chefs making their own pizzas!

Thank you for your continued support with our charity fundraising.

Outdoor Clothing

Please ensure clothing in your child's bag is weather appropriate, along with any outdoor clothing for your child. The weather is becoming warmer, so please provide sunhats. The nursery provides Nivea suncream, minimum factor 30, however please hand in your own suncream if you don't wish your child to use the nursery suncream.

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

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

- ❖ Friday 20th June - Graduation.
- ❖ Monday 30th June - Parents Evening.
- ❖ Saturday 12th July - Sports Day.

Learning Experiences

Little Bunnies Room:

The children have been focusing on transport, and we have had a tractor come to the nursery, which caused huge excitement! and it was so BIG!

We went for walks, looking for different kinds of transport. We even saw a train! Using visual props, the children learnt about different transport types such as cars, lorries, trains, planes etc. Staff and children made their very own Wee Rascals Too bus, which had the staff and children's pictures on it - the children loved using this to recognise their peers and staff! A favourite messy play was the carwash - the cars were so messy, but everyone did a fantastic job of washing them at the Little Bunnies carwash!

On Valentines Day, we talked about love, and the children did lots of arts and crafts with hearts and pretty colours to take home. The children brought in family photos of people they love, which we put up on the wall. The children also took part in baking, making Valentine's cookies which they decorated and took home to share.

We have been focussing on colours and shapes, promoting colour matching, which included tuff tray activities with sensory bags, paint mixing, colouring cotton wool with water and food colouring which helps to develop the pincer grip. We also had coloured pasta.

The Little Bunnies learnt all about spring and have loved doing some Easter baking. They have also been helping the 2-5 room plant flowers, and we talked about what we need to do to help the flowers grow. They also went to the shop and bought some daffodils to look after in the room; we watched how the flowers bloomed - they were so pretty! During arts and crafts, there have been many super paintings of flowers, and we also used the flowers to paint and make patterns on the paper.

The children have loved the caterpillars we got to look after, and they have been intrigued, watching how they grow into amazing butterflies!





Busy Bee Room:

The children in the Busy Bee room have learnt about Chinese New Year, looking at the Chinese culture and the money they use. They learnt about the different Zodiac animals, and the children enjoyed participating in some Chinese writing. We learnt that this is the year of the tiger, and the children made tiger masks and lanterns with a range of materials, and we all wrote the numbers 1-10.

We had a Chinese role play area, with a Chinese restaurant, and the children really enjoyed helping to make some spring rolls for snack, which were very tasty!

During our 'People who Help us' we had discussions about nurses, teachers, and we had a visit from a Dentist. The children learnt about plaque and cavities, and they were also able to tell the dentist how we should brush our teeth and how long for.

Recently, during our focus on spring, the children discussed planting, and they helped prepare the Greenhouse for planting and growing. They had a trip to Sainsbury's to buy some daffodils, and we all did some still life drawings of them when we got back to nursery. The children have also been developing their sensory garden.



Visits/Trips

The 2-year-old children had a visit to Loopty Loos Soft Play Centre in Peterhead, and all the Busy Bee room children enjoyed a fantastic trip to Haddo House on April the 10th.

The children in the Busy Bee room have loved having Laura come from Flashdance in Aberdeen every Tuesday, and the fortnightly visits to Garioch Gymnastics on a Thursday have also been successful, and very enjoyable for the children.

The Busy Bee room enjoyed baking with one of our parents who has her own baking company, and a staff member's mum who is a nurse came in to show us some of the equipment that a nurse would use.

The children also enjoyed a taster exercise class from Energie Firness Gym.

Kind regards

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Lauren Donald

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Nursery Manager

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