

Inverurie Newsletter – August 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

And just like that, we reached the end of another term, this one being a bittersweet one for the pre-school room – we want to wish all the boys and girls who have gone off on their new journey into Primary 1 the best of luck - you will all smash it!!

What a summer we have had! The sun has been kind to us this year, and hopefully it continues a little longer.

Staff News

Elize Bruce (0-2 room) has completed her SVQ Level 3 and is now a qualified Practitioner, a Huge Well done Elize!

I have now started my PDA in Childhood Practice. During term time, I will be attending the college on a Thursday, and my day off will now be on a Friday, instead of the Monday.

We are pleased to announce that Jorja Cameron, our Assistant Manager based in the 0-2 room has started her BA in Childhood Practice, which is very exciting!

Erin Lamont, Room Leader of the 3-5 room continues to work through her SVQ Level 4 and is getting on very well.

Tammy Hutcheon (0-2 & 2-3 room) and Kristen Brimacombe (3-5 room) have both started their SVQ Level 3 and are progressing well. Becky Angus (3-5 room) is working through her SVQ Level 3 and is doing well also.

Annual Questionnaires

Thank you to those of you who took the time to complete the annual parental questionnaires. We always welcome your feedback to help improve where necessary. A feedback letter will be going out shortly to all parents. All feedback was very positive, and we have enjoyed reading some lovely comments. This job is very rewarding, watching the children achieve and grow, but when we receive feedback, it gives the girls a great boost. Thank you again!

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 comes in regularly to support us and help us work towards our Improvement plan.

A new Improvement Plan has been created, and we will be focusing on our new planning, staff training and parental involvement. There is a wall display with more in-depth information on the outside of the 0-2 room door where we add evidence of things we have changed or improved on.

Charity of the Year 2025

We have made a huge amount already this year, with our latest charity event being Sports Day, which we held on Saturday 21st June. We are grateful for such a successful turn out and lots of participation from the children. We raised a whopping **£1385**.

Our bake sale was a great success last week and we raised **£173.10**. Thank you to those of you who bought some yummy treats to help towards our charity.

This year's chosen charity is 'Archie's Bereavement Service'. Archie's Child Bereavement Service is offered free of charge to families within Grampian, Tayside, the Highlands and Orkney. The service supports families and professionals who are working with children and young people. They recognise that every child is different, and believe 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.

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

Medication

The Care Inspectorate state that all medication brought on to the premises is to be in its original box/package, with your child's name and date given. It must have clear instructions about the 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 will take a dip soon, can we ensure all children have warmer clothes available.

Can I also 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



GRADUATION 2025

We would like to say a huge Thank You to the girls for putting on another amazing Graduation. All the boys and girls smashed it - they were so proud to stand up on stage in front of their families. It was a great turn out and rather emotional. We wish all our leavers all the very best on their Primary 1 journey.

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

The 2-3 room had their first trip of the year to the new Gonks of Gardenshillock. The children and staff loved it!! And the ladies couldn't be prouder of the children on the day.

The children used their imaginative skills to help the Gonks make cupcakes, pies, and do daily tasks at each of the stations.

We really enjoyed searching the environment on the way around to look for bees, butterflies and hidden bunnies.

The children loved making sand cakes with a variety of utensils and loose parts which encouraged curiosity and creative skills. They also used problem solving skills to sort letters for the Gonks.

They built houses for birds which encouraged hand eye coordination skills, and the children were fascinated by the magic potions! They also explored the park and ran around before sitting down to have a yummy treat of strawberries and chocolate.



The 3-5 Room children went to Duthie park, and although it was a rather soggy day, the children still had lots of fun, enjoying the winter gardens, learning about the various different plants, and of course throwing some pennies into the pond to see the frog peeping up. They enjoyed having a picnic in the gardens before heading out to the park for a play.



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

Learning Experiences

Book bug



The 0-2 children enjoyed their book bug session. They all sat so well and listened to the story book and then they sang songs alongside the ladies. The children all love getting a shot of holding Book bug and getting a sticker at the end.



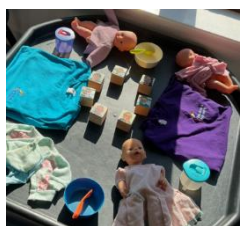
0-2 Room

Over the last term, our 0-2 children have been busy exploring a variety of exciting topics through sensory play, songs, stories, and hands-on experiences. Each activity has been carefully planned to meet the needs of the babies and toddlers, linking to areas of learning and development.

Our Easter celebrations were a fun time filled with seasonal crafts, sensory exploration, and outdoor activities. The children enjoyed Easter egg hunts in the garden (which promotes physical development and early problem-solving), messy play with coloured rice and shredded paper nests (which helps to develop sensory awareness and fine motor skills), and Easter singing and action rhymes (which helps to support communication and language skills).



Our 'People Who Help Us' topic introduced children to different roles in our community. Activities included small-world play with toy emergency vehicles to encourage imaginative play, and dressing up in hats and uniforms which supports personal, social, and emotional development.



We encouraged children to share and recognise familiar people in their lives, looking at family photo books to build a sense of belonging. They participated in role play with dolls and prams, encouraging nurturing behaviour, and they sang songs about families to promote language development.



For our 'All About Me' topic, we focused on helping children recognise themselves, looking in mirrors and naming facial features. They loved hand and footprint painting which promotes sensory exploration, and they sang action songs such as "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes."



To encourage active play, we introduced mini sporting activities such as soft ball rolling and kicking to develop coordination. We had obstacle courses to help build balance and develop confidence, as well as parachute games to promote group interaction. The children were super engaged, developing a sense of balance, strength and coordination through all the gross motor experiences they explored.



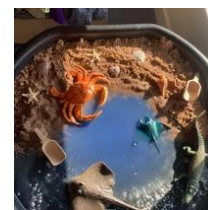
2-3 Room

The 2-3 room have had a fun filled term. The children have been continuing to voice their own choices for topics and activities each month on our "Children's Suggestions" mind map where we have had a wide variety of suggestions.



The children have particularly enjoyed our "People who help us" topic this term. They have been interested in the emergency services, engaging in investigative and imaginative play, as well as discussions about their futures and what they would like to do when they grow up, starting to show their goals and ambition.

The 2-3's engaged very well with our "Under the sea" topic, learning about sea animals, progressing on to sea transport and the tall ships within our area.



The children have been developing a sense of self care and hygiene. We have had our own spa with infused water, bubbles, and cucumber for our eyes to encourage relaxation and self-regulation.



Throughout the term the children have been excelling their independence skills by participating in food preparation for snack and lunches. The children have enjoyed cutting up fruit for snack whilst being SAFE and making their own sandwiches for lunch with a variety of fillings to stay HEALTHY.



The 2-3s have been very busy baking items to take home to share with their families. The children have made cakes, cookies, bread, brownies and pinwheels. They have explored our garden and picked apples to bake a cake with. This extended interest and conversations about our environment and our garden.

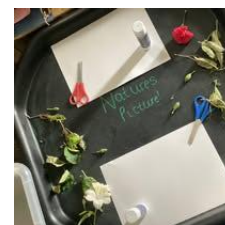
The children have really enjoyed furthering their interest in baking through imaginative play within the tuff tray



We have been going on outings to encourage learning in the community. The children have been learning how to stay safe on public transport, when out in the community and crossing roads with the support of SIMOA.

The 2-3 room children have recently been to our local garden centre where they picked up seeds to further interest of plants and nature back at nursery. The children often go for walks to source flowers to promote real life further within the room.

Following the children's interest, we then looked at a natural resource topic from the outdoor environment.



3-5 Room

Over the past few months, we have been engaging the children in a variety of exciting and meaningful learning experiences, supporting both their development and curiosity.

Healthy Choices & Growing Our Own Food:

We began by focusing on Healthy Choices, encouraging children to think about what foods help our bodies stay strong and healthy. Through group discussions, we explored the benefits of eating a balanced diet, with an emphasis on fresh fruits and vegetables. This linked beautifully to our hands-on gardening project. The children helped to plant strawberries, lettuce, carrots, and green beans, learning how to care for them and watching them grow over time.

This activity provided opportunities to develop responsibility, patience, and an understanding of where food comes from. Many children enjoyed checking the plants regularly, noticing changes, and predicting when they would be ready to harvest. We are all looking forward to tasting our home-grown produce soon!



All About Me & School Transitions:

We then moved on to a topic called 'All About Me', which encouraged the children to think about their own identities, families and experiences. This helped the children to build confidence whilst expressing themselves and listening to others. A key focus was preparing pre-school children for their upcoming school transitions.

We introduced a special School Transition Box filled with props, books, and role-play materials related to school life. This allowed the children to explore what school might be like through pretend play, ask questions, and discuss any feelings they had about moving on. These activities helped to develop communication skills, emotional readiness, and problem-solving abilities.



Under the Sea:

Our final topic, 'Under the Sea', took us into the fascinating world of marine life. We explored which animals live underwater, how they survive, and even discovered that some animals such as penguins and seals can live both in the water and on land.

The children enjoyed a range of sensory activities, including sand and water play which supported their understanding of textures, cause and effect, and scientific thinking. A highlight was our Sink or Float Experiment, where the children tested different objects in water to see what would happen. They made predictions, observed results, and discussed why some items floated while others sank, laying the foundations for early science concepts.



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 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

Pre-School Trip – TBC

2-3 Trip - TBC

Tempest – Friday 24th October

All rooms Halloween Parties – Friday, 31st October (Those that are in)

Christmas Fayre – Saturday 29th November

Pantomime – TBC (All pre-school children)

Ante-Pre School Trip – TBC (All ante pre-school children)

0-2 Christmas Party – Friday 12th December (All Invited)

3-5 Nativity - Friday 12th December (All 3-5 children)

2-3 Christmas Party – Monday 15th December (All Invited)

3-5 Christmas Party – Monday 15th December (All Invited)

Thank you

Suzanne Stephen

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