

Inverurie Newsletter – Term 1 August 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

We are sad to see the end of the summer period, and what a summer it has been! We have loved taking advantage of the sunny days, playing outside as much as possible, and having lots of water-based activities.

This past term is always our busiest, with our pre-school children preparing to transition to school, as well as having our parents evening and report writing.

We would like to say a HUGE goodbye to those venturing off into Primary 1! We are sooooo proud of you and know you will smash it!

A huge welcome to our new families - we have had a lot during the past few weeks! We hope you have all settled in well and we look forward to giving your children lots of opportunities to learn and grow here at Summers.

Staff News

We would like to wish Eilidh, 2-3 Room Leader, all the best in her future endeavours. We will all miss her very much, and we thank her for all her hard work and commitment.

We are delighted to let you know that Rebecca, who is currently based in our 3–5 Room, will be taking over the role of Room Leader in our 2–3 Room. Rebecca is currently on maternity leave and is due to return in January 2027, when she will officially begin her new role.

In the meantime, we are pleased to announce that Ellie will be stepping into the position of Acting 2-3 Room Leader. We know Ellie will do a fantastic job leading the room and supporting the children during this period.

To further strengthen the team, Tammy will be increasing her hours to 40 hours per week within the 2–3 Room to provide additional support to Ellie and ensure continuity of care for the children.

We are also pleased to confirm that Elize will remain permanently in her role within the 3–5 Room, providing consistency and stability for the children and families in that room.

As always, we are committed to ensuring that our staffing arrangements continue to provide the highest quality of care and support for all our children.

Congratulations to Erin, 3-5 Room Leader, who gained her SVQ Level 4 in June. Well done, your hard work and dedication has paid off!

All the team who are currently working towards their childcare qualifications are working hard behind the scenes. We appreciate the extra workload, and it will be so worth it when all completed.

Kristen, Kristina, Tammy and Molly are all currently doing their SVQ Level 3.

I am in my final year of my PDA in Childhood Practice, and Jorja is currently studying for her BA in Childhood Practice.

Charity of the Year 2026

This year we have chosen to support The Archie Foundation – Friends of the Neonatal. Friends of the Neonatal charity became part of the Archie Foundation in 2016 and raises money to help provide care for babies who are premature and sick, enabling the purchase of lifesaving equipment, as well as providing much needed support to families and parents across the Northeast of Scotland. It extends support beyond the Neonatal Unit and is a partner of NHS Grampian, making a difference at the new Family Baird Hospital in Aberdeen, which is 90% near completion. The new hospital aims to include cutting edge research, drawing together several services which include maternity, gynaecology and neonatal.

For more information, please follow the link - [Our story - Archie](#)

We would like to say a HUGE thank you for your continuous generosity supporting our fundraising events.

Our bacon roll week in May was a great success and we raised £209, and our annual summer Sports day was also a great success, where we raised a whopping £1590. We received 9 Evaluation forms back and they were all rated Excellent. Some of the girls also took part in this year's Kiltwalk in June, raising £2020.

We are so thankful for the continuous support you give us when it comes to our charity events. The amount raised so far since the start of the year is a whopping **£4,737. 00**

Father's Day Breakfast



Thank you to the daddies who managed to attend our Father's Day Breakfast in June. It was a lovely idea for them to have some special time with their children, enjoying some breakfast and getting a little insight into the children's routine and seeing them interact with their peers.

We had amazing feedback, so thank you, and several of the children said it made them happy that their daddies got to have breakfast.



Mealtimes

We are delighted to share that our setting has now introduced real crockery during mealtimes, such as porcelain plates, toughened glass drinking glasses, metal spoons and servers.

Reducing our use of plastics helps us to become a more environmentally friendly nursery, and any plastic items used for the younger children such as cups/plates will be BPA, phthalate and latex free, ensuring that children are eating from safe, high-quality materials.

Using real tableware helps to create a calm, homely dining experience while encouraging children to develop important life skills. It supports:

- Independence and self-serve skills
- Responsibility and respect for belongings
- Fine motor development
- Confidence in using “grown-up” tableware
- Positive table manners and social interaction
- Meaningful conversations during mealtimes

Mealtimes are so much more than just eating - they are an opportunity for children to learn, build confidence and develop skills that will stay with them for life.

We are so proud of how well the children have embraced this change and the care they are already showing when using their new tableware.



Weather Appropriate Clothing/bags

Can we ask that you are vigilant with appropriate clothing to suit the forecast, as we are an all-weather nursery and love to go out for some fresh air at least twice a day.

As we are heading into Autumn/Winter, can you ensure your child/ren have suitable outdoor clothing, puddle suits, wellies etc

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

STEM

STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

In early years, it isn't about worksheets or complicated lessons - it's about giving children chances to explore, ask questions, and make discoveries through play.

Science → exploring nature, weather, animals, plants, water, and sand.

Technology → using tools and simple equipment, noticing how things work.

Engineering → building with blocks, loose parts, or natural materials, solving problems.

Mathematics → counting, sorting, measuring, comparing sizes, spotting patterns. Young children are natural scientists and engineers. When they ask “why?”, when they are mixing water with mud, balance blocks, or roll cars down slopes — they’re already doing STEM!



The 2-3 room had a fantastic experience, making their own campfire. They did a group risk assessment prior to going outside, where the children spoke about “Hot” and “Don’t touch”.

Using a selection of sticks they gathered themselves, along with some newspaper and a colander base, the children demonstrated very good fire safety knowledge throughout the activity. They remembered to stay a safe distance away, listening excellently to every step. It was amazing to see their confidence grow as they safely explored the fire, and they did

us so proud!

The children absolutely loved the opportunity to be independent while exploring risks in a safe environment, and they enjoyed a yummy treat of toasted bananas and bread straight from our very own campfire.



Outings/Trips

All rooms have continued to go out for walks, with the younger children going out in the buggies or walking with the reins. The babies love visiting the ‘Book Neuk’ swapping out books within the community.



In July, the 2-3 children were excited to go on a bus to Hazelhead park, which was a huge highlight!

The weather was lovely and warm so we all really enjoyed being outdoors, developing physical skills and having risk awareness on the park equipment. We had a walk around the park to search for the Gruffalo, and a lovely walk around the memorial garden. The children loved smelling the flowers and naming the colours they recognised. They then had a yummy picnic lunch before heading back to nursery!



Our 3–5 room enjoyed a trip to Aden Country Park in July!

The children had so much fun exploring around the park. We split into groups, with one group exploring the castle ruins and the woods, while the other group walked around the pond to watch the swans and baby cygnets. We then met back in the middle for a play at the park and ate a picnic lunch, and then the two groups swapped over.



As always when out, the children made the ladies proud, all holding hands and staying close by.



Trips are rotated on different days to ensure that all children have opportunities to attend a trip throughout the year.

SIMOA



When we head outside, we use our SIMOA Elephant to help us learn to keep safe. We use it to check the garden, and the children have their own risk assessment sheet to make sure for example that the toys are safe with no broken pieces. We also ensure that water is emptied out of the trays every day.



We risk assess new experiences and outings, including the children being involved with what they think is a risk and how they feel we can overcome that.

Wee Green Space

The older children have enjoyed their weekly adventures to Wee Green Space, and they love exploring the outdoors. Each group that goes focuses on a different activity.

This term, the children have loved exploring the small stream, paddling with their feet, as well as using the fishing nets to see if they can catch anything. Some groups have taken the parachute and games to play in the field.



One group met up with the 'Garioch Ranger' where they went on a bug hunt, and they found all sorts of different bugs and insects in and out of the water. They lifted rocks and branches to see what they could find, putting whatever they had found into their bug catchers, which had a magnifying glass top so they could get a good look close up!

We have five groups who rotate on a weekly basis. You will have been informed who is in each group and what day they plan to go. Can you please ensure they are fully equipped for their trip that day.



0-2 Room



We have had a lovely and exciting time in the 0–2 room, welcoming lots of new babies and families into our nursery during the past month. It has been wonderful getting to know our new children and supporting them as they settle into their new routines and surroundings.

We have updated our 0-2 Parent Welcome Packs! We fully understand that starting nursery is a big milestone for both little ones and their families, so the staff have put together a wee starter pack to help make those first few days a little more special. Inside each pack you will find:

- A checklist card with everything you need for your child starting nursery!
- Bits and bobs for making that first drop off slightly easier...
- A sunflower seed to plant and watch grow, just as your child grows at nursery!



We hope this thoughtful gift helps families feel welcomed, reassured and supported as they begin their journey with us. We can't wait to watch your little ones learn, grow and flourish here at Summers Nursery.

Please see below what we have been up to this past term.

Summer Topic - We have been making the most of the warmer weather with lots of exciting summer experiences. The children enjoyed a summer fruits paddling pool sensory experience, exploring different textures, smells and colours with their feet. We also created a melted ice cream tuff tray using shaving foam and colourful sprinkles, which was a huge hit!



We have enjoyed lots of water play throughout the term, supporting sensory exploration and encouraging the children to experiment with pouring, splashing and transferring. We also explored colours through a watercolour rainbow painting, allowing the children to get creative while developing their fine motor skills.



My Family - Our My Family topic has been a wonderful opportunity to build strong links between home and nursery. We have loved seeing the fantastic home learning and interactions shared by our parents, particularly around Father's Day. We also welcomed lots of our dads and father figures into nursery for our special Father's Day Breakfast Week, which was a lovely opportunity for families to spend time together in the nursery environment.



The children developed their grasp and pen control, creating their own houses, while also exploring a variety of family-themed tuff trays. These experiences encouraged the children to use their problem-solving skills as they searched for themselves and their families within the activities.

On the Farm - Our On the Farm topic has been full of sensory and musical experiences.

The children have loved exploring our new touch and feel animal books, which inspired us to create our own sensory bags for the children to investigate.



We enjoyed lots of music and movement based around Old MacDonald had a Farm, encouraging the children to join in with actions, sounds and movements. During our activities, we also explored the different textures of farm animals, supporting the children's sensory development and curiosity.



Colours - As part of our Colours topic, we took our learning outdoors with a colour hunt during one of our community walks. The children enjoyed looking carefully at their surroundings, spotting different colours in the world around them.



Back in the nursery, we explored colours in lots of different ways, including colour mixing using paint and sensory bags. These experiences introduced the children to early STEM learning, encouraging them to investigate what happens when different colours mix, while developing their curiosity, observation and exploration skills.

2-3 Room

The children have enjoyed various opportunities to get out into our local area. We enjoy ventures to parks and fields for a picnic, and the children love watching the world go by as they have a social snack, allowing them to feel connected to their local area and communicate between peers, saying things such as "I see a doggy" "It is windy today" and "the tree is blowing".



The children showed a very strong interest in our "World Cup" topic, and they discussed watching football at home with their families and peers at the weekend. So, we rotated our small world area and included real football strips, football figures, flashcards, as well as a Scottish kilt to encourage imaginative play. The children really enjoyed dressing up and having a wee tea party with the China cups and saucers.



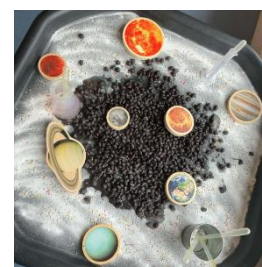


In the 2-3 room, we have been using technology positively for the children's learning, promoting STEM by using the Beebot as well as digital games. The children have developed their decision making and problem-solving skills as well as their ability to follow instructions while programming, using the Beebot to move in a variety of directions.



The children loved our Space topic, and they participated in a variety of "wow" science experiments. They really engage in experimental activities and love watching the outcomes.

We regularly bake, to help Elaine our cook with snacks/pudding, and the children love taking turns mixing, pouring and measuring.



The children have shown outstanding kindness to each other and their nursery staff members this term. They progressed their understanding of kindness to others during our topic for "kindness and teacher appreciation". The children made decisions on who to create a picture for and delivered this to them with a beautiful flower. All the children took so much pride in this task, and the ladies were delighted!



3-5 Room

We introduced our Make your own Paint Station with powered paint, giving the children opportunities to be independent and follow the visual recipe cards. The children have enjoyed exploring this throughout the day and have shown more of a keen interest in painting when they have been able to make it themselves.

We have focused a lot on the pre-school transition with the use of our school transition box within the home corner, which contains images of our local schools and what they look like. This has included the children's own uniform to wear and explore, which they have loved wearing. We also invited all the new teachers to visit the nursery, and the children loved showing them around.





The children explored Children's Choice for a few weeks where they all independently chose what they wished to learn about each day. A huge hit was being hairdressers which the children always show a keen interest in. The children took part in a real-life experience of washing Jorja and Suzanne's hair with water and shampoo outside in the garden, before having a turn of drying it too, using a real-life hairdryer. The children loved this and were so delicate with the ladies' hair.



We also enjoyed looking at the Life Cycle of butterflies and frogs. One of the children's peers took in some real-life tadpoles from home that he had caught with his daddy in their own pond they have been building. We also had our own butterfly life cycle to follow, which the children loved. Each day we watched our caterpillars as they crystalised and turned into cocoons, and we waited patiently to watch them hatch and then turn into beautiful butterflies. The children all showed great responsibility as we looked after them, feeding them fruit and nectar, before taking them outside to be released to fly off into

the big world.



We loved learning about the ocean and the animals that live there. The children took part in lots of exciting numeracy activities, exploring the different sizes of sea animals, developing their understanding of measurement using cubes and rulers. We discovered that blue whales can grow to over 30 metres long. We certainly didn't have enough room to measure one of those out!



The children also really enjoyed a home learning challenge. They were given a piece of pool noodle ie a long piece of polyethylene foam and asked to design and create their very own boats, which they then brought back into nursery, ready for our very exciting boat race!

During our race, we explored how water can act as a force to move objects. The children made predictions, tested their boats and watched closely to see which designs travelled the furthest. It was wonderful to see their creativity, curiosity and problem-solving skills in

action!



We have reached the end of term, where we have sadly said goodbye to all our pre-schoolers who are off on their next journey to primary school.

We had a very successful Graduation, where as always, the children made us all proud singing their songs which they practiced so well over the summer.

We wish them all the best on their next journey.

Fortnightly Rugby

Big Rig Rugby reached out to us to come and attend a taster session at their new venue opening in Inverurie. The children absolutely loved this, and they had the opportunity to play some games, before learning about rugby balls and how to score a try. We have therefore arranged some more sessions, so we will be visiting them on a fortnightly basis on a Monday afternoon for the first term, August to October. The classes will be for the pre-school children ie those children going to school next August (there is a maximum number of 12 children allowed to attend at one time). Children attending will have had an email in regard to this. Next term, after the October break, the class will run on a Wednesday – an email will be issued in due course.

French Classes

We have been receiving French classes from Isabel Hogg, our French teacher in the city for several months, and we are pleased that Isabel will now be able to provide classes in the shire. Children who are presently in the 3-5 room will be able to learn French on a Monday morning during term time.

Upcoming Dates for Your Diary

Pizza Week – Week commencing 5th October (All week)

Ante Pre Trip – date to be confirmed

3-5 Nativity – Friday 11th December

Pre-School Panto – Thursday 17th December

3-5 Christmas Party – Monday 21st December

0-2 and 2-3 Room Christmas Parties – date to be confirmed

Christmas Closure – End of Play Tuesday 22nd December at 6pm

Re-open Wednesday 6th January 2027 at 7.30am

Thank you

Suzanne Stephen

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