



Newsletter - March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

We are already three months into 2022 already! A warm welcome to all the new families who have joined us this year. It has been lovely getting to know you all so far, and all the new children are settling in really well.

Staffing

It was with great sadness that Karina, our Pre-school Room Leader has now left us. Emma Johnstone, our Assistant Manager and Room Leader of the Toddler Room has now taken over the position of Pre-school Room Leader. Emma is in her final stages of her BA in Childhood Studies which gives her a wealth of knowledge, enabling her to work with all age groups in the early years.

Kelly Bodley has stepped up as Trainee Room Leader in the Toddler Room. Kelly will be mentored by Shannon Gallacher of the Baby Room and supported by the whole management team.

We would also like to welcome Chloe Gray to our Pre-school team. Chloe has been studying primary teaching at university, however has decided that she is mostly interested in early years education so has now joined the nursery on a full-time basis.

Contact Details

Thank you to everyone for returning their Contact Details and Medical Care Plans. Please remember these can be updated at any time. If your child has any change to their routine, details or needs, please let us know as soon as possible to ensure our care continues to be current for each individual child.

Charity

We are delighted to announce that collectively over all the nursery sites, we have made **£11,281.97** for Charlie House, after supporting them from 2020 and throughout 2021. Charlie House is a North-East of Scotland charity which helps babies, children and young people with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions. Well done to all the children who have taken part in the activities and a big thank you to everyone who has made donations.

Ukraine Crisis

We watch with horror as the events in Ukraine unfold before our very eyes. At the present time, Ukraine urgently needs assistance, and there are several reputable charities accepting donations for this humanitarian crisis which we hope that you would consider donating to. We list two charities below accepting donations online for the people of Ukraine.

Save the Children welcomes donations online for the UKRAINE CRISIS. Save the Children has been operating in Ukraine since 2014, delivering humanitarian aid to children and their families. Donations to the Ukraine Crisis Relief Fund can provide children and families with immediate aid such as food, water, hygiene kits, psychosocial support and cash assistance <https://www.savethechildren.org.uk>



CAFOD is an international development charity and the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales. They are part of one of the largest aid networks in the world and through their global church network, they have the potential to reach everyone. Donations will help provide food, water, healthcare, shelter and clothing to families. Donations can be made online to the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal <https://cafod.org.uk>

Any further money raised this year by the nursery will go to charities supporting the Ukraine crisis.

Learning experiences

Children have enjoyed many creative and explorative activities, allowing lots of fun and learning! We celebrated Christmas in a big way throughout the whole of December, with children creating gifts and cards for home, participating in lots of dancing and singing, and enjoying party times throughout a whole week. The Pre-school children even attended a virtual panto on the large projector screen.....oh yes, they did! St Andrews Day, Robert Burns Day and Valentine's Day were celebrated in style, along with dressing up in some wonderful costumes for World book day.

Baby Room

A big welcome to the new families who have joined us this year. As always, the team have been working hard on the transitions, ensuring children have continued to feel safe and secure in their new environment.

This year, the babies have focused on some interesting topics, one of which was "Winter clothing". One of the children had said that her hands would get cold without her gloves, so we decided to help the children to learn all about what else we need to keep us cosy. We spent time sticking gloves, hats and boots onto paper, matching the colours together, learning about matching and sorting.

We changed our house corner into a sweet shop, and the children enjoyed using the till, starting to identify some numbers. We used scales to weigh items, which helped the boys and girls understand concepts of heavier and lighter, and we made lots of signage around the sweet shop, which helped them to understand the concept of written words.

We celebrated Robbie Burns, creating our own tartan designs with paint and paper strips. We also enjoyed some traditional Haggis, Neeps and Tatties, which were described as "yummy", followed by some traditional Scottish music to dance to - some very impressive moves were demonstrated!

There was great excitement the day the cherry picker arrived outside the nursery to fix the street lights! Children took turns to look out of the window, describing the picker as being "really big". This was followed by a police car a couple of days later, so we focused on "People who help us". We enjoyed a lovely pre-spring walk, looking out for all the people who help us around the local community, including police people, bus drivers and a recovery truck driver. The children love going for walks, as there is so much to see.

We are currently learning "All about me", talking about our family trees and trying to link the information to nursery life. Children are so enthusiastic to tell us all about themselves,, and of course



their pets as well. Please feel free to add to the family tree through photos on the Interactive Learning Diary (ILD).

Toddler Room

We did a little construction experiment with the children, where they were able to stick blocks together with materials including mud, sand, shaving foam and playdough. They discovered which ones were better at holding together as they competed enthusiastically to build the "biggest" and most elaborate constructions.

Now that some sunny days have appeared, we have been able to spend some more time in the garden, making obstacle courses using some of the loose parts. The large tyres have been fun and so versatile, with the children rolling them, jumping in them and jumping over them. The monkey bars have been a particular favourite - we still need a bit of practice but the perseverance is paying off!

We have enjoyed learning about dinosaurs, discovering that they laid eggs, with the children then creating their very 'own' dinosaur eggs, using a variety of collage materials to make some weird and wonderful designs on their eggs.

We made our own Jurassic world in the tough tray, made up of sand, jelly and slime baffle and added many different dinosaurs. We had lots of imaginary play, with descriptive words such as "yucky", "gooey" and "disgusting" being used. The children can now impressively say the names of many dinosaurs, but when discussing their favourites, most agreed the Diplodocus and Triceratops were at the top of the table. Through voting for their favourite dinosaurs, the children were able to develop their counting and data skills.

The Toddlers enjoyed making frozen eggs with baby dinosaurs inside them, and were excited when they hatched. This has now instigated an interest in human babies, so we are now learning about the needs of human babies.

Pre-School Room

The Pre-school room started the year learning about countries due to one of the children talking about some of their family members in Greece. The children were able to tell us that Greece is "far away", "hot and sunny" and "you can eat fish there".

As part of the topic, we took part in our own mini-Olympic games after learning that they were first played in Greece over 3000 years ago.

Every few days we looked at a new country, and we learnt about all the regions of the UK. When learning about England, we learnt that the Queen's official residence is Buckingham Palace in London! We looked at castles, and many interesting towers were created with the construction.

When we studied Ireland, the children collected stones from the garden and painted these to create "our own lucky stones".

After talking about Africa, the children learnt about many jungle animals, including the elephant, lion, tiger and giraffe. The children identified that each giraffe has a different pattern so they can be easily identified. We learnt that the pattern isn't random, but is in fact inherited through the family tree. One of the children described the giraffe as having "a long neck just like a diplodocus", however we learnt that the giraffe is a mammal just like us and that the neck is used to eat all those 'high up' leaves on the tall trees.

Our floor book is full of a various drawings and pictures of jungle animals, and we have an amazing one of a python swallowing a mouse.



As part of our countries' topic, we also looked at different time zones, which then led onto a focus about clocks and telling the time.

We enjoyed World book day with some fantastic and imaginative costumes. World book day saw children re-telling familiar stories, and we also encourage children to write their own stories with illustrations to match. Some of the children created stories about monkeys swinging on trees, birds getting stung by a cactus, and fairies who meet dragons.

We are currently learning about the human body. We identified foods that were healthy and ones that were unhealthy, and we discussed how we should have a balance of foods, so that the children can begin to appreciate how they care for their health and wellbeing. The children demonstrated a good knowledge of food, even talking about the nutritional values of many fruits and vegetables. Children cut out pictures of food to put in 'lunch boxes' which contained pictures of food which was healthy and nutritious. We are continuing our work on the human body, looking at the digestive system and various bodily organs and their functions.

Wee Green Space

Please note that the visits to the Wee Green Space resumes on the 14th March 2022. We have six groups that we will rotate. You will have been informed which group your child is in and you should ensure that they are fully equipped for the trip by having the appropriate clothing.

Weather appropriate clothing

All children should be prepared for outdoor play by having weather appropriate clothing with them on a daily basis.

Kind regards

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Be sure and keep an eye on your child's ILD to see all the topics and specified next steps.