



St Swithin Street Newsletter Term 3 – January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you all for your generosity before Christmas—we truly appreciate the cards and gifts, as well as the contributions to our staff night out, and more. We all had a great break and are so happy to be back at nursery, even with all the lovely snow which came our way!!

We would like to welcome all the new families who have joined us this term. The children are managing to settle in very well into the nursery environment.

Training

Caitlin McKechnie is continuing with her SVQ 3 with Cairn Training.

Staff continue to work their way through essential core training and take their learning into practice.

Charity of the Year 2025

Last year, our Charity of the Year was Archie's Child Bereavement Service, which supports bereaved children, no matter what the relationship, offering services to support families and professionals working with children and young people free of charge within Grampian, Tayside and the Highlands and Orkney. We are really pleased to announce that we managed to raise **£2397.57**, and the total raised for all the Summers Nurseries came to **£15,055.73**. We would like to say a BIG thank you to everyone who contributed to the charity, as well as thank all our staff who helped with all the charity events throughout the year.

PJ Charity Day

We raised £25 for our World Book Day donations in May, and £135 for our Easter contributions.

Our summer Sports Day stalls and sponsor forms raised a super £985, and our pizza making proved to be very popular, making £280.

The annual Fun Day was a great success on Friday the 15th of August, raising a fantastic £560. Many thanks to all who attended. We also had a bake sale and lucky squares in October which brought in £271.70, and our Christmas orders made the charity £57.62.

Finally, we made £58.25 from our Tempest Photo commissions and £25 from our PJ Day in December. Thank you again for your continued support.

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 become 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.

Weather

Please ensure your child/children have outdoor winter clothing and that bags are stocked with winter items. Outdoor activities occur daily, so please prepare your child each day.

Home Library

We are excited to have started our own home library. We invite you to help yourself to a story when leaving nursery to share with your child at home. There is a folder to sign the books in/out. If anyone has any books at home which they no longer require, please feel free to donate them to our home library. We hope this will continue to support learning through literacy, as well as provide a good link between home and nursery.



Improvement Plans

Our 2025-2026 Improvement plans are now up and running and displayed in the hallway where you enter the nursery on the left-hand side. Our three improvement areas are detailed below:

1. Enhanced Learning and Developing Opportunities for Outdoor Learning
2. Nursery Audits and Evaluations
3. To support a more holistic environment for the children within the playrooms, extending loose parts, natural resources and reducing plastic.

We have begun collating evidence on our board for you to have a look at. Our garden has taken shape over the past couple of months and the extension to play has been well noticed by all. We hope to continue to extend the learning and development of the nursery with yourselves, so please let us know if there are any ideas or thoughts you can add to our plans. Throughout the winter months, we are continuing to add more opportunities to learn and develop outdoors, and we are excited to get out to our Wee Green Space visits which will be back up and running shortly.

We are continuing to evaluate our environments and make relevant changes to support a more holistic environment, and we are always grateful to acquire more loose parts from home to extend opportunities in the nursery, especially lamps, kitchen utensils, buttons etc.

Trips and Outings

We had a lovely festive trip to the Pantomime with the Pre-school children to see Cinderella, and the Ante pre-school children enjoyed a trip to the Lemon Tree to see 'A Land Beyond Winter'.

All rooms managed some lovely festive walks to see the Christmas lights/ trees and learned all about road safety with our SIMOA elephant.

All our trips are arranged on different days throughout the year to ensure everyone has an opportunity to attend a nursery trip.

We had a lovely visit from Book bug in November also, and the children loved singing along, participating very well.



Dancing

The Pre-school children are continuing to enjoy Laura from Flash Dance on a Thursday. They have been learning some great dance moves, showing off their best moves to each other. Listening and teamwork have been an important part of the term's goals.

Learning Experiences

Guy Fawkes

We had a whole range of activities to represent Guy Fawkes, with lots of arts and crafts, fine motor skill activities, and tasty snacks. We learnt about safety around fireworks and how we can stay safe around fire.



Remembrance Day

The whole nursery participated in various activities for Remembrance Day. Our Pre-schoolers learnt about its significance, learning about national celebrations. The younger children participated in Remembrance Day arts and crafts to gain an understanding of the importance of the day.



Baby Room

The 0-2 children continued with their Nursery Rhyme topic, extending their opportunities for simple language activities and songs through play opportunities.



We have focused on developing the babies' fine motor skills through play - using puzzles, blocks and stacking, providing opportunities to practice hand eye coordination through various activities, which also helps to improve their cutlery use at mealtimes.

Shapes were a mini focus topic throughout November and December, and children were given opportunities through playdough, games and shape sorters to identify and explore a range of shapes and colours.



We enjoyed our Christmas activities, and the children made wonderful gifts, and participated in art projects, which they took home for their families. We talked about the Christmas story and learned a variety of lovely songs with the babies, and they especially enjoyed making music with their instruments.



Toddler Room

Last term, the Toddlers focused on exploring global celebrations, reflecting our diverse mix of religions, cultures, and ethnicities. We learnt about Swedish Heritage Day, Diwali, Remembrance Day, Bonfire Night, Hanukkah, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Through sharing home traditions, the children gained an awareness of different cultures and developed inclusivity, friendships, and relationships. Art, crafts, and reading further supported and showcased their learning.



In December, the children learnt about Arctic animals, exploring their habitats, diets, and survival strategies during winter. Through messy play activities, they engaged their senses and learnt new vocabulary to describe various textures and sensations.



Pre-school Room

We saw the Pre-schoolers focusing on expressive arts, social studies and literacy. The children participated in many activities, preparing for Christmas and other celebrations.

They explored many fun learning activities to support their understanding of Guy Fawkes and the safety of fire. Opportunities to explore other world celebrations such as St Andrews Day, Hannukah and thanksgiving extended the children's knowledge and understanding about others. Through participating in Christmas projects, we used this as an opportunity to extend our writing skills. A new board with the children's names was created to supported independence with writing.



Hanukkah stars



The class nativity was thoroughly enjoyed, with the children eager to learn songs and put on a great performance for the show. They also enjoyed making costumes, participating in arts and crafts, making snowflakes etc, as well as Christmas cards for family and friends, which supports literacy and writing skills. The story of Christmas was also taught through various stories and songs.

The children were keen to learn about road safety, road signs, traffic lights, and how to contact emergency services. We had many resources to support this popular topic in the playroom, and the children also learnt about sharing and how to take turns.



Parental Involvement



We were lucky to have some parents kindly volunteer their time to visit Pre-school and read stories, which we greatly appreciate, as it brought fresh perspectives to our daily nursery routines. We always welcome parents who would like to come in and talk about their professions, hobbies, languages, or interests, as this enhances parental involvement in our nursery community. If you are interested in supporting this partnership, please speak to myself.

Dates for the Diary

- Breakfast Roll Week – 26th January – order forms will be out soon
- Friday 13th February – wear something pink/red to celebrate Valentines Day
- W/C 16/03/2026, 23/03/2026 and 30/03/2026 – Parent Interview Weeks

Kind Regards

Erin Horne

Nursery Manager

stswithinstreet@summersnurseries.com

tel - 01224 209966