



August Newsletter 2025 – Victoria Street

Dear Parents/Carers

What a wonderful summer term it has been at Summers Nursery Victoria Street– full of sunshine, smiles and special moments!

Our garden development has been blooming with exciting new additions! The children have been busy planting and caring for carrots, radishes, French dwarf beans, and peas. It's been amazing to see their curiosity and care as they watch their plants grow. Our mud kitchen has had an exciting upgrade too, with two new messy trays added, giving even more opportunities for imaginative and sensory play. There has been endless fun and learning, as children explore movement, flow, and problem-solving, and of course, there's been garden games galore – keeping everyone active and smiling outdoors!

We would like to say a huge thank you to all the families who joined us for our Stay and Snack event on the 11th of June. It was lovely to see everyone playing, exploring and sharing special moments with your children. Thank you also to all the families who joined us for our Parents Evening on the 26th of June – your continued support and involvement means the world to us!

A heartfelt congratulations to our wonderful Graduates who graduated on the 11th of July – your performance made us so proud, and it was such a joy to celebrate all your achievements. The after party was very well deserved and we wish each child all the very best on their big step into primary one!

Our recent Sports Day on Saturday the 26th of July was also a fantastic success! Thank you to everyone who came along, cheered the children on, and supported our fundraising efforts. So far, we have managed to raise an amazing **£1,342.99** for our Charity of the Year 2025 which is 'Archie's Bereavement Service'. Archie's Child Bereavement Service is offered free of charge to families in 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.

Thank you to all the parents who took the time to complete our recent parental questionnaire. We have now evaluated the results, and a letter will be going out shortly to you. Information from our parental and staff questionnaire results go towards our Development plan for the year ahead.

Finally, we would like to give a big warm welcome to our newest families who have joined us recently. As always, thank you all for being a part of our nursery family – we are excited for all that the new term will bring!

Trips

3-5 Room Adventure to Stonehaven – 29th July 2025

What an amazing day our 3-5 children had on their summer trip to Stonehaven! It was a day full of fun, discovery, and new experiences, and the children were absolutely fantastic throughout!

We started the day with a visit to the local park, where the children had a brilliant time exploring all the different apparatus – climbing, sliding, balancing and swinging with big smiles and lots of laughter! After burning some energy, we enjoyed a relaxing picnic snack in the sunshine.

Next, we headed to Scallywags Soft Play, where the children had an absolute blast - climbing, crawling, and racing through the soft play frames! It was a perfect space for building confidence and enjoying active, social play before sitting down together for a well-earned lunch.

In the afternoon, we made our way to the beach where our little explorers had the chance to search the shore for crabs, and build some very impressive stone people and stone families! The children loved using their imagination, working together to create and discover. Before heading back to nursery, we squeezed in one last visit to the park, making the most of every minute of our adventure! The trip was a fantastic opportunity for the children to build on their physical skills, social development and understanding of the world, all whilst having so much fun! We are incredibly proud of how well they represented the nursery and embraced every part of the day.

2-3 Room's Crathes Castle Adventure – 31st July 2025

Our 2-3 room children had a wonderful day out, exploring the beautiful surroundings of Crathes Castle, filled with nature, history, and plenty of outdoor fun!

We began our day by exploring the castle grounds and taking in the beauty of the walled garden which was full of colourful flowers and buzzing bees! The children loved spotting the different shapes and sizes of leaves, collecting natural materials such as sticks, petals and stones to bring back for future arts and crafts activities.

The highlight of the morning was definitely the Wild Wood Adventure Play Area, where the children climbed, slid, balanced and explored freely. It was fantastic to see their confidence grow as they navigated the play space, developing physical skills and having so much fun.

We took time to look at the castle itself, talking about what castles are, who might have lived there, and what life might have been like. This sparked lots of imagination and storytelling! Along the nature trail, we searched for signs of wildlife, found animal tracks, and talked about different animals that live in the woods and fields.

After a busy morning, we enjoyed a picnic lunch – followed by a very special treat: a cheeky ice cream that brought big smiles all round! We also played ring games on the grass which encouraged teamwork, turn-taking, and giggles galore.

Before heading back to nursery, we took a walk to view the sheep in the nearby fields, where the children enjoyed watching them graze, learning about farm animals and their surroundings. We are so proud of how well the children engaged throughout the day and how much they got from this wonderful outdoor adventure!

3-5 Room



The pre-school children have focused on two different topics over the past term - Nature and Space.

The children have taken part in various learning experiences which have included planned activities, Show and Tell, and planting activities. They have been doing planting in the garden where they have cared for and looked after their plants, watering them and learning all about how to grow different vegetables. This stemmed from the nature topic, where the boys and girls showed a keen interest in growing flowers and vegetables.



We have been learning about Space, planets and astronomy. The children have learned various facts and gained lots of information about Space: including what astronauts eat and how many planets there are. We have focused specifically on planets lately after hearing the Planets and the Dwarf Planets Song. Throughout listening to this song, the children have gained facts about the planets, and they have also learnt their names also. The children enjoyed grouping together to make a space station, as well as some paper-mâché planets.





The children have enjoyed various trips to the library and Wee Green Space. We have made use of some ropes to play tug of war, and we also collected a variety of leaves, sticks and stones. At the library, the children have enjoyed choosing their own stories to read and others to take back to nursery to show their friends.



The children have been developing their technology skills through the use of our new computer and the iPad. They have been focusing on turn taking and sharing whilst using simple technology skills with the keyboard and mouse. The children have been able to complete puzzles and follow instructions to complete games.



2-3 room

In the 2-3 room, the children have learnt about safari and jungle animals, and they have also been learning about dinosaurs and volcanos, and they had so much fun learning about these topics. For our animal topic, the children created animal stick puppets using lollipop sticks and animal cut outs, and they also created their own animal display, creating their own animals using paint, glitter and pens/pencils to colour their animals how they liked! We even used our Circle time to learn about different animal names in Makaton, which the children did very well with.



We have been doing a lot of baking, making cupcakes, birthday cakes and rice crispy cakes. The children have gotten very good at using their independence skills to wash their hands before baking, and they helped to scoop the ingredients into the bowls, mixing it all together. We have also been using our ice lolly moulds to create fun ice lollies too and we used some fruit squash with some berries to add in a fruity twist for the sunny days!

The children have focused a lot on messy play, and arts and craft. They have created some summer pictures using junk model materials to cut out ice cream shapes. They then used paint and glitter to create fun pictures. We have been creating emotion jars from the colour monster story too, and the children had great fun using their cutting skills to cut up strips of coloured paper and tissue paper, before gluing and sticking the paper cut outs onto their jar.

Along with our crafts, we have been creating stimulating, creative tuff trays with the children. We used crazy foam to create an Under the Sea tray, and we changed our water tray to blue and green water, adding in flower petals for the children to create fun, interesting potions with their bowls, scoops and tubs!

Over the past few months, we have been really focusing on our mealtimes, creating a nice, calm, homely feel for the children. The children are doing so great with helping set the tables, self-serving their own meals, emptying their plates and engaging with conversation throughout their meals. We have seen a huge difference with the children's independence and confidence during self-serving, and it's so great for us to see the children enjoying using their skills!

Lastly, we have been exploring lots of different puzzles, exploring numbers, letters, animals and different characters. The children have been focused a lot on these recently and are now able to complete larger piece puzzles all by themselves.



0-2 room

We started the term with a focus on shapes. This stemmed from the knowledge some of our older children demonstrated through free play with the blocks. Throughout this, we ensured that activities were adapted to suit the various ages/stages of development that we have in the room, so that all children were included.

The activities on offer included the use of shape sorters, magnetic shapes, and wooden blocks, with the children also enjoying a shape hunt in the garden. We had large mark making activities, and we used the large pillars in the room to stick on a range of different shapes for reference during the topic.

Throughout these activities, there was a focus on small group play where staff encouraged the children to identify the shapes verbally, encouraging them to point to the different ones. The children were keen to repeat the names of the simple shapes to promote their learning, with children being able to identify shapes such as square, circle, triangle and star. The topic also lent itself to developing colour knowledge and this was included in many of the one-to-one interactions between staff and the children.



The Gruffalo story is a regular favourite in the 0-2 room, and the staff almost know the story off by heart! The children were encouraged to explore 'Gruffalo crumble,' (made with oats dyed purple), 'owl ice cream' which was gloop with extra added feathers, and 'scrambled snake' - this was a particular favourite with the children and gave lots of giggles as they picked up the green spaghetti!



We have been extremely lucky with the weather and this has allowed for an abundance of outdoor play. We have taken many of our indoor resources outdoors, including sand, mark making materials, construction and role play. We have had a water tray and our new water wall available for the children daily, which, as well as being much fun for splashing each other, also promotes a range of developmental areas including fine motor skills, problem solving skills and early mathematical language, as the children speak about "filling it up", "pour it out" "heavy" and "empty". We made our own ice lollies to keep us cool in the hot weather, and which have been thoroughly enjoyed.

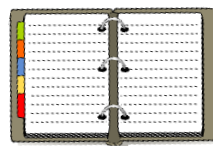
We have been out for walks exploring the local area, visiting the mini science centre, as well as the soft play in the Bon Accord Centre. We have also visited the local parks, and the water fountains at Marischal College.



Please feel free to take a look at our activities floor book in the 0-2 room hallway to see all of the other fun and educational activities we have undertaken this term and previous ones.



Dates for your diary



- ✚ The week commencing 04/09/25 - Children are encouraged to bring along their favourite story to read and share with their nursery friends in honour of **World Literacy Day!**
- ✚ To celebrate **World Animal Day**, week commencing 29/09/25, we are inviting the children to attend nursery dressed as their favourite animal.
- ✚ **National Play-Doh Day!** On Tuesday the 16th of September the children will experience a sensory play filled day full of creative modelling, exploring shapes, colours and textures whilst making their own Play-Doh. A fun hands on day developing fine motor skills and imagination!
- ✚ **Pumpkin Patch Week** Monday 27th – Friday 31st October! A week of autumn and Halloween themed fun! Details about the week will be displayed and emailed nearer the time.

As always, we thank all our families for their continued support.

Warmest regards

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