



Victoria Street Newsletter Term 1 August 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

We would like to wish farewell to all our pre-school children who have headed off to primary one. We will miss them very much and look forward to hearing how they get on as they enter primary one. We wish them all the best!

A big welcome to the new families and children who have started in the past term. We have a busy month ahead, with many babies starting at the nursery next month, so we look forward to all these new little faces arriving!

Staffing update

We are pleased to have Mariel who joined the nursery last term. Mariel is based in our 2-3 room, and prior to joining us, she was a primary school teacher in America.

Jessica from our St Swithin Street nursery has recently started at Victoria Street. Jessica will be covering Rachel's maternity leave as Room Leader in the Baby Room.

Training

Hansini has now completed her SVQ 3 childcare qualification with Cairn Training, so very well-done Hansini! Hansini also has previous experience of teaching school age children.

Charity 2026 / Sports Day

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. FOTMU joined the Archie Foundation in 2016, and raises funds for life saving equipment, staff



training, also helping with direct family support such as accommodation and travel costs for babies born too soon or sick across the Northeast of Scotland. FOTNU are now the leading charity for the new Baird Family Neonatal Hospital which is still under construction. The hospital will include cutting edge research, drawing together several services which will include maternity, gynaecology, and neonatal.

As part of our fundraising, we had a very successful Sports day in June. This provided many opportunities within the nursery for children to practice lots of fun races, including running, egg and spoon, and an obstacle course. On the run up to the big day, we all did lots of home baking to add to our tuck shop stall, and on the day, we had lots of fun events for all to enjoy, including races, face painting and a bottle stall. Thank you to everyone for coming along on the day and helping us to raise a fantastic £800. We really appreciate your support in all our charity events.



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, and a change of clothes in their nursery bag.

Improvement Plans.

Our improvement plans are displayed on the right-hand side of the hallway as you enter the building. We are currently using the information from our parental questionnaires to support us in creating our new improvement plans for 2026/2027. We will be including the garden within this plan and welcome any suggestions you have for improvements you would like to see. We recently replaced the old blue astro turf with new green turf, and we have ordered a new wooden bike ramp which will arrive soon.

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

The World Cup

All the rooms have had lots of fun as we learned about the World Cup. There were many opportunities to learn about other countries and cultures, and we made national flags from various countries, which helped to develop colour, shape and symbol recognition.





We played football games which allowed the children to learn some of the rules of the game. There was great teamwork shown and lots of excitement when the goals were scored!

Fire engine visit

The excitement was huge across the nursery when we had a visit from a real-life fire engine and some fire fighters! They parked up in the car park and showed all the boys and girls their equipment. They even got to sit inside the fire engine and dress up in some real firefighter outfits. The most exciting part for all was each child getting to have a turn of using the real hose! The pre-school further challenged themselves and had a target to aim at!



Exploring our local community

Over this term, there has been an abundance of trips out with the nursery to explore our local area. The children went to the shops to buy their own ingredients for baking, and we went to the library and the art gallery, as well as having exciting adventures at the parks nearby.



Baby Room

All About Me

We started off this term by learning all about ourselves, from identifying our eye colour, finding ourselves within photographs and mirrors, and creating our very own self-portraits. We used flash cards to enable the children to learn about different body parts, and we identified our emotions through books, as well as creating a big handprint collage that we put on display in the room.



We have been enjoying getting out and about to our local area for walks, visiting the local shops to purchase ingredients when we have been baking, and we have also visited the library. The children have been focusing on their balance and coordination by using the small bikes as well as taking our new resource boxes into the garden. We have one filled with imaginative storybooks and another for the children to explore their creativity through different mark-making tools.



Colours and Shapes

We have continued our learning of colours and shapes, and the children have enjoyed taking part in a scavenger hunt in the room where they had to find different toys that matched with the coloured paper. We also explored colour through water play, and we borrowed activities from our local resource centre to support our learning.

The children explored shapes through collaging activities, identifying shape outlines, and using the building blocks. This topic helped to focus on further developing the children's speech as many can identify and verbalize the different shapes and colours.



Summertime Fun



As the beautiful weather approached, we began learning about the summer season. We had lots of different sensory and messy activities on offer, from creating sandcastles in the sand, practicing our fishing in beach themed tuff trays, and getting messy with shaving foam as we made a big ice cream! The children have

been excited to show off their summer accessories, whether it is their sunglasses or new sun hat when arriving in the morning. We also learnt about summer through crafting, collaging our own sunshine and ice cream cones.



Toddler Room

What's in the Sky?



It has been a wonderfully busy, exciting and rewarding term for our little ones. Throughout the term, we have continued to follow the children's interests, curiosity and individual development, using these to create meaningful learning experiences through play, exploration and hands-on activities. As the children became increasingly curious about what they could see in the sky, we began exploring stars, planets, the sun, moon,



rainbows and shooting stars through a variety of experiences. We introduced new vocabulary and encouraged the children to share their ideas, ask questions and talk about what they could see. We started this journey with a fun baking activity, where children helped to make star shaped cookies. Their excitement and enjoyment of baking encouraged us to continue incorporating lots of cooking and baking opportunities throughout the term.



This connected with another strong interest of the children participating in cooking, baking and making tea activities. Following their interest, we created a pizza making station and a little café using real tea bags, decaffeinated coffee, water, milk and sugar. The children enjoyed learning how to make tea and coffee, serving one another and taking on different roles.

We also introduced a doughnut station and cookie decorating activity, where the children could spread their own frosting and decorate their creations with sprinkles. These realistic experiences supported their independence, communication, imagination, fine motor skills and social development while allowing them to learn through something they enjoy.



Alongside these experiences, we continued to develop the children's early literacy and numeracy skills, linking these naturally into play. We introduced new words, which included the names of planets, and we practiced recognizing and tracing letters as well as completing letter puzzles.



The children also took part in matching and sorting activities, and we incorporated numeracy into our play, developing the children's counting skills and understanding of quantity.



The children's curiosity also helped us to explore books and stories connected to their interests. We made regular visits to our local library, which has become one of their favourite places to visit, and we encouraged them to choose books that were of interest to them. We enjoyed reading about things in the sky that captured the children's imagination, and their choices at the library then helped us to continue our learning back at the nursery through a range of activities including threading, cutting, pipette painting, messy play and sensory play.



Additional Learning Opportunities

We made the most of opportunities to explore our local community through walks, visits to local parks, and soft play areas. At the end of April, the children had a very enjoyable trip to Dizzy Rascals, zooming down slides and climbing through tunnels. These outings provided valuable opportunities for the children to develop their physical skills, confidence, communication and social interactions while experiencing different environments.



We have also been looking at our everyday routines and finding ways to turn them into meaningful learning opportunities. Snack time became a picnic, allowing the children to enjoy their food together in



different environments. Water play developed into creating a little river using foil in the garden, encouraging children to learn how water moves and flows, and we also enjoyed watering plants, talking about how we care for living things. Reading time was taken outdoors, where books were combined with imaginative role play, and music time included exercise, yoga, singing and practicing our instruments together.



Show and Tell

Our show and tell sessions have also been a wonderful way of supporting the children's confidence and communication. They have enjoyed sharing their experiences, talking about things that are important to them and listening to their friends.

It has truly been an enriching term, with so many wonderful opportunities for learning through play and everyday experiences. We are incredibly proud of the progress our little ones have made in their confidence, independence, communication, creativity and social skills.



Pre- School Room

Trip to The Fairy Woods

During the summer, the pre-school children enjoyed a trip to the Fairy Woods where the children headed out on a fairy-finding adventure! We started the trip with a story around the campfire, roasting marshmallows and making smores. As the children explored the trail, they left special treasure for each of the fairies along the way, as well as leaving them some letters they had written. We then enjoyed a lovely picnic lunch in the Polly tunnels. We did some great recycling with our leftover water, helping to water the vegetable patches!



Spring and Planting



We have been learning about the world around us through a variety of fun, hands-on-experiences. We have explored nature through outings and planting, learnt about the weather and the environment, and we also developed an understanding of people and places in the community.



The children were very interested in learning about recycling, where they learnt that there are different bins for each material. They participated in many hands-on activities where they developed an understanding of what different things are made of, including metal, glass and paper.



We then began learning about the World Cup following on from some of the children's interests. We explored different countries, looked at flags, and talked about how people from around the world come together to enjoy and celebrate football. We created our very own Scottish Tartan using paper strips, and we enjoyed learning some new football related words and songs. We also took part in group games indoors and outdoors, practicing control and passing skills.



These activities have helped to develop an understanding of different cultures and countries whilst encouraging teamwork, sharing and turn taking.



The children enjoyed taking part in some construction activities including transient art, and they were able to make bridges, houses, faces, animals and people using loose, natural resources. We used various building blocks and shapes to create houses, towers and models.



We then moved on to learning and talking about summer and the holidays. The children loved telling their friends where they had been over the summer holidays and what they had been up to. We talked about going to the beach, going on airplanes and enjoying the sunshine. We also spoke about safety in the sun, keeping hydrated and wearing sunscreen! We did an experiment where we turned skittles into a rainbow using water. Through stories, creative activities, messy play and conversations, we were able to share our own experiences and develop our understanding of summer.



Dates for the Diary

- Thursday 13th October - Pre School trip TBC
- W/K commencing 23rd November - Parent interviews (in addition to our new focus observations)
- Saturday 24th October - Halloween extravaganza
- Wednesday 9th December - Pre-school trip to the Pantomime
- Other trips TBC
- The nursery will close on Tuesday the 22nd of December 2026 and will re-open again on Wednesday the 6th of January at 7.30am.

Kind Regards,

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