



Wee Rascals Newsletter – August 2026 Term 1

Dear Parents/Carers

We hope you had a lovely summer! As we have come to the end of another wonderful year, and a lovely Graduation ceremony, we would like to say a very special goodbye to all our children who have left nursery and started their exciting journey into Primary 1. It has been a joy and a privilege to watch each child grow, learn, make friendships, and become more confident and independent. We are so proud of every one of them and all that they have achieved during their time with us. We will miss their smiles, laughter and unique personalities, but we know they are ready for their next big adventure!

We would like to welcome all our new families and children who have joined the nursery during this term. We can't wait to help you grow and develop throughout your nursery journey!

Staffing

There are a few staff updates we would like to share with you all.

We are pleased to welcome Tegan Gordon, who has recently joined us. Tegan is a pre-school Nursery Practitioner based in the Busy Bee Room, and she brings with her nursery experience, having previously worked in a 3–5-year-old room. Her working days will be Tuesday to Friday, from 7:30am to 6:00pm.

Kenzie Burr, who is based in our Busy Bee Room, has changed her working hours. She will now be working Monday, Tuesday and Friday, from 7:30am to 6:00pm.

Fiona Campbell, who is also based in our Busy Bee Room, has changed her working hours. She will now be working Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, from 9:30am to 3:00pm.

We have said a fond farewell to Cara Duncan, who has been a valued relief member of staff for over five years. We would like to thank Cara for all her hard work and dedication over the years and wish her every success and happiness as she begins her new adventure as a primary school teacher.

Staff Training

Beth Blake, who is based in our Cheeky Monkey Room, has recently begun her training towards achieving her SVQ Level 3 qualification in Social Services, Children and Young People. We wish her every success with her studies!

Charity of the Year

Our 2026 Charity of the Year is '**Friends of the Neonatal Unit**'. FOTNU supports the Neonatal Unit at Aberdeen Maternity Hospital, which cares for premature and sick babies. It 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 to travel 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.

Our Sports day in July raised an amazing **£1389.13**, and our Breakfast morning in May raised **£47.50**, so thank you so much for your continued support. Please keep the donations coming in.

Learning Experiences

Sharing Days

The Cheeky Monkeys and Busy Bees have continued to enjoy taking part in Sharing Day, and it has been wonderful to see the children's confidence grow as they talk to their friends about the items they have brought into nursery. The dates for Sharing Day will continue to be displayed on the Cheeky Monkeys room door, on the parents' notice board for Busy Bees, as well as on the nursery website – www.summersnurseries.com under 'Wee Rascals Notice Board' section.

Dancing/Gymnastics

Laura from Flashdance in Aberdeen continues to visit us on Tuesdays during term time. The children have shown a great interest in the different themes she introduces, all while incorporating dance into each session. The children are always keen to learn lots of new moves along the way.

We also enjoy attending Garioch Gymnastics across the road every second Thursday during term time. These sessions provide a fantastic opportunity for the children to burn off energy whilst developing their gross motor skills.

Pre-School French Classes

Isabel Hogg will be coming to teach the pre-school children French on a Monday morning during term time, so we are very excited for her to join us. These classes are for those children who will be attending school in August 2027.

Little Bunnies

Whilst looking at transport, the Little Bunnies enjoyed taking part in a car wash tuff tray. They had lots of fun washing the cars which were covered in shaving foam, using sponges and water, as well as pushing the cars through the car wash. These lovely sensory experiences provide the children with plenty of messy fun!





The children also enjoyed getting creative, using paper plates and a variety of craft materials to make their own colourful cars! They explored different textures and colours while sticking, painting and decorating, which helps to develop the children's fine motor skills, creativity and sensory awareness.

Whilst focusing on colours, the boys and girls have thoroughly enjoyed lovely walks around the local area, pointing out objects they have seen in the environment. They have had lots of fun looking at the various colours that they spotted whilst walking, for example we discussed the different colours of the cars, vans and all the flowers whilst out and about. We even had a colour tick list, and the children enjoyed shouting out the colours they had seen. These walks help to develop the children's observational skills, colour recognition and awareness of the world around them.



There was also lots of concentration creating a very colourful rainbow! With paper placed along the balance beam, the children had their feet painted in different colours before carefully walking across to make colourful footprints. This exciting sensory activity supports balance, coordination, gross motor development, colour recognition and body awareness, also encouraging confidence and creativity.



We saw more creativity and exploration again in the tuff trays, with our focus on popular nursery rhymes and stories, and the children had lots of fun exploring our Humpty Dumpty-themed tuff tray, using rakes and scoops to move, dig and explore the different materials. This hands-on sensory experience helps to develop fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination and curiosity, as well as encouraging the children to explore familiar nursery rhymes through play. There was also lots of messy fun making their very own Gruffalo Crumble! Using flour, pasta and cereal, they enjoyed scooping, pouring, mixing and exploring the different textures. This sensory activity helps to bring a much-loved story to life.



We have started looking at jungle animals, and there has been lots of imitation of the sounds these animals make.

Cheeky Monkeys

The Cheeky Monkeys have had lots of fun 'feeding the fish', using tweezers to carefully pick up Cheerios and place them into the mouths of the colourful cut-out fish. This engaging activity supports the development of hand-eye coordination and strengthens the small muscles in the hands and fingers needed for future mark-making and writing. It also requires lots of concentration and perseverance!





The children had a fantastic time taking part in our Under the Sea obstacle course in the garden! They enjoyed climbing, balancing, crawling and moving through the different objects, using their imaginations to explore an exciting underwater adventure.

For numeracy, we used numbered train tracks to help the children recognise and sequence numbers from 1 to 10. They worked carefully to connect the tracks in the correct order, developing their number recognition, counting, problem-solving and sequencing skills through hands-on play.

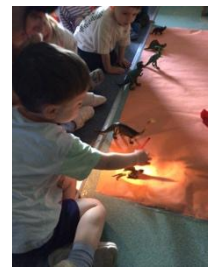


The boys and girls enjoyed getting creative with tin foil to design and make their own boats before testing them in the water tray. They carefully added little people to their boats to investigate how many they could put on and balance while still floating, developing their problem-solving and early scientific enquiry skills.



During our dinosaur theme, we explored light and shadows using torches and toy dinosaurs, and the children used the torches to shine light onto the dinosaurs to create shadows on the paper, before carefully drawing around the different shapes. This activity helps the children to understand the relationship between light and shadows.

The boys and girls also enjoyed using clay to create their very own dinosaur fossils, pressing dinosaur figures and shapes into the clay to make interesting prints and patterns. This hands-on activity helps to encourage curiosity, as well as encourage conversations and learning about dinosaurs and fossils from long ago.



Busy Bees



The children have been learning about minibeasts, using their own ideas to write simple sentences all about bugs which helps to develop their literacy skills. They used their growing knowledge of letters and sounds to share their thoughts, developing their early writing, vocabulary, imagination and confidence as independent writers.

The boys and girls had lots of fun using their imaginations to create their very own minibeast stories in the form of comic strips, and they enjoyed creating their own characters, pictures and story ideas, which helps to develop their creativity, and storytelling, bringing lots of ideas to life.



The Busy Bee children love listening to and discussing stories, and they all enjoyed listening to the story *Sand, Waves and Ice Cream*, which follows a young boy and his mother going to the beach for the first time, enjoying all the various activities they get up to. Together, we discussed what happens in the story, and we also learnt about the different characters. This encourages children to recall key events, share their thoughts, and develop their listening, comprehension and communication skills.



To develop numeracy skills, we created a Minibeast shop, where the children used printed coins to buy their favourite minibeasts. They practised coin recognition and enjoyed adding the coins together to the correct amounts, developing their early numeracy skills and understanding the use of money through imaginative role play.



The boys and girls have also been busy investigating weight using the tipping scales! They had lots of fun placing minibeasts and loose parts on each side, making predictions and discovering which was heavier and which was lighter. There was lots of excitement as the scales tipped, helping the children learn new mathematical language through hands-on play!

We had some numerical and colourful ice cream fun as part of our summer topic! The children carefully matched the coloured tiles to the correct ice cream cone, which develops their matching skills, and they were also keen to count the tiles as well.



For health and wellbeing, the children had lots of fun taking part in our minibeast movement game! They were encouraged to select their own movement card, before performing the action for their friends. From wriggling like worms to fluttering like butterflies, the activity supported the children's confidence, independence and physical development. We discovered that some minibeasts can fly, jump, wriggle or crawl.

We explored beach safety through our fun beach-themed tuff tray, discussing how to have fun at the beach whilst also discussing risk and how we keep ourselves safe. We looked at being careful in the water, staying close to the beach, not going out too far, and avoiding the waves. We also discussed using water aids and staying close to your family and friends. The children shared their ideas about how we can keep ourselves and others safe while enjoying a day at the seaside!



Last term we looked at different feelings and emotions using our Colour Monster teddies. Each child chose a Colour Monster and shared why they might be feeling that way, encouraging lots of lovely conversations. This helped the children to recognise, understand and express their own emotions, as well as beginning to understand how others may be feeling too.

Trips

The Busy Bees went to Hazlehead park for their summer trip, where they enjoyed the beautiful woodland walks, along with opportunities to use the wonderful play equipment, going down the big slides, and climbing and swinging on the different apparatus, making it an exciting and active day out.

The Cheeky Monkey children enjoyed a trip to Den in the Glen at the start of the summer period, with the soft play being a great success!



Dates for your Diary

Week 14th September – Stay and Play week

Week 21st September – Read-a-thon

Wednesday 21st October – Tempest photography

Week 26th October – Halloween Bake Sale

Friday 30th October – Nursery Halloween Party

Saturday 28th November – Christmas Fayre

Thursday 17th December – Christmas Parties

Tuesday 22nd December – Busy Bees Nativity

- *Please note, we will close for the Christmas 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,

Jade Shanks

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