



Victoria Street Newsletter Term 3- January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you all for your generosity before Christmas. We truly appreciate the cards and gifts etc, as well as the contributions to our staff night out. We all had a lovely break and were so happy to be back at nursery, even with all the lovely deep snow appearing!

We are extremely pleased that all the children who started with us after the holiday period have settled in well!

Staffing update

Our Senior team within the building are as follows: -

Emma McFarlane - Nursery Manager

Rachel Ross - 0-2 Room Leader

Hansini Nissankage - 2-3 Room Leader

Kirsty Leslie -3-5 Room Leader

They are all well supported in the running of their rooms by qualified and experienced Nursery Practitioners.

Training

Staff continue to work their way through essential core training and are able to take this learning into practice.

Charity 2025

We are pleased to announce that we managed to raise **£3017.53** for our 2025 Charity of the Year 2025 - Archie's Child Bereavement Service. The grand total raised from all the Summers Nurseries came to a whopping **£15,055.73**. Many thanks to everyone who

contributed to the charity and to the staff who took the time to help with the events. ACBS supports bereaved children, no matter what the relationship, and they offer a wide range of services, free of charge, within Grampian, Tayside, and the Highlands and Orkney.

We made £30 from our World Book Day in March and £26.70 for the Crazy Hair donations in April. Our Open Morning in May made £375, and the girls did a very successful Kilt Walk in June, raising £1090. At the end of July, we made £1469 from our Sports Day stalls and Sponsor forms, and we raised £26.83 from our Tempest Photography commission.

We would also like to say a big thank you to those of you who contributed to raising money for Children in Need in November. We managed to raise **£162.70**.

We are pleased to announce that we have now chosen our 2026 charity which will be '**Friends of the Neonatal Unit**', which supports the Neonatal Unit at Aberdeen Maternity Hospital, which cares for premature and sick babies. Charitable support for neonatal care in Aberdeen predates the Neonatal Unit itself.

FOTNM became part of the Archie Foundation family in 2016, raising funds for life saving equipment, staff training and direct family support such as accommodation and travel costs for babies born too soon or sick across the North of Scotland. They are now the leading charity for the new **Baird Family Neonatal Hospital**. The hospital is still under construction, and will include cutting edge research, drawing together several services which will include maternity, gynecology, and neonatal.

Thank you for your continued support.

Weather

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

Improvement Plans.

You will find our Improvement plans on the left-hand side of the hallway as you enter the building. This year, we are looking to continue to develop strong communication between staff, children and families to ensure consistency, focusing on building positive relationships, linking home and nursery. Staff are working to build their skills and knowledge, ensuring that their training remains up to date, as well as undertaking new and exciting courses. We will also be looking to ensure that there are opportunities for a high level of literacy and numeracy for children available throughout the nursery environment.

Mealtimes

Our mealtimes are as follows:

Breakfast: 7:30am-8:30am

AM Snack: 9:30am-10am

Lunch: 11:30am-12pm

PM Snack: 2:30pm-3pm

Baby Room Dinner: 4:30pm - this option is only available in the Baby room (parents to provide).

Due to maintaining the required staff-to-child ratios where staff are needed to sit with children when they are eating, we are only able to provide meals within the specified times. Please can you make sure that your child attends nursery during the required times if they are to benefit from these meals, thank you.

Dancing

The pre-school children continue to enjoy Laura from Flash Dance on a Thursday during term time. They have been learning some lovely dance skills, and the children love showing off their best moves to each other. Listening and teamwork have been an important part of the term's goals.

0-2 Room

The children took part in lots of new and exciting activities in the lead up to Christmas! We expanded our learning to a variety of different topics such as 'Bonfire Night', 'Remembrance Day', 'Winter', and of course 'Christmas'.

Throughout November, the children learnt about Bonfire night through art and craft, making firework collages using natural resources, as well as creating their very own bonfires using a variety of craft materials.



The children created poppies as part of Remembrance Day, painting with potatoes, which allowed them to explore different methods of how we can paint in different ways. We also made a big collage altogether of a poppy and hung it up on our window for everyone to see.

Amongst all our art and craft activities, the children really love to participate in different forms of sensory and messy play. Last term, they practiced their mark making by drawing in flour, and we also created a farm tuff tray for the children, using different cereals for them to be able to explore texture through play. We also hid winter themed items in shaving foam.

As we entered the month of December, we began to learn about winter, and we were all extremely excited getting ready for Santa to come and visit the nursery! We extended our learning to



winter animals to link in with the season, and the children got to experience real snow, as we brought it inside into our tray and added different arctic animals.



We got very festive in the room, as the children helped to decorate it with lots of Christmas decorations. They were all kept very busy, crafting their special gifts

for all their families. The children experienced getting messy, as we made a big snowman out of shaving foam, and we also cooked Santa's delicious 'reindeer' soup.



A big thank you to everyone who came to our Christmas Party! We hope you all had an amazing time and enjoyed meeting Santa Claus. We also all had a fantastic Christmas dinner at nursery, with everyone getting into a festive mood, wearing their Christmas party hats.



Toddler Room



In November, the children enjoyed a variety of craft activities related to bonfires and fireworks. These creative activities helped to develop hand-eye coordination, fine motor skills, and creativity. We also continued to focus on literacy and numeracy, building on the foundations from the previous term. The children practiced making numbers using natural materials such as sand, stones, and sticks, and they also had opportunities to trace and match numbers as well. These experiences not only help to strengthen early literacy and numeracy but also support problem-solving and concentration in playful and engaging ways. As part of our



November learning, we also celebrated Remembrance Day and created meaningful craft work such as poppy pictures to mark this special occasion.



In December, our focus shifted to the festive season, and the children helped decorate the room, creating a warm and cheerful environment for everyone. They also made Christmas gifts for their parents, which gave them a wonderful opportunity to express creativity and develop their practical skills. Alongside our festive activities, we continued

exploring colours, as well as shapes. The children loved to match colours with recognizable objects from the room, which helped to strengthen visual recognition and it also re-reinforced colour recognition.



Another exciting learning focus last term was looking at castles around Aberdeen and the shire, inspired by the children's interest in princesses and castle play. They enjoyed learning about local castles, looking at pictures of them, and linking imaginative play with real-life places. The children also drew some very colourful creations, which helped them to develop their understanding of different types buildings around them.

3-5 Room



The children started November learning about Remembrance Day. They took part in various arts and crafts, and group learning experiences, where they focused on creating poppies and learning about the meaning behind them. The children were interested in learning why we celebrate Remembrance Day and they found it interesting that we celebrate it to remember the soldiers who lost their lives in the war.



We focused on Health and Wellbeing last term, where we encouraged friendships and discussed the importance of hygiene throughout our time at nursery. Children practiced and promoted handwashing, understanding how long they should wash their hands for, and making sure they used the correct method in doing so.

We welcomed new friends into the pre-school room, and we have seen some friendships blossoming. The children enjoyed taking part in group games where they were able to demonstrate great turn taking and sharing skills. We focused



on feelings and emotions throughout December, and the children were able to read and demonstrate awareness of the meaning behind the Colour Monster story, with the happy yellow monster, the calm green monster, the angry red monster, the fearful grey monster, the sad blue monster and the pink monster, who represents love.



All the boys and girls loved taking part in Christmas crafts, making gifts to take home for their parents, and the children also thoroughly enjoyed taking part in our annual Christmas events, and they particularly enjoyed practicing and singing their songs for their Christmas concert.

The pre-school children loved their trip to the pantomime to see Cinderella, which we all thoroughly enjoyed, and the Ante pre-school children visited BA stores to see Santa, which was a great success!

At the party, the children enjoyed a magic show, and they loved being shown some funny tricks, and being told jokes as well!



Dates for the Diary

- 6th March - World Book Day - All children in on this day are invited to bring a story to share with their friends.
- 17th March - St Patrick's Day - Please wear something green.
- Pre School trip will be held in March (*date still to be arranged*)
- Toddler trip will be held in April (*date still to be arranged*)

Kind Regards,

Emma McFarlane

Nursery Manager

victoriastreet@summersnurseries.com

tel - 01224 628862