

Inverurie Newsletter – Term 4 - APRIL 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you all had a lovely Easter, filled with joy and chocolate!
How are we into Term 4 already? Term 3 has gone extremely fast, with a positive and rewarding few months. The sun has made a sneaky appearance, teasing us, so it had better stay around!

Welcome to our new families. We hope you and your children have all settled in well, and we look forwards to lots of opportunities to learn and grow.

Staff News

Rebecca has headed off on Maternity Leave (20th April) and we welcome Elize Bruce from the 0-2 Room. Elize is excited to learn and work alongside the children within the 3-5 room and gain more knowledge with our curriculum.

Elize will be working Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 7.30am – 6pm.

Improvement Plan

We will continue to focus on: -

- Our new planning process
- Staff Training
- Parental Involvement

There is a wall display with more in-depth information outside the Baby Room door. We add evidence of things we have changed or improved on.

Charity of the Year 2026

This year we are supporting **Friends of the Neonatal Unit**. FOTNU is a charity which supports the neonatal unit at Aberdeen Maternity Hospital, which cares for premature and sick babies. The charity became part of the Archie Foundation in 2016, and raises funds for life saving equipment, staff training, and helps with direct family support, such as accommodation and travel costs for babies born too soon or sick across the North of Scotland. FOTNU are now the leading charity for the new Baird Family Neonatal Hospital, which is still under construction, and will include cutting edge research, drawing together several services which will include maternity, gynaecology and neonatal.

For more information, please follow the link - [Our story - Archie](#)

We would like to say a HUGE thank you for your continuous generosity, supporting our fundraising events.

Our recent Coffee Morning raised £815, and World Book Day raised £103.

We received 11 Excellent evaluation forms and 3 'Very Goods' – receiving your feedback is very important to us.

Our next fundraiser is Bacon roll week which will commence week of 11th May.

Mother's Day Breakfast

Thank you to those who managed to attend our Mother's Day Breakfast. it was a lovely idea for the mummies to have some special time with their child(ren), enjoying some breakfast and getting a little insight into the children's routine, and seeing them interact with their peers.

We had amazing feedback, so, Thank you.

Evaluation Forms – 20 came back to rate the experience 'Excellent' and we even gave the children an opportunity to vote and have their say – 15 said they were 'Very Happy' and 1 said it was 'OK'!!



Weather Appropriate Clothing/bags

Can we ask that you are vigilant with appropriate clothing to suit the forecast, as we are an all-weather nursery and love to go out for some fresh air at least twice a day.

As we are heading into spring/summer, can you ensure your child/ren have suitable outdoor clothing, puddle suits, sun hats etc.

I would also ask that you ensure your child/ren's bags are well stocked, ensuring pants and socks, and a few changes are available in case of any mishaps/water tray etc.

STEM

STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

In early years, it isn't about worksheets or complicated lessons - it's about giving children chances to explore, ask questions, and make discoveries through play.

Science → exploring nature, weather, animals, plants, water, and sand.

Technology → using tools and simple equipment, noticing how things work.

Engineering → building with blocks, loose parts, or natural materials, solving problems.

Mathematics → counting, sorting, measuring, comparing sizes, spotting patterns.

Young children are natural scientists and engineers. When they ask "why?", when they are mixing water with mud, balance blocks, or roll cars down slopes — they're already doing STEM!

We have created a STEM outdoor bag, which is a ready-to-go kit of simple resources that sparks curiosity and hands-on exploration outside.

It encourages active learning → Children use their whole bodies to test, build, and explore.

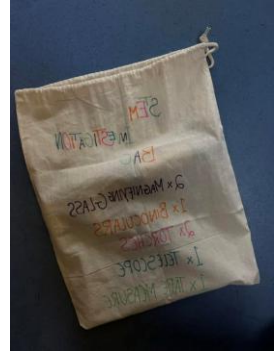
Supports curiosity → Magnifying glasses, measuring tapes, or bug viewers help children notice details.

Makes learning playful → Children can use everyday items (like cups, tubes, or pegs) in creative ways.

Connects with nature → Exploring outdoors links STEM with the natural world — seasons, weather, plants, and wildlife.

Promotes problem-solving & teamwork → Children work together to build, test, and experiment.

We will be taking our STEM bag on outdoor experiences, such as Wee Green Space and community walks! We will also be introducing a sign in and out system for you to be able to take the STEM bag home to go find some amazing things in the nature to take back to nursery and explore!



Outings/Trips

All rooms have continued to go out for walks, with the younger children going out in the buggies or walking with the reins.

The 3-5 children visited The Gonks of Gardenshillock for their Easter Bunny Bootcamp, which was amazing!!

The children had an amazing time reading the new bunny bookcamp story before we headed off to the trail. We split into groups visiting all the gonk houses and completing various activities, making bunny houses with nature resources and matching the scents back together in the potion bottles station.

The children enjoyed a bunny trail treat before we played at the park. We then enjoyed a picnic lunch before heading back to nursery on the bus.

Our 3–5 room went along to the Care home to do some crafting with the residents, Although, after a short time, the residents just wanted to sing and dance with the children, so that is what they did! They sang with great enthusiasm and confidence, bringing lots of smiles to the residents' faces. It was a lovely opportunity for the children to be part of the local community.

Each trip is rotated on different days to ensure that all children have the chance to attend at least one or more trip within the year.

Wee Green Space

The children have enjoyed their weekly adventures to Wee Green Space. They love exploring the outdoors and focusing on different activities. This term, they have engaged in lots of physical activities.



Watching sticks flow down the burn has been a highlight this term, and we have also engaged children in many stories in this lovely natural setting!

We have five groups that rotate on a weekly basis. You will have been informed who is in each group and what day they plan to go. Can you please ensure that your child/ren comes fully equipped for their trip that day.



0-2 Room

We had a very snowy start to the new year, which brought lots of excitement for the children. They thoroughly enjoyed walks to the field, where they explored the snow, went sledging, and had fun building snowmen.

Alongside this, we carried out a variety of science experiments linked to snow, helping the children to explore and discover hands-on experiences. One activity that the children particularly enjoyed was painting the snow, and they enjoyed seeing the colours change when the snow melted. We also enjoyed creative winter activities, including making snowflake pictures.



The children had a wonderful time celebrating Robbie Burns Day. They took part in a haggis taste test, where many of them showed they loved the delicacy! Staff also set a great example by trying it too.

The children enjoyed getting creative by making their own family tartan kilts, and on the day itself, our haggis was piped in by a piper before lunch, which was a lovely experience for everyone.

The Winter Olympics inspired our focus on sports at the beginning of the year. We chose this theme as the event was taking place, allowing the children to engage with a real-world celebration. The children enjoyed taking part in obstacle courses, helping to build their strength, coordination, and confidence.

We explored the different countries taking part, creating our own flags from around the world, encouraging creativity and early awareness of diversity.

To bring our sporting theme to life, the children took part in their own bike race in the garden, creating a fun and exciting competition where everyone could join in and celebrate their achievements.



We enjoyed celebrating Valentine's Day, Chinese New Year, and St Patrick's Day with a range of themed activities, crafts, and sensory play.



We have continued to follow the children's interest in vehicles, incorporating this into our play and learning opportunities. This has included creative activities such as painting on the slide, using car wheels dipped in paint, as well as mark making with pens attached to vehicles, which encourages exploration and early fine motor skills. We also extended this interest into the wider environment by completing a tick-list vehicle check during a community walk, where the children enjoyed spotting and identifying different types of vehicles.

We have had so many wonderful parent suggestions this term, and we have loved incorporating parental involvement into our topics and play experiences.

For the sea, the children explored different animals and their habitats. We transformed our small world area into an "Under the sea" scene within the room, and we used flashcards to introduce sea objects and animals, supporting language development and curiosity.

The boys and girls enjoyed a sensory room walk with coloured sand, foam etc, and we spoke about senses and the textures they felt beneath their feet.



When exploring animals, the children took part in a "Save the Animal" tuff tray activity, helping to free animals that were stuck, which encouraged problem-solving and caring behaviours. We also watched zoo cameras, and during group times, we explored a range of touch-and-feel sensory books to engage the children's senses. We also went for a community walk to Pets at Home to see the fish, and the children enjoyed doing a 'milk the cow' activity.



For music and movement, we made new song spoons, took part in baby yoga sessions, and enjoyed lots of nursery rhyme-themed crafts. These activities support physical development, rhythm and self-expression, and most of all, they are lots of fun!

2-3 Room

After the Christmas break, we were welcomed by a lot of snow! The 2-3 room made the most of it with lots of outdoor play, sledging over at the park and even taking the snow indoors for a little play. The children expressed so much excitement during this snowy period, and they really enjoyed the social element when sledging together, speaking about this for a while after.



One of our children's suggestions in January was "how snow melts". During our first week back, we helped the children to gain an understanding of this, giving them an awareness about science. The children experimented with warm water in a snow tea party, and they watched in amazement as the snow turned to water.



Towards the end of January, we focused on our country, Scotland, for Robbie Burns Day. To encourage this interest, we set our small world area up with Scottish food, flags, animals and Scottish story books. The children loved this and showed great imaginative skills when wearing the kilt to dance.

The children experienced a Scottish food tasting activity where they tried a variety of foods, including haggis. The 2-3's really enjoy baking which we encourage, as it helps to develop numeracy and social skills. During our Scotland topic, the children made their own oatcakes for snack- they were very proud and loved eating the final product!



In February, we discussed our emotions and kindness to others on the run up to Valentines Day, where we discussed who we love, and the children all made some very special craft pieces to take home.

Our favourite topic this term has been "Julia Donaldson". The children chose this topic when selecting their books at our local library.

Throughout this topic, the children showed confidence and great communication when discussing their favourite books. "Gruffalo"- L.O.H "Stick Man"- A.M. They engaged with sensory play and activities which promote literacy and language using the stories as an aid.



We loved exploring our local park to collect some sticks and leaves to make a hanging tree project in our cozy corner.

The children have been proud of their independence and often point to the images hanging from the tree, positively.



Furthering learning around diversity and culture, we focused on Chinese New Year and St Patricks Day. The children gained knowledge when mark making symbols, tasting new food, and using the STEM bag to explore for lucky coins and charms.

We introduced our “Curiosity cube” this term, which is a fishbowl with rotated resources to promote curiosity. We have had sticks and leaves, toy animals, flowers and moon sand with magnifying glasses and pincer tools.



3-5 Room

We started off the year looking at real life skills where we learnt about babies, recycling, people within the community and money. The children took a keen interest in babies after learning that Rebecca was expecting a baby! We learnt about how to care for them, and the children enjoyed having responsibility, as we did crafts with babies from the Baby room.

We then looked at money, practising spending our own, as there were opportunities for the children to buy their own sandwich ingredients to make their sandwiches for lunch!

We looked at the planet, and learnt all about recycling. We all learnt about what recycling means and how we can help the community by doing this at nursery.

We then moved onto learning about Scotland. We started off discussing tartan during Show & Tell, and moving on from this, the children created their own tartan using strips of paper, carefully weaving them through, practicing fine motor skills.

We also explored Highland dancing, where we learnt and practiced moves from a child who attends Highland Dance classes.

The children completed their first poems, which encourages children’s literacy skills - filling in the blanks, and creating their very own poem.



In February, we looked at friendship and love through writing letters and supporting the children to express their feelings, and how to be a good friend, and what this means. We also explored numeracy through learning about symmetry, and we made heart shapes with paint, creating symmetrical hearts.

The children made their own love lists, practicing their writing skills, and there were lots of conversations around friends, how to be kind, and we created mind maps of conversations, giving examples of how we do this at nursery.

Everyone loved making their own animal characters, and we learnt about life cycles. The children also practiced their numeracy skills, as they learnt about length and weight. They explored measuring with hand spans, measuring peers to see if they were all longer than a whale.

We explored the community, visiting chickens and buying their eggs!

The children especially enjoyed making their own book covers, picking an animal and creating a story about it.



In March, we moved onto Julia Donalson, and the children followed a story book every day for two weeks – there has always been a lot of interest in these story books!

Children created their own tiddler crafts using fish, tissue and different textiles, and they created their own snail trails, writing their names with glue, before adding glitter to finish. We also enjoyed a visit to Pets at Home, and the children took a checklist of animals, ticking off which ones they had seen, with much love being declared for the rabbits and guinea pigs!



This term, we introduced our new Pre-school council. This is a great opportunity for the children to have their voices heard through group discussions, sharing their opinions about nursery. For term 4, we discussed what we would like to learn - exploring dinosaurs, slime and chickens! We also discussed the UNCRC document and how this supports the children's rights, looking into what we have at nursery which supports some of these. Pre-school council is rotated each term, giving all the children an opportunity to join in. Please feel free to look at our floor book where all of our discussions are documented.

Upcoming Dates for Your Diary

Bacon Roll Week – Week commencing 11th May (All week)

Sports Day – Saturday 30th May

Father's Day Breakfast – Week commencing 15th June (All week)

2-3 Trip – Tuesday 1st July – Information to follow

3-5 Trip – Wednesday 2nd July – Information to follow

Pre-school Graduation – Friday 7th August

Pizza Week – Week commencing 5th October (All week)

*Christmas Closure – End of Play Tuesday 22nd December 2026 at 6.00pm
Re- open Wednesday 6th January 2027 at 7.30am*

Thank you

Suzanne Stephen

Inverurie Manager

inverurie@summersnurseries.com

01467 628862