



St Swithin Street Newsletter Term 2 - October 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

We would like to welcome all the new families who have joined us this term. The children have settled in excellently to the nursery and have quickly become part of the Summers family!

Training

Caitlin McKechnie is continuing with her SVQ 3 with Cairn Training.

Emma McFarlane will be going on some outdoor training in November in line with our Improvement plan for the year. We are excited to see some new ideas brought into our garden area.

Charity 2025

Our 2025 Charity of the Year is Archie's Child Bereavement Service, which supports bereaved children, no matter the relationship. 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. 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. 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.

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. Thanks to all who attended, we managed to raise £560. We have also had a bake sale and lucky squares which brought in £121.70 and £150. Our Christmas orders have profited the charity £57.62, bringing our total so far to £2294.32. We will continue to have charity events throughout the year. Thank you so much for your continued support.

Weather

Could parents please ensure children have winter outdoor clothing and that bags are stocked with winter items. Outdoor activities occur daily, so prepare your child each day.

Home Library

We are excited to have begun our own home library; we invite you to help yourself to a story when leaving nursery to share with your child at home. There is a folder to sign the books in/ out. If anyone has any books at home that they no longer require, please feel free to donate them to our home library. We hope this will continue to support learning through literacy and provide a good link between home and nursery.



Improvement Plans

Our new 2025-2026 Improvement plans are now up and running and displayed in the hallway when you enter the nursery on the left-hand side. Our three improvement areas are detailed below:

1. Enhanced Learning and Developing Opportunities in the Outdoors
2. Nursery Audits and Evaluations
3. To support a more holistic environment for the children within the playrooms, extending loose parts, natural resources and less plastic.

We have begun collating evidence on our board for you to have a look at. Our garden has taken shape over the past couple of months and the extension to play has been well noticed by all. We hope to continue to extend the learning and development of the nursery alongside yourselves, so please let us know if there are any ideas or thoughts you can add to our plans.

Trips and Outings

The Pre-school room have had a wonderful trip to The Fairy Woods at Fedderate to pick some pumpkins. We all had a great time going through the fairy woods extending our imagination skills and getting very busy with the gems and letters that we wrote for the fairies. Although the weather was very wet, we made the most of the puddles and splashed our way around!



The Toddler room have had a great time at Playtown in Inverurie. The children extended their role play skills and loved having the place to themselves to explore and have fun. As always, the bus trip was also very exciting to get there!



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

The Pre-school children have their Christmas trips planned, and all the children in the room will be invited along.

All rooms have been out for some lovely walks around the local community and have been lucky to have some stop off snack breaks in the local parks.

The Pre-school children have been enjoying visits to the Wee Green Space, and all the rooms have enjoyed lots of trips to the library lately.

We have Book Bug visiting in November to read some stories and sing songs with the children.

Learning Experiences

Autumn

All rooms have observed the ongoing changes to the weather, and children have engaged in a variety of autumn-themed learning activities. These have included sensory trays, literature exploration, outdoor investigations, leaf printing, pine cone art and crafts, among other experiences.

Halloween

Halloween was an exciting time in the nursery this year, with children eagerly discussing, learning, and celebrating. Each room offered messy play, stories, and arts and crafts, and we enjoyed decorating the nursery for Halloween, exploring how it's celebrated worldwide.



Baby Room

The Baby room has placed great emphasis on nursery rhymes, languages, and fostering independence. Children have been supported during play and various activities to enhance their speech and communication abilities by using songs, games, and encouraging engaging play experiences for all children aimed at broadening their understanding of the surrounding world. Role play has also been used to encourage the extension of personal care routines and to help develop sharing skills.



← **Sleeping Bunnies**



Numerous autumn walks have been organised, with exploration activities utilising a range of resources. The babies have demonstrated a particular interest in magnifying glasses and have enjoyed incorporating leaves and other natural materials into free play.



Art and craft activities have fostered creativity among the babies, resulting in wall displays they enjoy viewing.

Toddler Room

At the start of the academic term, children explored numbers by singing songs, repeating activities, and playing games, which helped them build their counting skills.

The Toddlers have continued the term exploring global celebrations such as Diwali, Halloween, and Guy Fawkes Night. They set up a Diwali shop to learn about festive foods and have used role play to boost their imagination and deepen their understanding.

Dress-up activities have consistently been popular, and to encourage the children's imaginative development, the nursery provides a variety of outfits and materials for creative play.



We have also emphasised more tough tray activities and encouraged literacy through play. The Toddlers enjoy using story props to create their own stories with teddies and books.



Pre-school Room

The Pre-school began the term with new children joining the room, so we had an "All About Me" topic to help everyone get acquainted and learn routines. A buddy system supported the transition, fostering positive relationships and quick adjustment. Children learned about themselves and their differences, drawing self-portraits to deepen understanding of their bodies.



This term, children have shown a strong interest in reading and writing, engaging in various mark making activities and library trips to explore diverse literacy materials.



Our Wee Green Space outings continue to be a favourite, offering opportunities for children to broaden their social experiences and make new friends.

Children work together as they explore the outdoors, engaging in discussions, solving problems, and discovering more about their surroundings.



The Pre-schoolers have enjoyed Spanish lessons this term, learning basic words and songs. Due to their popularity, these lessons will continue. Parents interested in sharing their native language with the children are welcome to contact us.

We are also thrilled to announce that we now have our dance teacher from Flashdance who started this term in the Pre-school room. She will visit on a Thursday afternoon during term time.

Dates for the Diary

- Tuesday 4th November – Bookbug visit for all rooms
- Tuesday 11th November 6:15pm – Parent Partnership Meeting
- W/c 17/11/24 and 24/11/24 – Parent interviews
- Pre-school Christmas Show – Wednesday 3rd December at 3:45pm
- Thursday 4th December – Pre-school Pantomime Trip to His Majesty's Theatre to see Cinderella (all Pre-school children invited)
- Tuesday 9th December - Christmas parties for all rooms (all children invited)
- Wednesday 10th December – Ante pre-school trip to the Lemon Tree (all Ante pre-school children invited)
- Monday 15th December – Christmas Lunch for children and staff (for children in attendance this day only)
- Friday 19th December at 6pm – nursery closes for 2 weeks for the Festive Holiday period
- Monday 5th January 7:30am – nursery re-opens

Kind Regards

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