

Inverurie Newsletter – March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

I can't believe how fast this year is passing us by already, but thankful that the nights are stretching and we are able to enjoy some finer weather.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome on board our new families. Although you have been unable to enter the building, this has not affected the transition and the children have all settled very well.

If there is anything I can do further, then please get in touch.

Staff News

Joanne Noble is now Room Leader of the 3-5 Room, and has a Thursday off, with Eszter Racz moving into her position as trainee Room leader in the 2-3 room. Eszter has a Friday off.

Jorja Cameron has taken over Melanie Adam's position as Room Leader of the 0-2 room, and has a Monday off.

Other new members to the team this year are Rebecca Sayers who works a Wednesday, Thursday and a Friday in the 3-5 Room, Samantha Whyte who works a Tuesday to Friday in the 2-3 Room, and Erin Lamont who works a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday in the 0-2 Room.

Staff Training

We would like to congratulate Michaela Ure from the 0-2 Room for achieving her SVQ level 3 childcare qualification, becoming a fully qualified Nursery Practitioner at the end of last year. Well Done!

Charity

We are pleased to announce that we now have a final total for our charity, Charlie House, which we supported from 2020 up until the end of 2021. It has been really challenging during the pandemic, but we have managed to raise **£11,281.97** over all the nursery sites. Thank you to everyone who donated generously to this charity. Charlie House is a North East of Scotland charity which helps babies, children and young people with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions.

Ukraine Crisis

We watch with horror as the events in Ukraine unfold before our very eyes. At the present time, Ukraine urgently needs assistance, and there are several reputable charities accepting donations for this humanitarian crisis which we hope that you would consider donating directly to. We list two charities below accepting donations online for the people of Ukraine.

Save the Children welcomes donations online for the UKRAINE CRISIS. Save the Children has been operating in Ukraine since 2014, delivering humanitarian aid to children and their families. Donations to the Ukraine Crisis Relief Fund can provide children and families with immediate aid such as food, water, hygiene kits, psychosocial support and cash assistance <http://www.savethechildren.org.uk>

CAFOD is an international development charity and the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales. They are part of one of the largest aid networks in the world, and through their global church network, they have the potential to reach everyone. Donations will help to provide food, water, healthcare, shelter and clothing to families. Donations can be made online to the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal <https://cafod.org.uk>

Any further money raised this year by the nursery will go to charities supporting the Ukraine crisis.

All about Me/Contact Details

Thank you to everyone who returned their updated Contact sheets and All about Me sheets. Please continue to let us know of any changes to personal details, so we have the most up to date records for your child.

Learning Experiences

The children spent a lot of time getting creative on the run up to Christmas. I hope you all agree that their calendars, gifts and cards were beautifully made! Our Christmas parties were great fun, where the children danced the afternoon away, and of course enjoyed party food for snack time. Some of the older children were delighted at getting to watch a virtual showing of the Sleeping Beauty panto on our large whiteboard.

0-2 Room

The children enjoyed looking at various aspects of the weather, and a lot of splashing was done in the garden puddles when the rain came down! We looked at the clouds high up in the sky, explaining to the children that water comes from them. Children had the opportunity to make their own clouds with the shaving foam, and they added blue food colouring using the droppers, as well as water, watching the solution change colour and then start to represent the rain drops!

During music and movement, children love to express themselves, so we played sounds resembling thunder and lightning, with the children stamping their feet and waving their hands in the air, pretending to mimic the flashes of lightning. For the wind, they made swaying movements, and of course everyone enjoyed jumping up and down in the pretend muddy puddles!

For our Under the Sea topic, we made our tuff tray resemble the sea, adding sand, sea animals, shells and stones, and then lots of gloop to resemble the sea, which gave the children lots of opportunities for imaginative play.

We read The Snail and the Whale story about a little snail who hitches a ride on the tail of a BIG whale to see the world. The children then enjoyed playing with sea creatures in the shaving foam, where they would look for and make attempts to count the little snails, as well as search for larger creatures such as the whale, which helped the children understand the concept of size.

All the children participated in lots of art and craft activities, which included decorating starfish with glue and coloured buttons, and sponge dabbing their own fish.

Lots of art and craft activities were enjoyed during our Pets and Animals topic, which included gluing brightly coloured tissue paper onto our parrots, which helped children develop their knowledge of colours. They also made their own animal masks, and we had lots of dancing from lions, rabbits, dogs and elephants!

2-3 Room

During our Under the sea topic, children learnt about many sea creatures such as dolphins, whales, turtles and fish etc, and they looked at how we can keep sea creatures safe. We discussed how we should always put our rubbish in the bin, and we then went on to discuss pollution and recycling, and in the house corner children collected bottles and boxes which we can recycle.

The children had the opportunity to make some playdough, developing their measuring and pouring skills, and once it was made, they cut out sea animals from the templates.

We learnt about the beach, where children expressed excitement, saying that they “throw stones”, “put on sun cream”, and “make sand castles”.

We made our very own beach, using sand at one side of the tuff tray and then blue shaving foam at the other to represent the water, and we added some shells and sea creatures. Children showed lots of imagination, and they were able to count the shells, developing their numeracy skills. Everyone loves to sing “Baby Shark”, and we followed this up with the children decorating their own shark pictures, with a focus on how big a shark really is and how sharp their teeth are!

The story of ‘We are going on a bear hunt’ is very popular with the children, so we set up an activity which covered certain areas of the book – with children walking through the snow (shaving foam) and across the river (water) barefoot, which helped to make the story more realistic for them! They really enjoyed making their own bear masks and snowstorm pictures.

As the mornings and nights were dark, this sparked a discussion about light and dark, with children talking about twinkly stars, the moon, lights and the sun. They made their own fingerprint sun pictures, and enjoyed playing in a sunset messy tray using shaving foam, paint and the inter star construction toys.

We learnt about the moon, looking at the full moon and its different names such as strawberry and worm moon. There was great excitement when the moon was still out when the children arrived at nursery one morning!

We all developed our physical skills and co-ordination with some Space yoga using the Cosmic Kids Cd.

3-5 Room

During our Transport topic, we discussed transport noises and how vehicles move, looking at those with wheels such as cars and those that fly in the sky such as planes, as well as those which float on the water such as boats, with children watching short clips on the smart board.

The children made their own paper aeroplanes and we watched how they glided through the air for a short second, and we discussed the engine in a real plane which would help it go faster for longer.

When out in the garden, a group of children made an excavator out of the loose parts. They used wooden blocks, plastic tubes, traffic cones and the big tyres. It was great to watch as the children engaged in team work and problem solving, along with lots of imagination.

During our 'Under the Sea' topic, children discussed pollution, and the boys and girls got involved in a clearing up mission. They each popped on some rubber gloves and picked out the 'litter' from our water tray which was surrounding the toy sea creatures, some even had to be untangled! The ladies had added in some plastic bottles, cellophane, tinfoil balls and netting. This helped the children understand the importance that we must put our rubbish in the bin, so as not to endanger the animals.

Throughout the topic, we learnt that turtles live in the sea and tortoises live on land. Another funny fact we enjoyed was discovering that some whales have hair in their mouths instead of teeth which acts like a sieve to help trap their prey such as small fish. These interesting whales are called Baleen whales!

The children were fascinated when we discussed the planets and they learned lots of interesting facts. We learnt their names and how each planet circles the sun, and we also discovered that the sun is in fact a star that is very bright! To follow this up, the children did a wee experiment with a bowl and a marble – we put a yellow circle depicting the sun in the bottom of the bowl and popped the marble in. We then moved the bowl around in circles and the marble moved up and around the 'sun'. The children also enjoyed learning about the different constellations, where we can see groups of stars form pictures in the night sky, such as Leo the lion and Taurus the bull.

We have just started up our weekly visits to our 'Wee Green Space', where the children have opportunities to learn and explore outdoors, and partake in fun activities. The first group went out last week, and it was a great success! Everyone should have received an email to let them know what day/date their child will be attending.

Kind Regards

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