



Victoria Street Newsletter Term 4 - April 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

We hope you have enjoyed any trips or days away during the Easter period, if you were able to get away!

We would like to welcome the new families who have joined us recently.

Staffing update

We are pleased to announce that Jodie Ferrance will be joining the team as Pre-School Room Leader and Assistant Manager on Tuesday the 12th of May. Jodie has many years of senior experience in her previous role as Pre-school Room Leader, and she brings with her a wealth of knowledge and expertise to our team. Please join us in giving Jodie a warm welcome!

Sanji has recently transitioned from her full-time role in the pre-school room to a relief contract. While her hours may vary going forwards, we are pleased to share that we will still be seeing her regularly around the pre-school room, and she will continue to be a familiar and valued presence for both the children and staff.

Training

Our staff are continuing to complete essential core training and are actively applying their learning into practice. This term, we have focused on Emotion Coaching, deepening our understanding of how to support children in building their "tool kit" for expressing and managing their emotions.

Charity 2026

Our Charity of the Year for 2026 is 'Friends of the Neonatal Unit'. Since joining the Archie family in 2016, this Aberdeen-based charity has provided outstanding support and care for babies born prematurely or unwell, making a real difference to local families and their newborns. FOTNU 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, gynaecology, and neonatal.

In March, we held a Readathon, where we enjoyed looking at a new book each day. Sponsorship forms were sent home, and we are grateful for the generous donations we have already received. We've especially enjoyed seeing the wonderful observations and stories shared by families on the ILD, showing us the books children have been enjoying at home.

Our "Design an Easter Egg" competition was a great success, raising £86 and showcasing some fantastic creativity—be sure to check out the entries displayed in our hallway.

Throughout the year, we are planning more fundraising events, including a Halloween Extravaganza, a bake sale, and a breakfast roll day, to continue supporting this important cause. If you have any ideas for charity fundraising, we would love to hear from you! Many thanks for your continued support!

Weather

We're lucky to call beautiful Scotland home, where it's not unusual to see all four seasons in a single day! Because of our unpredictable weather, we kindly ask that every child come prepared with both indoor and outdoor shoes, clothing suitable for any weather. We provide sunscreen for the children, however if you prefer to use your own, please hand this into your room. Please also provide a sunhat for your child that can remain at the nursery.

Improvement Plans.

Our improvement plans are displayed on the left-hand side of the hallway as you enter the building. This year, we aim to enhance effective communication among staff, children, and families to promote consistency and foster positive connections. Staff members are committed to expanding their expertise by keeping their training current and participating in new, engaging courses. Additionally, we are focused on providing abundant opportunities for literacy and numeracy development across all nursery areas.

Learning through play - As a nursery we have looked at:

Chinese New Year

We celebrated Chinese New Year at nursery, dressing up in traditional Chinese costumes, which brought lots of excitement and colour to our day. The children enjoyed a range of art and craft activities, including making paper lanterns and dragon masks, helping them learn about the customs and symbols of the festival. We also explored Chinese noodles through messy play and practiced using chopsticks, giving everyone a fun and hands-on way to experience a part of Chinese culture. Additionally, the children had a go at writing Chinese

numbers and words, further deepening their understanding and appreciation of the celebration.



Valentine's Day

For Valentine's Day, the children enjoyed creating beautiful art and crafts, making special cards and decorations to celebrate the people they care about. Through stories and group discussions, we talked about what it means to love our family and friends, and why kindness and caring are so important. The children shared lovely thoughts about what makes their loved ones special, helping them to understand and express their feelings in meaningful ways.



Easter

We celebrated Easter at nursery with a variety of fun and engaging activities. The children took part in symmetrical activities, exploring patterns and designs inspired by Easter eggs. Everyone enjoyed an exciting Easter egg hunt, searching for hidden treats around the nursery. Our messy play sessions had special Easter themes, allowing the children to get

creative and explore different textures. We also made chick and bunny art and crafts, adding a festive touch to our celebrations and encouraging imaginative expression.



Spring / Planting / Expanding the garden

We have been busy planting our own flowers and watching them grow, giving the children a wonderful opportunity to learn about nature and caring for living things. To enhance our outdoor space, we have added a digging area to the garden, where the children can explore, discover, and develop their physical skills. We are also working on developing play in our garden, creating new and exciting opportunities for the children to engage with the natural environment and enjoy imaginative outdoor activities. Additionally, we are introducing more loose parts outdoors to inspire creativity and encourage open-ended play.



BABY ROOM

All About Books



After returning from the Christmas holiday period, the children focused on a Storybook topic. We organised a variety of different activities in relation to the stories to extend the children's learning. They participated in a variety of different crafting activities, from creating their own tigers, to making a collage of our hungry caterpillars. The children also explored their senses throughout this topic, learning about different textures which we have observed through the storybooks.



We created a safari themed tray within our sand tray, and Kirsty organized a touch and feel tuff tray. The children have also helped to make their own playdough.



Let's Bake!



The children have really enjoyed their baking experiences over the last term through a variety of different hands-on experiences. The process of pouring and stirring has been both fun and educational, helping them develop their fine motor skills. We have baked a variety of different yummy treats from spring biscuits, raspberry cookies to teddy bear biscuits.

During our baking activities, the children have shown lots of excitement in seeing their final creations as they share them with their families at home time. We have encouraged participation from all the children by letting them roll out the dough before pressing the cookie cutters into it to make fun, fascinating, impressive and wonderful shapes!



Local Exploration



We have been enjoying going for walks around the local area. These outings provide the children with fresh air, new sights, and a chance to explore their surroundings. As we moved into spring, the children have been able to observe and identify changes within the environment, from spotting all the daffodils, to seeing bumblebees buzzing everywhere!

TODDLER ROOM

All about me

During the first month of this term, our toddlers have been actively exploring the theme "All about me," which has supported them in developing a stronger sense of identity, confidence, and understanding of the world around them. A key focus has been recognizing and expressing emotions. Through a range of engaging activities, the children explored different feelings and began to identify emotions in themselves and others. We used stories, games, and creative play to support their emotional development, and it has been wonderful to see them increasingly express how they feel in their own unique ways.



As part of our focus on recognizing and understanding different emotions, particularly the



feeling of love, we celebrated Valentine's Day by creating special cards, decorating photo frames, and engaging in a variety of arts and crafts activities for loved ones. This helped the children to make meaningful connections between emotions and real-life experiences, while also providing an opportunity to express care and appreciation, as well



as develop their creativity.

Animal Topic

Our learning also extended to the topic of animals. The toddlers explored different animals and their habitats and took part in fun sorting activities where they grouped animals based on what they eat. They also identified which animals can be kept as pets. These concepts were explored through hands on experiences such as messy play, matching games, and creative art activities, making learning both meaningful and enjoyable.

World Book Day

We had great fun celebrating World Book Day. The children came to nursery dressed as their favourite book characters and they proudly brought in their chosen story book to share with their friends. It was a wonderful week where we promoted a love of reading and celebrated the joy that books bring to our learning.



Walks

In addition, the children enjoyed our outdoor walks, where they explored nature and developed their curiosity about the environment. These experiences supported both their physical development and communication skills as they discussed what they could see around them.

Baking

We had great fun with baking activities, where the toddlers followed simple instructions, developed their fine motor skills, and experienced the joy of creating something together.

Overall, it has been a busy and exciting term filled with opportunities for learning, creativity, and exploration. We are very proud of the progress the children have made and look forwards to continuing their learning journey!



PRE-SCHOOL ROOM

Dinosaurs



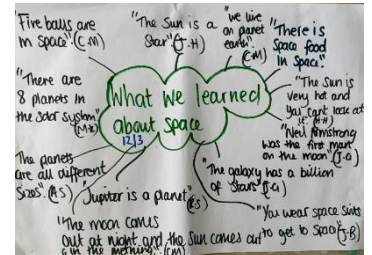
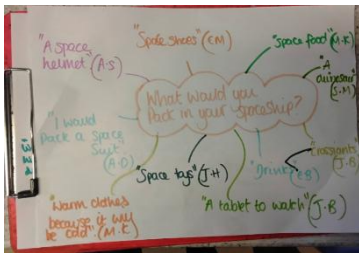
The children had a keen interest in dinosaurs' last term. We developed and further deepened our knowledge of science and history throughout this topic, taking part in hands-on activities

such as digging for "fossils" in the tuff tray, measuring the size of dinosaurs using coloured cubes, creating dinosaur crafts, and reading colourful picture books.

The children developed their curiosity and knowledge about prehistoric creatures, and they enjoyed taking part in board games, story times and group experiences, learning dinosaur names, shapes, and sizes. This also helped with encouraging language development and critical thinking.

Exploring dinosaurs sparked our imagination and helped the children understand concepts such as time, change, and the natural world in a fun and engaging environment.

Space



The children have also been extremely busy learning about space. They loved learning about the planets, stars, and astronauts, and have enjoyed lots of fun activities such as making rockets, creating their own planets, and exploring space-themed sensory play.

We've had wonderful discussions about what it might be like to travel in space, and the children have shown great curiosity and imagination. It's been fantastic to see them so engaged and excited to learn more about our amazing universe!

We also learnt about the first man on the moon, Neil Armstrong, and how he put an American flag on the moon, and how he took a photo of his footprints on the moon's surface.

French Classes

We are delighted to announce that Isabel from La Jolie Ronde will be attending the nursery every Tuesday morning during term time to teach the 4-5 years pre-school children. (ie those children who will be starting school in August this year).

At the start of the school year in August, children who will be going to school in August 2027 will then get the opportunity to attend the classes. Isabel teaches the children French in a fun and exciting way, with various songs, stories, role play and games throughout her activities.

Trip to Hoodles

The children had a fantastic time on our bus trip to Hoodles soft play area! There was so much excitement as we zoomed down the slides, climbed through tunnels, and played hide and seek with our friends. After lots of active play and laughter, everyone enjoyed sitting together to have their packed lunch, sharing stories about their favorite parts of the day. It was a wonderful outing filled with fun, friendship, and new adventures!



Laura from Flashdance continues to attend the pre-school room on Thursday afternoons during term time.

Dates for the Diary

- Toddler trip will be on Thursday 23rd April to Dizzy Rascals
- Sports day, Saturday 20th June - 10am-11:30am
- Parents evening - date to be confirmed
- Pre School Graduation - Saturday 25th July

Please note, the nursery will close for the Christmas 2-week holiday break at 6pm on Tuesday the 22nd of December 2026, and re-open again at 7.30am on Wednesday the 6th of January 2027.

Kind Regards,

Emma McFarlane

Nursery Manager

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