



Wee Rascals Too Newsletter April 2026 – Term 4

Dear Parents/Carers

I cannot quite believe we are into April already and planning for Graduation, summer trips and school leavers!

Term 3 has flown by, with lots of learning opportunities, a garden tidy up, and taking inspiration from the Curiosity Approach!

Parent Interviews

Thank you to all parents who attended the Parent Interviews. These short meetings with your child's key worker allow you time to add to your child's Nursery Passport, discuss their focus week observation, and make yourself familiar with their Personal Plan. These are organised termly, with the last term of the year hosting our larger Parents Evening where your child's yearly report will be discussed. We are enjoying meeting parents termly, where there are opportunities to ask or answer any questions.

Facebook Page

Just a reminder that we do have a private Facebook page available for all parents/carers. Please ask if you have any questions.

Our Improvement/Action Plan

We finally have a date planned in April to erect the Poly Tunnel within the garden and we are so excited to start using our outdoor classroom. We will keep you updated with the progress!

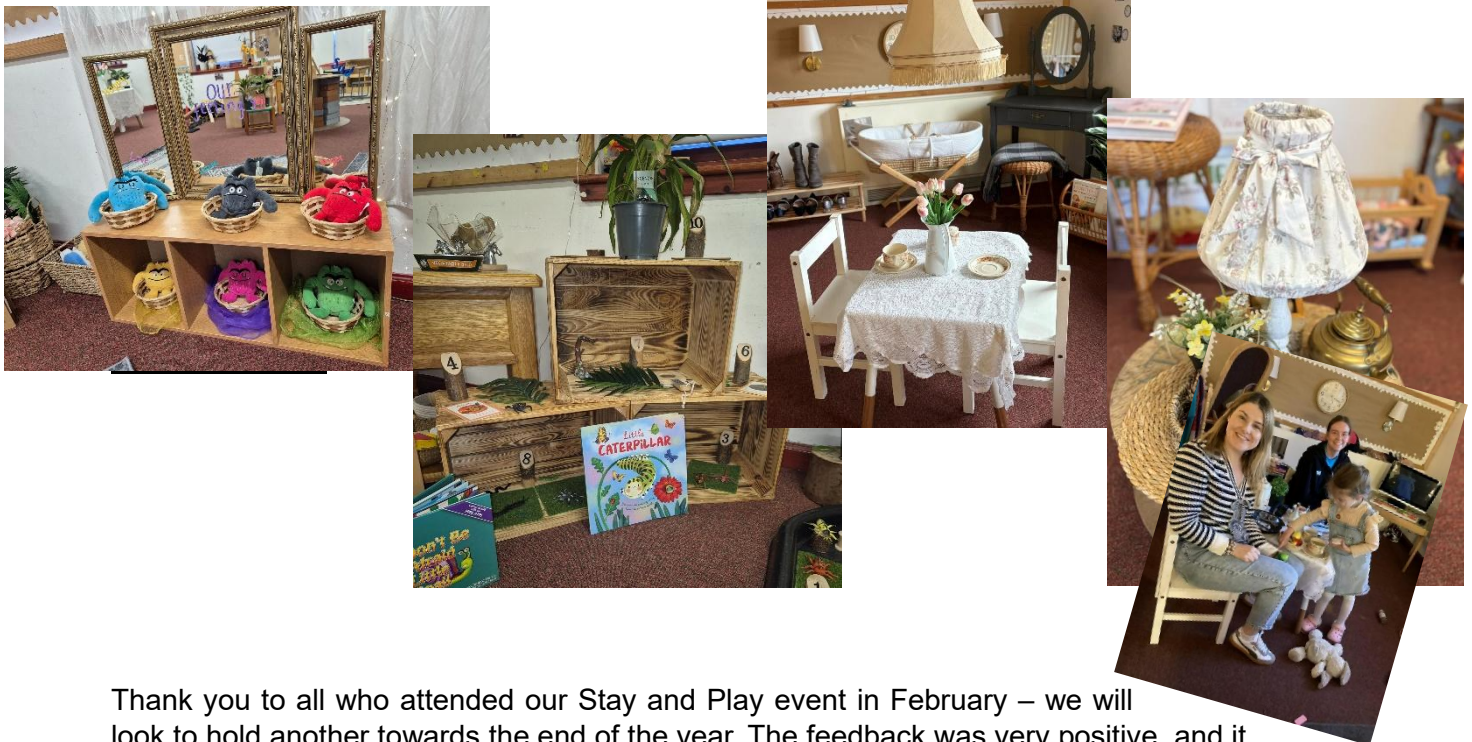
We have been focussed, taking inspiration and ideas from the Curiosity Approach which looks at natural open-ended resources which nurture a child's imagination. The rooms are certainly looking more welcoming, with an extension of loose parts added to the room, which is helping children to explore and use their imaginations, as well as creating a calming space for everyone to learn!

Below is a link to the Curiosity Approach website and we also have the book readily available within the Parent Library too!

<https://www.thecuriosityapproach.com/>

We are always on the lookout for interesting loose parts, so please remember that 'someone else's trash, is someone else's treasure!'

Showcasing some of the different areas throughout the rooms within the nursery which have taken inspiration from the Curiosity Approach!



Thank you to all who attended our Stay and Play event in February – we will look to hold another towards the end of the year. The feedback was very positive, and it was lovely to have parents/carers within the rooms, which allows us to see what the nursery offers!

Staff Training

Briony Morrison and Amy Mackie are about to start their SVQ Level 3 in Childcare.

Charity 2026

Our 2026 Charity of the Year is **Friends of the Neonatal Unit**. Since joining the Archie family in 2016, this Aberdeen based charity has provided outstanding support and care for babies born prematurely or unwell, making a real difference to local families and their newborns. FOTNU raise funds for life saving equipment, staff training and direct family support such as accommodation, and travel costs for babies born too soon or sick 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.

Our Bacon Roll Morning was a success, and we raised a fantastic £237! Thank you all so much for your orders. It certainly kept the staff very busy first thing in the morning.

Our next charity event will be Pizza week in May – more information and order forms will follow!

We currently have our Wynford Farm Voucher up for grabs, which is available to enter with lucky squares within the hallway.

Learning Experiences

Little Bunnies

The Little Bunnies have had a busy and exciting start to the year, with lots of lovely activities and experiences for the children to enjoy.

After coming back from the Christmas break, we started off with a Scotland topic to celebrate Burns Month. The children had great fun exploring Scottish traditions through lots of sensory and creative activities. They made their own “haggis” pictures using different textures with wool and paper, and they enjoyed experimenting with tartan patterns using paint and felt. We also listened to Scottish music and used scarves for simple dancing and movement.

In the construction area, the children loved working together to build Edinburgh Castle, using blocks and loose parts, which was great for encouraging teamwork and imagination.

We then followed the children’s strong interest in tractors and animals by moving on to a farm topic. This involved lots of messy play, which the children absolutely loved, including exploring hay, water, and different textures to create their own farm scenes.

We spent time learning animal sounds, singing songs, and using small-world animals and puppets to support the children’s play and language.

Our local walks were a big highlight, where we went out to spot sheep and other animals, helping the children make real-life connections. We also focused on mummy and baby animals, matching them together and talking about our own families, which linked nicely to Mother’s Day. The children made some lovely keepsakes and took part in sensory craft activities to celebrate.

As spring approached, we moved on to Easter, where the children enjoyed lots of arts and crafts. They explored pastel colours through painting, did some printing activities, and decorated eggs using different materials and textures. We also continued with sensory play using Easter themed resources such as shredded paper and toy eggs.

The children really enjoyed baking activities, helping to mix ingredients, explore different smells and textures, and they all practised taking turns.

Our current focus is Health and Wellbeing, which encourages children to learn about themselves, looking at bodies and how to keep healthy.

The children have been using mirrors, songs, and games to learn about themselves and our facial features. We’ve also been taking part in lots of physical activities such as climbing, dancing, and soft play to support development.

Alongside this, we’ve been talking about healthy foods through role play-based activities, and we’ve been encouraging calm and quiet time with stories, sensory lights and relaxing activities within our story and calming corner.

It has been a lovely start to the year, and the children have been so engaged, curious, and happy in their learning.



Busy Bees Room

The Busy Bees started their term delving into Chinese New Year, learning the numbers 1-10 in Chinese, copying mandarin signs, creating their own Chinese lanterns, and taking part in Chinese Food Tasting – trying spring rolls, prawn crackers and noodles!

We looked up where China was on the Globe, and the children also loved learning about Chinese celebrations such as the Celebration of Light. They looked at the lanterns which light up the streets at the end of the celebrations, and the children learnt about the red envelope with money which brings good luck and fortune.

Furthering our knowledge of different countries, the children celebrated St. Patrick's Day, creating their own four leaved clovers, researching the Irish flag and taking part in Irish Dancing!



In March, we visited Wynford Farm – where we got to meet a wide range of animals, which included snakes and geckos! The children loved the outdoor sand area, the giant inflatable outdoor cushions, and the indoor soft play.



We have been implementing STEM Learning after the Pre-school staff attended STEM Learning Training with Aberdeenshire Council. This has encouraged concentration, fine motor skills and intricate learning – using spaghetti and peas, threading, sewing, clay building and building bridges etc with the loose parts.

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.

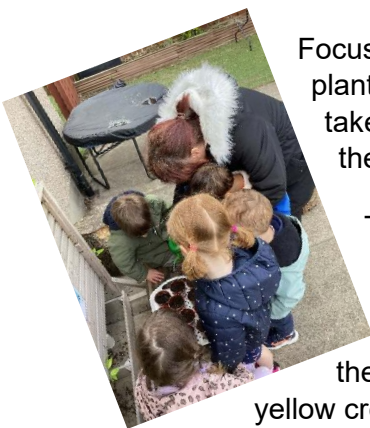
Science → exploring nature, weather, animals, plants, water, and sand.

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!



Focusing on spring, we made good use of our outdoor greenhouse, with the children planting mint, parsley, basil, strawberries, primroses and sweet peas. Everyone has taken great pleasure in observing the plants growing, and what they needed to help them grow.

The children enjoyed researching the weather, looking at rainbows, rain and the sun. We created our own rainbow experiments using food colouring and vegetable oil with pipettes to create a rainbow effect with water. We also put various textured materials into the tuff tray, with cotton wool representing the clouds, yellow crepe paper for the sun, blue water and droppers for rain and coloured shredded streams of paper for the rainbows, and children were able to create their own designs using these materials onto a paper plate!



We watched our caterpillars form cocoons and then they transformed into beautiful butterflies, which allowed us to observe lifecycles up close! ,,,,,,, and we watched as they fluttered off into the wonderful sky!

This then led onto us looking at mini beasts. We discovered where various mini beasts live, in places such as deadwood, under logs, leaf litter and soil, and the children learnt what they need to stay alive. Some eat plants, nectar and leaves, with others eating insects, snails and worms! This sparked several minibeast hunts, with the children looking for different minibeasts when out walking in the local environment.

SIMOA – We have focused on SIMOA the Elephant, and Adele created a SIMOA Safety bag which the children can take home. This focuses on things such as security, door safety and risk assessing.

We have been focusing on health and wellbeing with the children, looking at handwashing and the importance of correctly washing hands to prevent germs, bugs and illnesses.

We have also focused on our emotional regulation – using the Zen Den area to create a quiet and calm space for the children, discussing emotions at our new Emotion Station within the Story Corner!

Agnes has also been helping with our Health and Wellbeing Group times – children have been looking at where food comes from with the children, and what is healthy and unhealthy to eat.

We continue to visit The Garioch Gymnastics fortnightly on a Thursday morning during term time, and Laura from Flashdance visits us for our weekly dance class every Tuesday afternoon!

Date for the Diary

Pizza Week – Monday 11th May – Friday 15th May

Parents Evening – Tuesday 16th June

Graduation – Friday 19th June

Sports Day – Saturday 18th July

Christmas Fayre – Saturday 21st November

- *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,

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