

## **Inverurie Newsletter – October 2025**

Dear Parents/Carers

How has a whole term passed already? Although we must admit we are now starting our most favourite term yet, with Halloween then Christmas to follow, and what a busy term ahead it will be!

We have had a brilliant extended summer, with the weather being kind to us. The children have loved spending lots of time outdoors!

### **Staff News**

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.

As you will already be aware, Becky from the 3-5 room sadly left us on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October. Kristen, also from the 3-5 room, has stepped into Becky's full-time hours, and Molly has taken over Kristen's permanent part time hours, after having worked as relief for us prior to this.

Kristen will now be working Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday full days.

Molly will be working Wednesday, Thursday and Friday full days.

### **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.

A new Improvement Plan has been created, and we will be focusing on:

- Our new planning process
- Staff Training
- Parental Involvement

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

## **Charity of the Year 2025**

This year's chosen charity is 'Archie's Bereavement Service'. Archie's Child Bereavement Service is offered free of charge to families within Grampian, Tayside, the Highlands and Orkney. The service supports families and professionals who are working with children and young people.

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.

Please see the link for more information: [Archie's Child Bereavement Service - Archie](#)

## **Medication**

The Care Inspectorate state that all medication brought on to the premises is to be in its original box/packaging, with your child's name and date given, and clear instructions on dosage required. All medication forms are now completed electronically on the Interactive 360 app - this means that the process is much shorter. You can sign in the medication on the first day brought in, and the form will cover the whole medication course needed for your child at nursery.

## **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.

As we are heading into winter, can you ensure your child/ren have suitable outdoor clothing, wetsuits, wellies, hats and gloves.

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.

## **Outings/Trips**

All rooms have continue to go out for walks, with the younger children going out in the buggies. When we head outside, we use our SIMOA Elephant to help us learn to keep safe. We have even been using SIMOA with the children to help us check the garden is safe before going outside. For example, the children help us to make sure the toys are safe and there are no broken pieces.



The boys and girls within the 3-5 room had an amazing visit to Farm Stop, where we got to feed the ducks, brush guineapigs, stroke the rabbits, feed the chickens, goats, pigs and alpacas.... as well as have a chicken on our head, if you wanted! The ladies even had some goats on their backs. The lovely Farm Stop ladies put on a wee Halloween trail, which was 'spooky', and then off we went to find the highland cows and donkeys. After we had a good wash of our hands, we had a picnic lunch before our exciting bus journey home again.

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

## Learning Experiences

### Book bug



The babies enjoyed their book bug session. They all sat so well and listened to the story book and then sang songs alongside the ladies. They loved getting a shot of holding Book bug and getting a sticker at the end.



## 0-2 Room

Over the last term, our little explorers have been busy engaging in a wide range of fun and meaningful activities which support their development in all areas of learning. We've been discovering the National Days of the Week, introducing simple celebrations such as National Playdough Day, World Animal Day, and National Pizza Day. These have given the children wonderful opportunities to explore different textures, sounds, and experiences from squishing and moulding playdough, to discovering animal noises and pictures. These themed days not only spark curiosity but also help the children develop their communication, sensory, and fine motor skills.



We've also made the most of our outdoor environment, giving the children plenty of time to explore nature. Whether it's collecting leaves, or watching the changing weather, outdoor play encourages physical development, spatial awareness, and confidence. The 0-2 children love splashing in puddles and exploring the sensory world around them, learning to take

safe risks whilst strengthening their gross motor skills. We had a week of outdoor tuff tray experiences, as well as community outings and exploring learning within our garden.



Our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths) activities have been simple but exciting, encouraging early problem solving skills. From stacking blocks to pouring water between jugs and experimenting with these, the children have been developing their understanding of what happens when...! These early STEM experiences explore curiosity and build the foundations for learning through play.



As Autumn arrives, the babies have been exploring the changes in our environment, collecting pinecones, crunching leaves, and creating beautiful artwork using natural materials. Through these sensory experiences, the children are learning about colour, texture, and change in the world around them. It's been good to see their faces light up as they explore the sights and sounds of the new season! They absolutely love exploring the community day to day.





## 2-3 Room

The 2-3 room have had a fun filled term. The children have engaged in a wide variety of activities and topics to encourage their confidence, curiosity, creativity and learning.

We have enjoyed many outdoor experiences, going for walks in our local community where we encourage the children to explore and learn in the environment. We have particularly enjoyed autumn walks where the children made their own choices, selecting their own materials such as leaves, pinecones and sticks to bring back and display through artwork and our tuff trays.



One of our highlights was an outing on the bus to one of our local charity shops. The children made their own decisions as a group to bring back a couple of new books. The children showed great imagination skills, carefully exploring the items on offer, discussing similarities with those items we already have at the nursery.

Staff sourced many amazing vintage resources from our local car boot sale, and the children have been furthering their imaginative skills with mirrors, passports, treasure chests and real China tea sets.



During our space topic, the children experienced science experiments, sensory exploration, as well as junk modelling. Supported by staff, the children created a large rocket ship from cardboard, plastic and cello tape, encouraging the children to explore open-ended resources in a different form. Their wee imaginations worked wonderfully together to create a masterpiece that you can see to the left, and up on our wall.

The 2-3 room have been continuing to focus on emotions, using the colour monsters and daily group discussions to talk about their feelings. The children have displayed kindness towards each other through supporting and guiding other peers with the routine and activities.

On rainy days, the children have absolutely loved being in the garden, splashing in the puddles which encourages social interactions and connection to the outdoors.





To further independence within the 2-3 room, we have introduced a system at mealtimes for the children to clear away their dishes/collect pudding and wipe their faces independently. So far, the children have taken very well to this and have been super proud of their achievements.



The 2-3 room love sensory and messy play. As a room, we take pride in the tuff trays that we produce to enhance the children's development. Sensory walks in oats, water, foam and spices have been very popular for exploring textures with our feet.



### **3-5 Room**



#### **All about me:**

We began the term with an All About Me topic, where we learnt all about our bodies, our emotions and what makes us different. We focused on the colour monsters, further developing our feelings and what they mean to us. We created our own colour monster potions, discussing what makes us happy, sad, scared etc. We also enjoyed using a real-life sized body on the carpet discussing where all our body parts are and what's on the inside, too.

### **Dinosaurs & Volcanos:**

The children chose to learn about dinosaurs and volcanoes. Making our own volcano was the most requested thing! We made our own one out of newspaper and glue and set it aside to dry. Later, we made our own eruption using bicarbonate and vinegar, promoting a sense of wonder and surprise! The children enjoyed this so much, so we explored it further by experimenting with cola and mentos.

The children's numeracy skills were developed, making their own salt dough to create fossils. We measured out ingredients for the mixture, rolled out the dough and added footprints and shell prints before baking them in the oven. We had lots of conversations about dinosaurs and where they came from, learning all about the past.



### **All around the world:**

We moved onto our All around the World topic, discussing and talking about all the different places, their flags and what they eat. The children visited Morrison's to collect different food items for our own food tasting session. They had the opportunity to try things from sushi, to pan au chocolate, seaweed, mango chutney and so on. This was a big hit! We learnt how to ceilidh dance to different Scottish music, working in partnership with peers. The children showed very good listening skills throughout. Thank you for all our parent suggestions for this topic, these are always greatly appreciated.



### **Playdough:**

We have begun introducing the opportunity for the children to create their own playdough within the tuff tray. The children have shown great problem solving throughout and have loved the independence. We will be following the children's lead with this, changing our area into our own playdough station.





### **Library:**

This term we have been having frequent visits to the library to collect books relating to our topics. The children have loved doing this and have shown great awareness of road safety with the help of SIMOA. We have been rotating which children have been attending to ensure everyone gets a turn to visit.



### **Wee Green Space**

The 3-5's love their time across at the Wee Green Space. During each visit, the groups do various activities. We have enjoyed exploring our new STEM bag this term, and we have enjoyed a visit from the Garioch ranger where we enjoyed using nets to collect bugs in the stream.



This term we have six groups who will rotate on a weekly basis. You will have been informed who is in each group and the day they plan to go. Can you please ensure that your child is fully equipped for their trip that day.



### **Show & Tell**

Show and Tell happens on a weekly basis. A list is situated on the 2-3 and 3-5 door as you enter, and these are also put up on the ILD and the Summers Website. This helps to build children's confidence as well as develop their vocabulary when speaking in front a group.



### **Upcoming Dates For Your Diary**

*Stay and Play – W/C 3<sup>rd</sup> of November*

*All rooms Halloween Parties – Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> October (Those that are in on the Friday only)*

*Christmas Fayre – Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November 10 – 1pm*

*2-3 Trip – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December*

*Pre School Pantomime – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December*

*Ante Pre-School Trip – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December*

*3-5 Nativity - Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December*

*0-2 Christmas Party – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December (All Invited)*

*2-3 Christmas Party – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December (All Invited)*

*3-5 Christmas Party – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December (All invited)*

*The nursery will close for the Christmas holidays on Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> of December, and will re-open on Monday the 5<sup>th</sup> of January 2026 at 7.30am.*

Thank you

*Suzanne Stephen*

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