



Victoria Street Newsletter – May 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

We would like to begin by extending a warm welcome to the new children and families who have joined us this term! We are delighted to have you as part of our nursery community!

This term, we've placed a strong focus on plans for developing our outdoor spaces. Our plans will create exciting and enriching environments for the children to explore, learn and grow in. The outdoor areas will see additions of new materials such as natural materials, loose parts, planting areas, as well as literacy and numeracy. Staff will continue to support the children's creativity, imagination and learning opportunities outdoors, whilst supporting key developmental milestones.

Our recent Parent Partnership Meeting on 15th March was a great success! It was a fantastic opportunity to share our future plans of the nursery and discuss the updated frameworks and curriculum, opening the floor for a thoughtful Q & A session. Thank you to all who attended – your involvement plays a key role in shaping the learning experiences for your children.

The Police visit to the Pre-school room was a real highlight! The children thoroughly enjoyed meeting the local officers, trying on parts of the uniform, and exploring the police van. The visit sparked valuable discussions about safety, community helpers and the importance of police in our society.

Across the rooms, children have been taking part in indoor planting activities. Each age group has been caring for flowers, observing how they grow, and learning about what plants need to thrive. These hands-on experiences have supported early science skills, responsibility and patience whilst encouraging a connection with nature.

As we look ahead, we're excited to continue strengthening our parent partnerships. We would love to invite parents or carers to get involved by offering career talks, sharing knowledge about your religion, culture and festivals, or contributing any skills or hobbies that might spark the children's creativity and imagination, whether its cooking, storytelling, music/instruments, art – your involvement can enrich your child's learning environment and provide meaningful real-world connections for the children.

Trips

In March, our Pre-school children enjoyed an exciting trip to Hoodles Play Barn, where play and learning came together beautifully! The children engaged in a variety of physical games which supported the development of balance, coordination and gross motor skills. They practiced teamwork, turn-taking and problem solving through group activities and the imagination play zone. The trip provided rich learning experiences in a fun, stimulating environment, boosting social confidence and encouraging creativity along the way!

Our 2-3 room children also had a fantastic visit in March - to Dizzy Rascals! The trip offered plenty of opportunities for learning through movement and exploration. As the children climbed, crawled, slid and bounced, they developed essential physical skills such as balance, coordination and strengths. Social learning was also a key part of the day,

with children taking turns, sharing equipment, and engaging in cooperative play. This vibrant, playful environment helped build confidence, support communication, and encourage imaginative thinking – all while having so much fun!

Charity Of the Year 2025!

Our Chosen Charity – Archie Foundation (Archie's Child Bereavement Services)

We are proud to share that our chosen charity for this year is the Archie Foundation (Archie's Child Bereavement Services). ACBS offers support to families and professionals working with children and young people free of charge within Grampian, Tayside, and the Highlands and Orkney, giving them individual, tailored support to help with bereavement. Many referrals are received from schools and health professionals.

The charity is very personal to us as our Finance Manager, Loretta Ross, sadly lost her husband, George, very suddenly at the end of January this year, leaving Loretta and her two children, Lucas (10) and Keira (8). Prior to having children, Loretta was Nursery Manager for eight years at our nursery in Inverurie.

Deborah Mathers, who worked previously with us, and volunteers with the charity, bringing it to our attention, also lost her own husband very suddenly a few years ago, Deborah's two boys were also very young at the time.

The charity recognises that every child is different, and believes 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.

The Archie Foundation was formed in 2000 to support the building of a new Aberdeen children's hospital which opened in 2014, and the Grampian Bereavement network joined the Archie Foundation in 2019.

Thank you to everyone for their continued support, and we have already started raising funds through our Crazy Hair Day and World Book Day – a huge thank you to all the families who got involved and contributed!

We are excited to announce our next upcoming fundraisers:

Spring Coffee Morning – Saturday 10th May 11am to 1pm

We will be hosting a special morning full of activities, including a professional spring photo shoot - families are welcome to contribute a donation towards the charity in exchange for their photos. The event will also feature local child friendly stalls, an ice cream van, face painting, and a range of indoor and outdoor activities for the children to enjoy. We hope to see you there for a morning of fun, community, and giving to a truly meaningful cause!

Kilt walk Aberdeen 1st June

Members of our team will be walking to raise funds for this incredible charity! Every step is taken in support of those navigating loss, and we would love your help in making a meaningful difference.

Sponsorship opportunities are now open! If you would like to support our staff on their journey, the sponsorship QR codes can be found on the nursery front door and throughout the nursery attached to kilt walk posters. Thank you to those who have already sponsored our wonderful ladies! Thank you for helping us walk with purpose and heart!

What have we been up to in the rooms....

0-2 Room

The children showed a keen interest in animals and love the animal masks which we take out for 'Walking through the Jungle', so we decided to focus on an animal topic.



Rachel visited the local resource centre to gather equipment to support our topic. This included jungle animal felt boards which we've had hanging in the room for the children to explore freely, as well as giant animal puppets which we've incorporated into our song/story time. These resources have really supported development of speech as we practiced the names of each animal during our activities.



We went on an exciting safari through the garden in a 'car' designed by Laura. The children had to find the animals hidden around the garden which was a source of much excitement!

In addition to this, the children have developed fine motor skill during arts and craft activities to create animals for our safari display board, and they had a great time splashing in the water tray with their "baby sharks"



Our animal topic was so popular and the source of so many activities and experiences!

Our next topic led us straight into spring. In our story corner, Margaret provided us with a range of Easter and spring themed books, and in our role play corner, we



Easter hats for have been using



incorporated some dressing up and Easter baskets which the children for their "shopping."

We had a water were encouraged to 'scoop' and 'catch' the floating eggs using fishing nets and ladles, a messy tray with shredded paper and hidden eggs, and we rounded off the Easter theme with an Easter chocolate hunt in the garden.

Getting outdoors is so important for the children, and we've been lucky to get some lovely days for walks around the local area.



The children love to spot "buses" and "doggies" when we are out and about, and the daily garden trips are not only lots of fun, but provide a wealth of opportunity for milestone development, in particular gross motor skills, developing balance and coordination, and children learn to challenge themselves in a safe way.



2-3 Room

At the start of the year, we focused on learning about Space and planets, as the children had shown an interest in this. This topic gave the children many learning opportunities – we used flashcards with words, and the children had to match by picture, numbers and size. We did arts and crafts, making the stars, a moon, and the earth, which then went up on a wall display. We also listened to many songs and videos which helped gain information about how many planets there are and where we live, which the children have managed to remember!



For the month of April, we focused on spring, learning about plants and how we look after them. This encouraged activities such as planting using soil and watering the plants daily. The children enjoyed using watering cans or jugs to pour water onto them, and they watched them grow! We have had feedback from parents about children now continuing this on at home.



Children had the opportunity to have outings during the term, venturing out to the 'Wee Green Space' and to the library. During these outings, the children focused on many interesting stories whilst at the library, and they got messy in mud and leaves at the 'Wee green space'. This also gave us the chance to practice our road safety skills!



We had our trip to Dizzy Rascals on the 25th of March. We sang 'The Wheels on the Bus' during the journey, and once there, we explored the big slides, a ball pit and bouncy castles, putting our gross motor skills to great use!

The children have been focusing on developing their independence skills, which has been encouraged through self-serving at mealtimes, putting on their shoes and jackets, and practising how to climb up and down the stairs!



3-5 Room

The Pre-school children have been developing their knowledge of transport and have recently moved onto 'People who help us' this term. The children have gained knowledge and facts about vehicles, and they have taken part in many 'Show and Tell' experiences, creating different vehicles and transport modes. When out for walks to the library, some of us saw a big digger, and we watched how the crane worked, what it was doing, and we spoke of how we thought it could move. This led on to one of the children wanting to make their own crane!

Some of the children have also enjoyed a visit from some lovely Police Officers who gave them a turn of their hats, jackets, handcuffs and let them see inside the police van. The children got to sit in the back of the van, look at the flashing lights and listen to the noisy sirens. The Police Officers were kind enough to record a video message for the children who were attending nursery that day!



The children showed a very keen interest in nature - looking at plants, bugs and the outdoors.

We have had many trips to Wee Green Space, and we have visited the Science Centre area at the Bon Accord Centre, and the library. Some of the children participated in a scavenger hunt where they tried to find various items at Wee Green Space, and we also rolled our decorated Easter eggs down the hill to see which egg went the furthest! The children have been growing their very own plants, taking care of them and making sure to water them daily – but to not overwater them! They have been taking care of bugs too, and we have been learning about how to save bees - by providing them with flowering plants for nectar and pollen.



The children have been learning how to create circuits using various batteries, wires and tools. They have been eager to ask questions and do it independently. The children have learnt skills about how to turn on a lightbulb and make a noise through the circuit making activity. They have been doing various STEM activities such as racing cars down a ramp to see how different templates affect the speed of the vehicles, and they have also created robots.



Some of the children enjoyed a trip to Hoodles Playbarn this term! They enjoyed the bus ride, looking out of the windows, and once there, they enjoyed exploring all the areas of the soft play. The children went down the large slides, did lots of climbing, and drew on the chalkboard. They also enjoyed a super tasty lunch



the chalkboard. They box!

Please see below date for your Diary.

Kind regards

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Dates for your Diary

✚ Spring Open Coffee morning - Saturday 10th May from 11am to 1pm

✚ Graduation – Friday 11th July (times to be confirmed nearer time)

✚ Stay & Snack – Wednesday 11th June from 2pm to 4pm

✚ Photo Day – Friday 13th June (time slots will be allocated to those not attending that day)



✚ Sports Day – Saturday 26th July 11am to 1pm