

Inverurie Newsletter – Term 3 - JANUARY 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back! We hope you all had a lovely time over Christmas, and we wish you a happy New Year. What a wonderful start to the year, with this snow fall!? The children have loved it, and I am proud of the team who managed to get in.

Here's to another great and successful year at Summers, with lots on the horizon.

Staff News

Some lovely news to share – Rebecca Ramsay from the 3-5 room is expecting a baby! A big congratulations from everyone, and best wishes for the months ahead.

All the team who are currently working towards qualifications are working hard behind the scenes. We appreciate the extra workload, and it will be so worth it when all completed.

Staff work hard to continuously update their CPL (Continual Personal Learning). Some have recently attended training on First Aid, Circle – Up, Up and Away, Positive Behaviour, and Grow & Thrive.

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.

Our new Improvement Plan focuses on:

- Our new planning process
- Staff Training
- Parental Involvement

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

Charity of the Year 2025

We would like to say a HUGE Thank You for your continuous generosity supporting our fundraising events.

Our grand total raised here at Summers Inverurie for 2025 is a fantastic **£4261.18**, and the total raised for all the Summers Nurseries is **£15,055.73**. A huge thank to everyone who participated and raised money for Archie's Child Bereavement Service (ACBS). I would also like to thank all the staff for their time and efforts throughout the year. ACBS is offered free of charge to families within Grampian, Tayside, the Highlands and Orkney, and the service supports families and professionals who are working with children and young people who have experienced a bereavement.

We raised £40 from our World Book Day back in March, and in April we raised £1335 for another very successful annual coffee morning.

Another huge success was our Sports Day which took place in June, raising £1385, which included money from our Sports Day sponsor forms.

In July, we had a bake sale which raised £173.10, and our Christmas Fayre at the end of the year raised a brilliant £1150.

From our professional photos with Tempest, we raised a very healthy commission of £178.08.

Charity of the Year 2026

Our 2026 charity has now been chosen, and I am delighted to inform you that we will now be raising money for '**Friends of the Neonatal Unit**' which is a charity that supports the Neonatal Unit at Aberdeen Maternity Hospital, which cares for premature and sick babies. Charitable support for neonatal care in Aberdeen pre-dates the Neonatal Unit itself.

FOTNU became part of the Archie Foundation family in 2016, raising funds for life saving equipment, staff training and direct family support such as accommodation and travel costs for babies born too soon or sick across the North of Scotland. They are now the leading charity for the new **Baird Family Neonatal Hospital**. The hospital is still under construction, and will include cutting edge research, drawing together several services which will include maternity, gynaecology, and neonatal.

Stay & Play

Thank you to those of you who came to our Stay and Play. We hope you agree it was a great success! All the children were all proud to show off their rooms and toys, as well as their friends. We received great feedback from our evaluation forms. It is great to have you in to experience a snippet of the day, however we do understand not everyone can make it due to work commitments. We will look in to doing different times throughout the year.

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.

Can you please ensure your child/ren have suitable outdoor clothing, wetsuits, wellies, hats and gloves for the winter weather.

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.

STEM

STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

In early years, it isn't about worksheets or complicated lessons - it's about giving children chances to explore, ask questions, and make discoveries through play.

Science → exploring nature, weather, animals, plants, water, and sand.

Technology → using tools and simple equipment, noticing how things work.

Engineering → building with blocks, loose parts, or natural materials, solving problems.

Mathematics → counting, sorting, measuring, comparing sizes, spotting patterns.

Young children are natural scientists and engineers. When they ask "why?", when they are mixing water with mud, balancing blocks, or rolling cars down slopes — they're already doing STEM!

We have created a STEM outdoor bag, which is a ready-to-go kit of simple resources that sparks curiosity and hands-on exploration outside.

It encourages active learning → Children use their whole bodies to test, build, and explore.

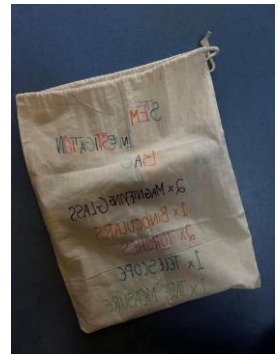
Supports curiosity → Magnifying glasses, measuring tapes, or bug viewers help children notice details.

Makes learning playful → Children can use everyday items (like cups, tubes, or pegs) in creative ways.

Connects with nature → Exploring outdoors links STEM with the natural world — seasons, weather, plants, and wildlife.

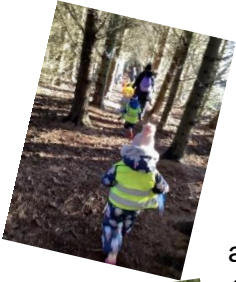
Promotes problem-solving & teamwork → Children work together to build, test, and experiment.

We will be taking our STEM bag on outdoor experiences, like Wee Green Space and community walks! We will also be introducing a sign in and out system for you to be able to take the STEM bag home to go out and find some amazing things in nature to take back to nursery and explore!



Outings/Trips

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



The 2-3 children who attended on a Tuesday last term had a fantastic trip to Fedderate Fairy Woods – The children were all so excited, as we spent the morning exploring the fairy woods, using our imaginative skills to find the fairy houses and hand out our 'Gems'. The children showed how safe they were when toasting their marshmallows, to make their own smores, then we all sat down and ate them along with a cosy Hot chocolate. The children then got to explore the winter side of the woods, seeing a reindeer, santa's sleigh, and they even got to choose their own decorations to take home and hang on our nursery Christmas Tree. The children as ever did us proud and were superstars!



Our Ante-pre trip to Playtown was a big success, with lots of role play, a wee sweet treat of cookies and juice, and of course a special visit from Santa.



Our Pre-school children travelled by bus to His Majesty Theatre in Aberdeen to watch the panto 'Cinderella'. The K-Pop deamon hunters appearance was definitely a highlight!



We held our annual Nativity performance at the church. After lots of practice and hard work, the children made us incredibly proud.

Our 3–5 room had a wonderful visit to the care home, where the children took part in carol singing. They sang with great enthusiasm and confidence, bringing lots of smiles to the residents' faces. It was a lovely opportunity for the children to share festive cheer, practise kindness, and be part of the local community.

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



SIMOA

When we head outside, we use our SIMOA Elephant to help us learn to keep safe. We have even been using SIMOA at nursery, and the children help us to check that the garden is safe before going outside.

Wee Green Space

The children have been loving having adventures at Wee Green Space. They have engaged in lots of physical activities during the winter period and have explored the outdoors.

We have five groups who rotate on a weekly basis. You will have been informed who is in which group and what day they plan to go. Can you please ensure they are fully equipped for their trip that day.



0-2 Room

Bonfire Night

The children enjoyed taking part in some exciting science experiments, doing a firework colour experiment, and they used colour pipettes to pour into the shaving foam in water, watching the colours separate.



There were lots of sensory activities, with the use of water and colours which helped to develop the children's curiosity.



Remembrance Day

For Remembrance Day, the children focused on red themed activities for the day. There were lots of red resources in the water tray, red blocks and materials in the red sand tray. The boys and girls made their own poppies and used marble ink.



Winter

Throughout the winter period, the children have continued to enjoy regular walks in the comfort of our new buggy, observing changes in the weather and their surroundings.

In our messy tray, we had a wintry snowball throwing tray with some soft balls and oats mixed with baby powder. The children loved practicing their throwing skills with the balls and feeling the texture of the oats and baby powder.



The children made some winter paintings using coloured ice cubes which helps to develop their fine motor skills and hand eye coordination!

We had a hot chocolate water tray and snowflake soup tough tray



Christmas

In the lead-up to Christmas, the children explored a variety of festive activities. We made a check list of Christmas items for the children to find, and when they visited the Garioch Sports Centre to see their Christmas tree, they were able to tick it off on their check list. All the children did fantastically well, ticking off what they had seen, and the snowman was ticked off after we saw a snowman when out for a walk!

The children made crowns to wear, using them for their Christmas lunch, and everyone gobbled up their lunch and enjoyed the festive experience.

2-3 Room

The children in the 2–3 room have had a busy and exciting term filled with hands-on learning and outdoor exploration, which has promoted independence.

Involving Parents – Oral Health

We created a "Sparkles, the Tooth Brushing Helper" bag to encourage good oral hygiene at home. Parents shared helpful suggestions including dentist visits and tooth-brushing routines. This has been very successful so far and we have received fantastic feedback.

Bonfire Night & Fire Safety

During November, the children loved learning about fireworks and Bonfire Night. They were highly engaged and learned important fire safety measures. The children were able to say, "Watch my hands, it is hot," and "listen to my ladies."

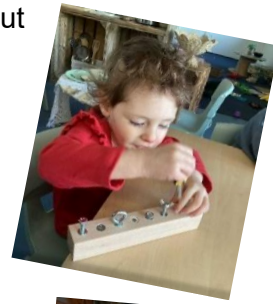
To encourage imaginative play, the children toasted marshmallows on the "fire pit" with their hats on, like they would at the bonfire.

We explored different materials to create our own fireworks and fizzy potions through sensory play and simple science experiments. The children even had their own cosy hot chocolate making station within the room.





Following on from the children's interest in science, we focused on STEM throughout the term. On snowy days, the children used magnifying glasses, binoculars and torches to explore snow and learn about the process of melting.



Christmas



The children took the lead in their learning by selecting their own books from the library for our Christmas topic. They made decisions about baubles, before decorating our playroom Christmas tree, and they also showed wonderful creativity by making decorations to display on our walls.



There were many opportunities to get creative with foliage, and the children made their own Christmas wreaths and playdough candy canes. We also enjoyed Christmas food tasting to spark the children's senses, and then they went on to create a Christmas dinner tray.



At our Christmas Party, we enjoyed dancing, party games and an extra special visit from Santa. All the children were delighted with their presents, and they were so excited to speak to him.



3-5 Room

The 3–5 room has enjoyed a term packed with creativity, discovery, celebrations and exciting trips.

Autumn & Bonfire Night

We explored autumnal words and letter formation, supporting early literacy skills. The children investigated symmetry using leaves, cutting them in half to find matching patterns.



We also learned about Bonfire Night and what it entails - “Big Fire” and “Stay beside Mum” were comments made on safety around fire.

The children went on to make their own ‘sparklers’ and enjoyed watching a fireworks display together.



Halloween



Our Halloween topic focused on safety and practical skills. The children learned how to safely use real tools to carve their pumpkin. They also enjoyed pumpkin-based science experiments and sensory play, exploring the inside of pumpkins, turning them into a fizzing volcano.

The children enjoyed baking some Halloween cupcakes to have at their afternoon Halloween party.



All Around the World



The children loved learning about different cultures, partaking in a food tasting experience and listening to traditional music. We shared our thoughts and opinions and explored how to find information using books and the use of the internet.



Christmas

During the month of December, the children created their own Christmas stories and designed front covers. We explored 2D and 3D shapes and discussed where we might find these during the Christmas season. They also explored a variety of Christmas foods, from Christmas cake to Brussel sprouts, and baking was big favourite!



The children loved being part of putting up their playroom Christmas tree and making their own salt dough decorations to put on it.

Everyone enjoyed playing out in the snow, making snow angels with their ladies, and building a wee snowman. They also learnt about independence when getting wrapped up cosy for outdoor play.



Upcoming Dates For Your Diary

An email will be sent out soon about upcoming dates for your diary.

- *Annual Spring Coffee Morning – (Date to be confirmed in due course)*
- *Parental Interviews – W/c 23/03/26 & 30/03/26 – (Slots to be allocated)*

Thank you

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