



St Swithin Street Newsletter

Term 4 – June 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

We are nearly at the end of the term, with some of our children ready to head off to school soon. We wish them all the best.

Training

We currently have Chloe Gray, Catriona Fox, Rebecca Gray and Laura Nicholson working towards their SVQ 3 qualifications to become qualified Nursery Practitioners. The girls are progressing well with their training.

Charity of the Year

For 2022, all five Summers nurseries supported and raised money for two charities for the Ukraine crisis appeal. We raised £3,263.10 for CAFOD (an international development charity), and £4130.25 for UNICEF, giving a total of £7393.35 raised altogether for Ukraine. Thank you again for your kind generosity!

For 2023, the nursery is supporting the Great Ormond Street Zayed Centre for Research into Rare Disease in Children. The centre is a partnership between Great Ormond Street hospital for children, University College London (UCL) Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health, and Great Ormond Street Hospital children's charity. Great Ormond Street forms the largest concentration of children's health research in Europe.

The centre opened in 2019 and focuses on developing genomics expertise, pioneering cell and gene therapy approaches, as well as regenerative medicine therapies. The centre houses a state-of-the-art stem cell facility that allows researchers to develop new stem cell treatments for children with rare and complex conditions.

The centre is a catalyst for global collaboration and unique national and international partnership opportunities. Research is also unlocking invaluable treatments for more common diseases, and adult disease on a worldwide scale. It helps children with rare diseases, saving lives through accurate diagnosis and better therapies that are tailored to each individual child on a personalised approach to treatment.

New scientific breakthroughs and technologies offer hope for diagnosis and treatments for children that were unimaginable a few years ago. It is recognised that paediatric research is even more critical because early breakthroughs are likely to continue to come from the study of children with rare disorders, with findings having the potential to feed into treatments for more common conditions or those affecting adults.

So far in 2023 we have raised £24 for our Dress Down days, £48 for World Book Day, £38.80 for our Easter competition, and £283.35 was raised doing our Charity roll morning, giving a total of £394.15. A huge thank you to all the parents who continue to support our charity events.

Improvement Plans

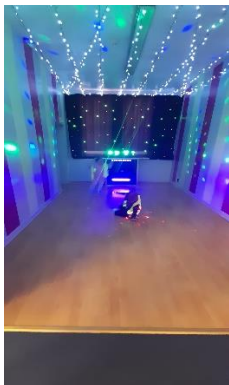
We are continuing to work towards our improvement plans which are:

1. Realising the Ambition: Using the Terminology when writing observations
2. Health and Wellbeing- All About Me forms. We will be using the forms more informatively to create and follow up observations creating a link between home and nursery.
3. Development of the garden based on questionnaire feedback.
4. Interactive Learning Diary (ILD) based on questionnaire feedback.

As you will see on the front board at the nursery entrance, we have made good developments in each area. Our garden has especially transformed, giving more opportunities to investigate, explore and learn throughout garden time. We are always looking for feedback to improve on what we have done, so please feel free to let us know.

Trips and Outings

In April, the Pre-school room enjoyed a trip to Dizzy Rascals. We travelled by bus, which was very exciting, being up high with lots to see for the children! They loved the various areas to explore, and a picnic lunch was enjoyed by all! A very popular area of the trip was the dance room, with the children able to choose their own music, dancing the day away!



The Toddler Room also enjoyed a trip to Playtown in Inverurie. There were lots of opportunities for role play and dressing up. We were even lucky enough to have a pancake snack with lots of fruit. The bus was just as exciting, where we all saw lots of animals in the fields and other modes of transport.



All our trips are arranged on different days throughout the year to ensure everyone has an opportunity to attend a nursery trip. The Pre-school will be heading off to The Fairy Woods at Federate in July, and there will also be another Toddler trip planned for September.

The Baby Room have been out for some lovely walks around the local community and have been lucky to have some picnics at the local parks.



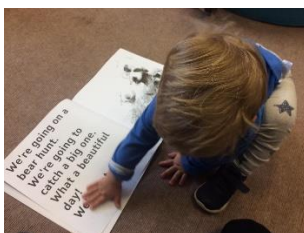
Learning Experiences

We have collectively been learning lots about Easter and springtime throughout the nursery, with children from some of the rooms also learning a little about Eid. We celebrated the King's Coronation with an afternoon tea party, and some children brought in crowns. We learned a little about the Royal Family and what the Coronation is. We have also celebrated many children's Birthdays this term, where there have been opportunities to bake with the children.



Baby Room

The children explored several nursery rhymes, which led onto our animal topic. They were good at recognising and identifying the noises each animal made and where they live. We had plenty messy play activities to participate in at the farm, and the children particularly enjoyed creating their very own farmyard in the tough spot, with the tractors being very popular! A visit to the library gave the children the opportunity to get some new books about animals and farms.



All the children continue to love the window stools and are still fascinated with the various modes of transport which pass by. The children have been learning all about lorries, vans, cars, buses and even bikes, and we have been for walks around the community to spot all the transport in our area. The children have practised sharing the vehicles, and they have learnt about the traffic light colours and what they represent. They have also participated in car washing, created car track pictures, and sung songs about various vehicles.





The garden has been very popular with the babies this term, and they have enjoyed the nicer weather, loving the new mud kitchen, spending lots of time making 'soup', 'tea' and 'coffee' for all the ladies!



Toddler Room

We have been very busy learning our numbers in the Toddler room. Many children were very engaged, counting the animals during our animal topic. During this number topic we explored lots of different and creative ways to help us in our counting journey. We made our own ice-cream cone with 10 ice cream scoops. Using Velcro, the children added scoops to the cone, practicing their counting skills. We also practiced counting by rote as we explored how to write the numbers and what they look like. Some of the children picked this up quickly and have begun to understand and recognise numbers.



The children enjoyed their Spring topic, and we looked at all the seasons. We explored various types of weather we would usually have during this time, and we talked about the bumble bees we see during this season and what they do. The children enjoyed learning that the bees help keep our flowers happy, drinking the nectar. Everyone made their own beautiful bees for our topic wall, and the children have been learning about the names of plants. They are particularly fond of the lavender in the garden as it has a lovely smell. Another favourite is the tall, yellow sunflower, and so the children are now growing their very own sunflowers in the garden. We are learning how to care for them, giving them lots of water.



Pre-school Room

The children in the Pre-school room have welcomed many familiar faces from the Toddler room! The new children have all settled in fantastically well and love having their own little animal tag to sign in and out of the nursery, as well as using it to identify their personal belongings. The older children have been very helpful in assisting all the new younger ones settle in, showing them around and helping them settle into our routines.

Pirates – continued

As the children continued to express their interest in pirates, we had our very own Pirate picnic, complete with homemade edible treasure in the form of short bread coins and jewel cupcakes. The children were able to practice number skills though measuring, as well as develop their number recognition skills through using the scales. We explored pirates' treasure, examining the different coins. Staff supported the children as they looked at number recognition, counting and simple maths equations. Lots of art and craft activities allowed creativity to flow in the room as the children chose to make a pirate scene for the wall complete with painted pirates, hand drawn treasure maps, and fluffy feather collaged parrots. The staff supported the development of story writing skills by helping the children to write their very own pirate stories. We learned that a good story needs a beginning, a middle and an end!

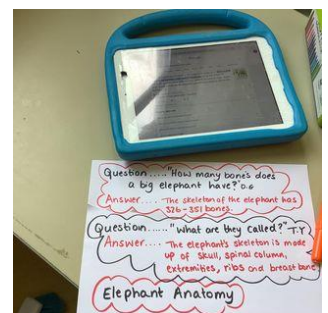


Welcome to the Jungle

After an interest in parrots and learning that they can be found in natural jungle areas, we then moved onto looking at other animals that live in the Jungle. We learned some facts about monkeys, snakes and elephants. We discovered that an “Elephants trunk sucks up to 8 litres of water and helps them to breath when they go swimming”.

While learning about snakes, the children learnt how to play a game of Snakes and Ladders. They had to take turns to roll the dice, count the spots and move the right number of spaces to reach the end.

On our writing/mark making table we had pictures of animals for the children to copy, supporting their pen control, which also helps with letter formation and recognition as the children practice writing the animals names.





Using a variety of foam shapes, the children had the opportunity to create a jungle animal. Some children used pens to add fine details and bring their animals to life. The children also created a simple story to go along with their animals too, using their imagination and knowledge gained throughout the topic.

Looking at all the different animals provided opportunities to look at different diets. Some animals are herbivores, and some are carnivores. The children began connecting this to themselves and their peers, discussing what they did and did not eat. We learned terms such as vegetarian, pescatarian and vegan and what each of these meant.



Springing into Spring

Did you know lots of different butterflies can be found in jungle areas? The Pre-school children have had their very own caterpillars to care for, watching the process of METAMORPHOSIS as they go through the different stages of the cycle.



While looking at butterflies, we have dived into the concept of symmetry. During garden times, the children used mega blocks to create giant symmetrical butterflies, with them working very well together with their peers. They also did some art and craft activities, which included printing and using loose parts, all creating fantastic symmetrical butterflies.



We have been busy getting green fingered, planting sunflowers to water, watching them grow, as well as learning about different parts of plants. The children have also been very involved in planting berries and vegetables in the garden too.



We reached out to a local florist within our community to see if they had some flowers we could have for the children to look at, and they gave us a very big surprise when they later delivered us a gigantic bunch of spring flowers, which included very big sunflowers! The children used the flowers in their role play as table decorations, and staff set up a still life painting area for mark making and flower

stamping. We also took some flowers to the garden where the children used the petals and the leaves to create loose parts collages... they all smelled lovely!



Self-service and food preparation

In Pre-school we operate a self-service snack and lunch, and the children have a “rolling snack”. The children are involved in washing and cutting up the fruit for snack times, learning about hygiene and safe food preparation, as well as cutting skills and knife safety. Rolling snack allows for the children to take snack when they wish, ensuring their play and learning is not interrupted. During self-service times, the children develop their communication skills and build confidence as they communicate with each other and pass the food options around the table. Staff support the children to try new foods and think about their portion sizes as they serve.



Play dough table

Within the room we have a self-service playdough making station attached to our construction area. The children have instruction cards to follow to make their own playdough, allowing them to measure and problem solve, working out if the dough is too dry or too sticky, figuring out how best to make it. Playdough is a fantastic opportunity to work on both fine and gross motor skills as the children mix the ingredients together and use a variety of tools to create intricate and detailed models.



Dates for the Diary

20th June – Parents evening

24th June – Sports Day

30th June – Graduation for Pre-school Children

Kind Regards

Erin Horne

Nursery Manager stswithinstreet@summersnurseries.com Tel - 01224 209966