



St Swithin Street Summer Newsletter - August 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are keen to welcome all the new families who joined us last term. The children have settled in excellently to the nursery and have quickly become part of the Summers family! We would like to take the opportunity now to say a big thank you and goodbye to all the children heading off to school in the coming weeks. It has been a pleasure to have cared for your little ones over the years and we are grateful you allowed us the opportunity to care for your children.

Staffing

Jessica Gordon has joined our Baby room. Jessica has experience in childcare and is a qualified Practitioner. Her working days are Tuesday-Friday. We also have Sana Rehan covering some of Marlena's maternity hours in the Baby room, working at present a Wednesday and Thursday. Marlena now has a beautiful baby girl called Zuzia.

Sian Campbell has joined our 2-3 room and will be working a Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Emily Innes who joined us as relief has also taken a position in our 2-3 room, covering Rebecca Dey's maternity position.

We are delighted to welcome the newest members of staff to our lovely staff team.

Training

We are happy to announce that both Catriona Fox and Chloe Gray have finished their SVQ 3. Both girls worked hard to gain their qualifications and are enjoying putting their learning into practice. Caitlin McKechnie has now started her SVQ 3 with Cairn Training.

We have some online training taking place also on Azilo. Our training board displays our termly learning. The board is filling up as the staff compete to be the most qualified!

Menus

We now have our menu boards added to the front door. The weekly menus will be displayed on here for all parents to view so please feel free to add comments regarding children's likes/dislikes or any suggestions for us.

We are also logging all meals on the online system, and we hope you are enjoying having the information to hand.

Charity 2024

We are supporting 'Kayleigh's Wee Stars' for our 2024 charity. The charity supports families financially with a child who has a terminal illness. The charity is based in Oldmeldrum, but the money goes to families throughout Scotland, and supports those parents financially who need to take time off to be

with their children in these tragic circumstances. It has strong connections with hospices and hospitals across Scotland.

So far, we have raised £63.50 for World Book Day, £36.50 from our Easter Egg competition, £254 for our Breakfast Roll Day, £55.25 from Tempest photography commission, £60 from our Euro 2024 draw, £540 from Sports Day and £525 from sponsorship money. So, in total an impressive **£1534.25!**

Last year, all the nurseries raised a total of £11.486.69 to help Great Ormond Street Zayed Centre for Research into Rare Diseases in Children. Great Ormond works alongside University College London tackling some of the most challenging children's diseases.

The money raised will be used: -

- To develop groundbreaking treatment for babies born with rare birth defects to the oesophagus (OA) where the upper part of the oesophagus fails to connect with the lower portion of the stomach.
- To evaluate the impact of early genetic testing and diagnostic outcomes for babies with epilepsy, monitoring seizures and measuring progress of diagnosis.
- For deliver of not-for-profit Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products for rare diseases.

Improvement Plans

Our 2023-2024 plans are drawing to a close. We have worked hard throughout the year on our Quality Assurance Calendars and our Health and Wellbeing folders. We will be evaluating these at our next staff meeting. We will collate our results from the parental and staff questionnaires to create our Improvement Plans for 2024-2025.

Trips and Outings

The Pre-school room headed to Brechin Castle centre on Tuesday 30th July! It was a fantastic day, and whilst there, the children explored the fairy woods, had a picnic and play at the park. They could also choose to participate in various activities including foot golf, crazy golf, the sledge run and go karts!

All our trips are arranged on different days throughout the year to ensure everyone has an opportunity to attend at least one nursery trip.

Children from each room have been out for some lovely walks around the local community and the children have been lucky to have some stop off snack breaks in the local parks. Some of the Pre-school children had the opportunity to go to B&Q for some plants, some visited the bank with some charity money, and of course, all of them receive the opportunity to visit Wee Green Space throughout the term.

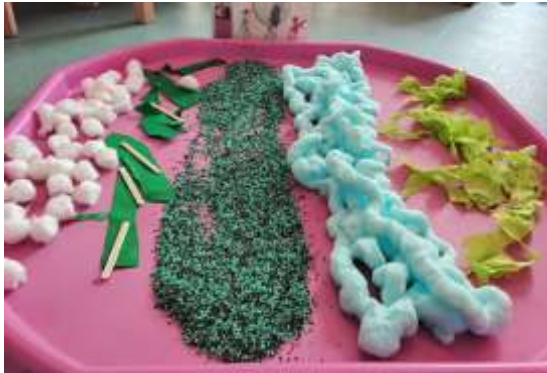
Learning Experiences

Baby Room

The children have been looking at numbers and shapes, learning about animals, as well as exploring what lives under the sea. They have had lots of opportunities to get messy whilst exploring textures, creating various works of art, which have included animal themed sensory trays. It has been great watching them develop their language skills as they learn the sounds some animals make and begin identifying some animals as well.

The garden has been a hit this term with the sunshine. We have been busy looking after our plants and flowers, and the children have been very enthusiastic, watching them growing bigger.

We celebrated friends' Birthdays last term, with many opportunities to bake, with staff supporting the children to progress their gross motor skills with mixing the ingredients, as well as helping them to learn to work together as a team.



Toddler Room

Our Toddlers have been very busy exploring the world of jobs. They have extremely interested in what their mummies and daddies do, so we decided to follow their lead and learn lots about the jobs people do. The children had lots of role-play opportunities to experience, getting the chance to express themselves and understand about their world around them.



The children have been enjoying lots of opportunities for role play, creating teddy bears picnics and making ice cream shops. They have been using their imaginations and have been supported to extend lots of skills through role play, where they are able to learn to share with others.



We have supported the children whilst learning about the different seasons, looking at summertime, and the varied Scottish weather has provided various learning opportunities within the room. The children have particularly enjoyed caring for their plants and are now beginning to name parts of the plants. They have also learnt about what they need to make them grow. The children love watering the plants in nursery and take good care of them.

Pre-school Room

The pre-school room have continued exploring their interest in languages this term. We were extremely lucky as one of our Baby room parents came in to do a Spanish lesson with us. It was so exciting to learn some words and some familiar songs in another language. We have also looked at some words in French and German and learnt to count to 10 in these languages.

Lots of the children have an interest in writing and can understand that as words are different in different languages they are written differently too. The children practiced their letter formation as they wrote familiar words such as mum, dad, hello and goodbye.

We also had the privilege of one of our mums who is a French teacher come into the Pre-school room to do a lesson for us. This was so lovely, and the children really engaged well. Whilst exploring languages, the children became interested in learning a bit more about the countries, especially landmarks. We then got lots of interesting books from our local resource centre which helped us to decide which landmarks we would like to explore, with The Eiffel Tower the most popular one! The children expressed their problem-solving skills and creativity by recreating it with varying materials across lots of areas in their room, which included art and craft, playdough and construction.

Our topics about countries was supported by the Euro 2024 also, where we all followed along closely with the games and enjoyed practicing our graph making skills, recording the results on our large board. The children were encouraged to learn about the different flags of the countries, and they created their own versions also.



Our topic about school has begun and we are loving dressing up in our school clothes, learning all about school routines and the different school buildings. We are all very much looking forward to our Graduation on Saturday 3rd August. We will be very sad to see our friends head off in the coming weeks, but we wish them all the best with their new adventures - we know they will be amazing!

As always, the garden has been very popular and the children have enjoyed lots of activities, in particular the transient art has been used a lot! The children have also been very creative using resources to express their ideas through loose parts.



Dates for the Diary

- Saturday 3rd August – Pre-school Graduation
- Tuesday 13th and Thursday 15th August – Shorts and Shades parties in each room
- Saturday 26th October – Halloween Extravaganza

Kind Regards

Erin Horne

Nursery Manager

stswithinstreet@summersnurseries.com

Tel - 01224 209966