



Wee Rascals Newsletter – April 2026 Term 4

Dear Parents/ Carers

We are delighted to finally see the sunshine make a welcome appearance! The brighter weather has given us the perfect opportunity to spend more time outdoors, and the children have been thoroughly enjoying picnics, fresh air, and exploring our outdoor spaces. It's wonderful to see their energy and enthusiasm as they learn and play in the sunshine, making the most of this lovely change in season.

We extend a warm welcome to the new children and families who have joined us since the start of the year.

Staffing

We would like to share a few staff updates with you all. We say a fond farewell to Emily Robertson and Caitlin Moir and thank them for their hard work and dedication during their time with us. We wish them all the very best in their next chapters.

We are pleased to welcome Chloe Cattnach, who has recently joined us as Room Leader of the Little Bunnies room. Chloe comes to us with previous experience as a 0-2 Room Leader and is halfway through her level 4 qualification. Her hours will be Monday to Wednesday, and Friday, 7.30am - 6.00pm.

We have also recently welcomed Kenzie Burr, who is based in our Busy Bees room. Kenzie has experience working in previous nurseries and is halfway through her level 3 qualification. She will be working a Tuesday to Friday from 7:30am–6:00pm.

We extend a warm welcome to Mya Webster and Hollie Nelson, who have joined our relief team.

All staff photos and working hours can be found on our staff notice board near the main entrance.

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.

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 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.

Little Bunnies

Under the Sea

The Little Bunnies have been developing their problem-solving skills, doing fun activities such as matching sea creatures to their prints in the playdough. The children demonstrated excellent turn-taking skills and cooperation, as well as engaging their senses as they explored the different patterns created by each of the sea creatures.



The boys and girls have been getting messy, enjoying painting in the tuff tray. They used various colours for the turtle shells, exploring different shades of blues and greens. These activities support colour recognition and help to develop hand-eye coordination.

The children have also enjoyed using the mosaic peg boards, placing pegs around the outlines of sea creatures. They also enhanced their animal recognition, identifying the different creatures they were tracing,

showing great focus and engagement throughout the activity.



Spring

The Little Bunnies have been getting very creative, using cardboard tubes and flower playdough cutters to create 'Spring Bloom' pictures. Throughout this activity, the children produced a lovely range of artwork to take home, using a wide variety of colours, and showing great imagination in their creations.





Throughout our spring topic, the children have been developing their problem-solving and colour recognition skills by matching pictures of different coloured flowers together. They did a fantastic job carefully ensuring each flower was matched correctly, showing great concentration and understanding.

Cheeky Monkeys

People who help us

The Cheeky Monkeys have been developing their problem-solving skills through role play, pretending to be Vets. They each took turns to match the toy animals to the corresponding x-rays of the animals. They did a fantastic job and demonstrated excellent turn-taking throughout this activity.

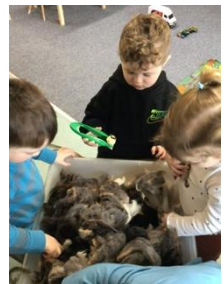


The boys and girls have been beginning to show an interest in letter recognition and have been asking what different words say. The children participated in an activity which supported their literacy skills, identifying and matching wooden letters to 'Stop' signs. Throughout this, the children explored a range of different letters, carefully turning them around to see if they matched, showing great curiosity and engagement.

Nursery Rhymes

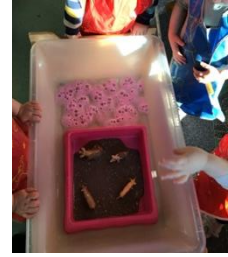
Some of the children had been showing a great interest in nursery rhymes, so we decided to develop this into a topic to further support their interests. This allowed us to build on the children's enthusiasm whilst also encouraging language development, rhythm, and listening skills through familiar and new rhymes.

Beth brought in some of her own sheep's wool for the children to explore. The Cheeky Monkey's displayed great fine motor skills, using tweezers to find and carefully lift various toy animals out from the wool. The children were keen to listen to where the wool came from and investigate the texture of it.



Whilst learning about 'Hey Diddle Diddle', the children took part in an obstacle course where they pretended to be the different characters from the rhyme. The children moved their bodies in a range of ways as they crawled through the tunnel, climbed over the balance beam, and jumped 'over the moon'. Throughout the activity, the children demonstrated excellent turn-taking skills, developed their gross motor skills, and shared lots of laughter and enjoyment.

The boys and girls had lots of fun getting messy whilst cleaning the pigs after rolling them in “mud”. Once the pigs were covered, the children then washed them in the crazy soap, enjoying the process from start to finish. The children took turns to make the pigs messy for their peers to clean, showing great turn-taking skills throughout the activity.



Under the Sea

We have recently moved on to our ‘Under the Sea’ topic, and we cannot wait to share all the exciting activities and learning experiences we have been enjoying with the children.

Busy Bees

Language and Literacy



The children took part in a Chinese New Year lucky dip game, learning the difference between a letter, a word and a number. They each selected a Chinese New Year-themed word, letter or number from the lucky dip and then identified which one they had chosen. Afterwards, when a word was selected, we explored some of the letters within it, helping to develop early recognition skills.

The children have been learning about “People Who Help Us”, and during this topic we read the story ‘*Officer George*’. From the story, we discovered the different jobs a police officer does throughout the day. The boys and girls then had the opportunity to act out what they had learnt by playing a game of Cops and Robbers in the garden, role-playing the different responsibilities of a police officer as part of their play.



The children have been using paper and pens to create their very own storybooks. They drew a variety of pictures and told staff what they had created, using their ideas to develop their own stories.

We enjoyed a wonderful range of books about horses, dinosaurs, and different animals. It was lots of fun sharing and reading all our stories together!

Numeracy

The children went for a walk around Kintore to develop their shape recognition skills and explore which shapes they could find in their local environment. During the walk, they identified a range of shapes, including spherical bushes, rectangular signs, circular wheels and oval pinecones.



The children have been getting very creative with paint as they explored and created their own symmetrical pictures.

In celebration of St Patrick’s Day, the boys and girls used paper and paint to make four-leafed clovers. They painted one half of the paper and then folded it in half to create a matching symmetrical design on the other side.

The children have been using weighing scales to explore which items around the room are heavier or lighter. They enjoyed selecting different resources and using their problem-solving skills to compare and identify which objects weighed more and which weighed less.



Health and wellbeing

The children took part in a “People Who Help Us” matching game, where they matched emergency service vehicles to the correct service that uses them. The boys and girls showed a great understanding throughout and were able to discuss why we might need to call on different emergency services.



The boys and girls participated in a dentist role-play activity, where they acted out the different roles of the dentist, receptionist, and patients. During this, we also discussed situations where it is safe to share personal information. In the role play area, the children completed registration forms and had a go at writing their names and addresses, developing both their literacy and understanding of personal information in a safe context.



The children enjoyed taking part in an activity focused on caring for babies and learning how to help others.

Using dolls, they practised feeding them with bottles, giving them baths, and putting on nappies and clothes. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and had lots of fun developing their caring and nurturing skills.

Other curriculum areas

We discussed Chinese New Year with the children. They learnt that during the celebrations, people light lanterns. The children then got very creative using paper, scissors and pens to design and make their own lanterns. They all looked amazing!



The children have been using Bee-Bots to learn about directions. They programmed the Bee-Bots to move through a maze, guiding them to the ‘fire’ to put it out.

The boys and girls are showing a great understanding of directional language and are having lots of fun learning about movement and sequencing.



Trips

The Busy Bees had lots of fun on their spring trip to Dizzy Rascals soft play. The boys and girls thoroughly enjoyed going down the big slides and climbing on the different equipment, making it an exciting and active day out.



Improvement/Development Plan

We are continuing to work on –

- Improving our outdoor space.
- Staff Continuous Professional Development
- Improvements to our playrooms, continuing to extend our loose parts.

Dates for your Diary

Week 25th May – Breakfast Morning

Tuesday 9th June – Busy Bees Summer Trip

Week 15th June – Bake Sale

Wednesday 17th June – Busy Bees Graduation

Wednesday 24th June – Cheeky Monkey's Summer Trip

Saturday 4th July – Annual Sports Day

Wednesday 8th July – Annual Parents Evening

Week 17th August – Pizza Making

Week 14th September – Stay and Play week

Week 21st September – Read-a-thon

Week 26th October – Halloween Bake Sale

Saturday 28th November – Christmas Fayre

- *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

Nursery Manager

weerascals@summersnurseries.com

01467 633270