



St Swithin Street Newsletter - August 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

A warm welcome to all the new families joining us this term. The children have settled into the nursery well and are now part of the Summers family. Thank you and farewell to all those who have moved on to school—it has been a pleasure caring for your children.

Training

Caitlin McKechnie is continuing to progress well with her SVQ 3 with Cairn Training, and Rebekka Pirttilahti has just completed her SVQ3. She has put in a lot of hard work, and it has paid off.

First Aid training has been delivered in person on Saturday 9th August for a full day. All our staff attend core training throughout the year to ensure they are trained in accordance with our SSSC registration. Staff also complete training online and add to their CPD folders. We have termly full staff meetings, as well as completing in house training also.

Menus

We have our menu boards added to the front door - the weekly menus will be displayed on here for all parents to view, so please feel free to add comments regarding your children's likes/dislikes or any suggestions for us.

Charity 2025

Our 2025 Charity of the Year is Archie's Child Bereavement Service, which supports bereaved children, no matter the relationship. The Archie Foundation was formed in 2000 to support the building of the new Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital which opened in 2014, and Archie's work became visible to the outside world in 2019 when the Grampian Child Bereavement Network (GCBN) officially joined forces with The Archie Foundation. They offer a wide range of services, free of charge within Grampian, Tayside, and the Highlands and Orkney, which are carefully tailored to suit the individual needs of each child and their family. Every enquiry they receive is personally followed up by their highly experienced Bereavement Co-ordinators, who, through an initial phone conversation, assess how best to support the child or young person. This can include providing specialist books to help a child understand what the death of a loved one means and helping them to understand their emotions. For some families this might be all the support they need, but others may access many more of the services on offer. ACBS recognises that every child is different, and believes that with appropriate support, information and guidance, all children and young people will manage their grief.

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 behind Loretta and their two young children. Prior to having her children, Loretta was Nursery Manager for eight years at our Inverurie nursery.

Deborah Mathers, who worked previously for 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.

So far, we have raised £25 for our World Book Day donations, £135 from our Easter entry competitions, £330 from our Sports day stalls, £635 from Sports Day Sponsorship, and £280 from our Pizza making which proved to be very popular! Our Annual Fun Day was a great success on Friday 15th August, and thank you to all who attended. We raised £560, bringing our total so far to **£1965**. We will continue to have charity events throughout the year. Thank you for your continued support!

Improvement Plans

Our 2024-2025 plans are drawing to an end. We have worked hard throughout the year, rolling out our new planning and observations, focusing on staff CDP's and our staff induction process. Our Improvement plan wall is just on the left hand side as you enter the nursery. We will be evaluating these at our next staff meeting. We collate our results from the parental and staff questionnaires to create our Improvement Plans for 2025-2026. So far, we have started a mini-improvement plan for our garden and outdoor learning, and this will be a focus at the start of the new academic year.

Weather Appropriate Clothing/bags

Can we ask that you are vigilant with appropriate clothing to suit the forecast, as we are an all weathers nursery and love to go out for some fresh air at least twice a day. As the weather is ever changing throughout the day, can you ensure your child (children) have a sun hat, which is labelled.

Can I also ask that you ensure your child/children's bags are well stocked, ensuring pants and socks, and a few changes are available in case of any mishaps/water tray etc.

Trips and Outings

The Pre-school room headed to Farm Stop on Friday 4th July and had the most amazing trip! They had lots of fun learning all about different animals and what they like to eat - we even got to feed some! We enjoyed a yummy picnic, and as always, a highlight was travelling by bus.

The Toddler room enjoyed a trip to Scallywags in Stonehaven and had lots of fun burning their energy in the soft play along with a yummy picnic lunch!

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

All rooms have been out for some lovely walks around the local community this summer and we have been lucky to have some stop off snack breaks in the local parks. Some of pre-school children had the opportunity to go to The Tall Ships, some visited the bank with some charity money, and there have been visits to the Wee Green Space as well.

Learning Experiences

Baby Room

The Baby room have had lots of summery fun this term. We have been having lots of sensory play throughout the topics, which include Summer and At the Seaside.

At the Seaside provided lots of opportunities for fine motor skills, messy play exploration and sharing. The children enjoyed a variety of messy trays, sand and water play, and art and craft opportunities. Some of the older children even discussed their trips to the beach. Providing books and picture cards extended the children's vocabulary to support early speech.



Role Play

This term, the children have developed valuable life skills with support from practical learning materials. They are starting to help with housework, and are demonstrating sharing and imagination in their play. The staff enjoy tea and coffee together with the children in their own nursery café!



Fine Motor Skills

The babies have been focusing on their fine motor skills with the use of books and puzzles. They love the animal puzzles and have been demonstrating excellent concentration skills to navigate the pieces together to create the animals. Peg puzzles and books have been very popular.



Toddler Room

The Toddler room has been actively engaged this term in exploring a range of topics, including Insects and Bugs, Community Helpers, and Modes of Transport.

The boys and girls had the opportunity to observe caterpillars as they transformed into butterflies, enhancing their understanding of insect life cycles and habitats. They also participated in organized bug hunts within the garden and local parks, utilizing magnifying glasses and systematically recording their observations. Additionally, we incorporated arts, crafts and playdough activities relating to insects to further reinforce learning and encourage ongoing interest in the subject.



The Toddlers learned about People Who Help Us with a fire engine visit, and they enjoyed dressing up for this topic. They explored various community helpers whilst enjoying walks to local places, and they also studied vehicles such as cars, planes, boats, and lorries with the use of puzzles, activities, and games.



A parent generously donated a playhouse, which the children have enjoyed using as a jungle house for role play, extending the children's imagination and play.



Pre-school Room

What a busy term pre-school have been having. We have covered lots of topics including Dinosaurs, All about Me, School, and even a mini topic on the Tall Ships, as we were all so interested in the big event in Aberdeen.

Loose Parts

Pre-schoolers enjoy exploring loose parts in the garden, which support their learning and development. By collaborating, they have built many impressive creations. Teamwork, imagination and gross motor skills are all extended through outdoor play, and the children are involved in risk assessments for the equipment, discussing how to keep safe.



Tall Ships

The Tall Ships visit to Aberdeen attracted considerable interest, with children engaging in activities such as junk modelling, playdough, and reading books to learn about boats. Some pre-school children also visited the harbour as part of this experience.



Technology Through Play

A visit to the resources centre was popular this term. The pre-school children used Bee Bots to practise navigation, giving directions. This activity improved their understanding of instructions and encouraged sharing.



Extending the learning Opportunities

This term, the pre-school room have added natural resources such as herbs, spices, plants, and loose parts to encourage more imaginative and holistic play as part of our Improvement Plan.



School

Throughout the term, children participated in various activities focused on change and routine. Staff supported the children moving to school to prepare for their next stage in learning. Teachers visited the nursery, and opportunities were provided for dressing in school clothes and sampling school lunches, among other experiences. The children practiced for Graduation, and they all participated so well - we were all very proud!



Some Dates for the Diary (More to follow)

- Tuesday 28th October – Pre-school Trip (details TBC)
- Thursday 13th November – Curriculum Evening
- w/c 17/11/2025 and 24/11/2025 – Parent Interview Weeks
- Friday 19th December 6pm – Nursery Closes for the 2 weeks

Kind Regards

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