



Wee Rascals Too Newsletter - Term 3 January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to nursery! I hope you all had a lovely Christmas, and a happy New Year to all our families, and any new families who have recently started here at Wee Rascals Too.

The first week back certainly ensured we all came back with a bang - fingers crossed the snow for 2026 has all fallen!

We are looking forwards to Term 3 at Wee Rascals Too, with lots of rich learning opportunities on offer for the children, training developments for the staff team, and adding to our Action Plan.

Our Action Plan

We continue to focus on our new planning (which was implemented in August last year) and the development of the outdoor area. We are also focusing on staff training. You can view our Action plan in the hallway.

The biggest focus this term is to get the Poly Tunnel up and running. Aberdeenshire Council have also provided an update of several new courses on their website, and we hope to attend those also, increasing staff knowledge.

The new planning seems to feel like it is starting to be fully embedded within the nursery, and feedback from the Parent Interviews which took place back in November was so positive. We are glad you feel your child's learning is supported with the new planning.

Staff Training

I am still working towards my PDA every Thursday at College and am halfway through the first year already! Only 1 more year to go after that!

Staff use AZILO and we have monthly tasks where the staff will complete a course which is relevant to the nursery.



Charity of the Year 2025

Last year we supported Archie's Child Bereavement Service, and we managed to raise a fantastic **£2138.28**. All the Summers nurseries raised a whopping **£15.055.73** This charity offers services to support families and professionals working with children and young people free of charge within Grampian, Tayside, and the Highlands and Orkney. ACBS supports children who have experienced bereavement no matter what the relationship. We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported the charity and to all the staff who spent time helping at various events throughout last year.

We raised £69.80 for World Book Day in March, and in April we made £35.45 for the Easter Egg/Bunny Competition, and £211.30 for Pizza Making. We also made £52.38 from commission from our Tempest photos.

Sports day stalls and sponsor forms brought in £508.55 in July, and the Halloween Hamper made £33.10.

Our artwork for schools Christmas Craft brought in £95.40 and our Christmas Fayre was a HUGE success, raising an amazing £1132.30!

Charity of the Year 2026

We have now chosen our 2026 charity, 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 2026, 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.

We cannot thank you all enough for your continued support with our charity events.

Parental Engagement

To encourage parental involvement, I am looking to hold a 'Stay and Play' at the end of February - where you can come to nursery and spend time with your child - learning what



they get up to within their nursery day! Please look out for more correspondence about this.

We do also love home observations at Wee Rascals Too - posting achievements from home, or what you have been up to at the weekend creates great talking points!

We are also continuing to add loose parts within the rooms as it is always great to have a huge stock of these. If you can donate anything from jam jars, corks, lids from Ella's pouches, milk bottle tops, and anything else you can think of, we would be very grateful!

Outdoor Clothing

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

It is important to have weather appropriate clothing provided and make sure that children's bags are always well stocked.

Learning Experiences

Little Bunnies

Last term, the Little Bunnies were very busy learning all about Halloween, through various activities, such as a monster splat, where the children hit sponges with plastic hammers and different coloured paint, which caused the colours to 'explode'. The children then matched the colour monsters to them. This encourages colour recognition, counting and hand-eye co-ordination. They also explored pumpkins - making pumpkin soup outdoors, and we also used lemon juice and bicarbonate of soda inside the pumpkins as an exploding science experiment, which gives an awareness of measurement, and encourages sensory and imaginative play.

The children finished their Halloween topic with a Halloween Party - enjoying snacks together, dancing, as well as enjoying the jelly filled tuff trays which encourage social skills, turn taking, and listening!

Diana from Once Upon a Tune visited and the children loved singing songs, dancing together, and they got involved with storytelling and learning new rhymes! This sparked the children to create their own den in their Story Corner and tell their own stories using puppets. These activities encourage movement, develop listening skills, and boost confidence.

During November, the children focused on a topic called 'Thankful' - discussing what they love and who they are thankful for - such as 'mummies, daddies and rice cakes'!

We then decided to delve into our wintery topic - painting on tin foil to create snowy shapes, exploring a real hot chocolate tuff tray and station, and using real resources and materials to encourage role play, sharing, communication and the use of different senses. Lots of baking experiences were on offer, too! - the children are always so proud to take home their finished products and learn lots of life skills during the process!



We then moved onto Christmas in December! We explored a variety of tuff trays with glitter, baby powder and fake snow! We also had our own Elf visit every day - leaving activities set up for us! The children created calendars, clay decorations, and cards for their families! They were encouraged to be creative, use social skills, as well as share and listen to each other! We ended December with a Christmas Party where Santa visited, and we danced together, making Christingles and playing pass the parcel.



We then focused on our Scottish topics, exploring Robert Burns and Scottish traditions.

Busy Bees

This term, the children have been extremely busy, as always. They are taking the lead in their learning, and we continue to follow the new planning system to allow the children to delve deeper into their own learning! During the Halloween topic, we visited the local shop to buy pumpkins - allowing the boys and girls to be responsible, practicing good road safety, and they had opportunities to handle money. The pumpkins allowed the children to develop their creativity and sensory skills as they scooped and designed faces together.

Further exploring their sensory skills, we have been using the Zen Den for calm sensory experiences - through storytelling, interactive story bags, as well as using the wooden role play sets, and participating in yoga!

In November, there was a big focus on Remembrance Day, where the children freely designed their own poppies and learnt the importance of Remembrance Sunday. Also, touching on Bonfire Night, we looked at fire safety and the importance of the role of the adult, holding hands during the event. This led to discussions about general safety in large social situations and understanding that the fire brigade and the police are there if we need help and what role they play.



December led to learning all about winter and Christmas, exploring topic boxes which we received from the library, which enhanced our bookcase - the children loved reading them! Throughout the different areas within the room, learning was enhanced using lots of Christmas themed loose parts, where the children created their own Winter Wonderlands and Santa's Workshops! The children also participated in making Reindeer Dust which they sold at our Christmas Fayre, along with Santa's Cookies!



December was also a busy time for trips - the Ante pre-school children attended Playtown in Inverurie where they enjoyed lots of role play, and they also got to meet Santa! The Pre-school children attended His Majesty's Theatre to see Cinderella, and this was a huge hit! The feedback from the children upon returning to nursery was great! We ask the children to evaluate recent trips and take part in risk assessing before they leave on the bus.

The Nativity practice started in November, and the children put on an utterly fantastic show, singing and getting the families to join in, too. It was lovely to have all the children and families together - especially afterwards where we could enjoy a fine piece and a cup of tea, which was kindly organised by Kintore Church.

Throughout the term, the children have continued to visit their local Wee Green Space, go out for community walks, attend the weekly dance class and their fortnightly Gymnastics - which helps to keep them active and develop their gross motor skills, as well as encouraging creativity and good listening skills. These extracurricular activities are thoroughly enjoyed by all ages and stages within the room!



Kind regards,

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