

Newsletter – April / May 2022 – Term 4

“Together we make a family!”

Follow us on Instagram and like us on Facebook!

Two great ways for you to keep up to date with all the latest news from the KingsWellies gang!

Hello Spring! We have been soooooo very busy this year and have lots planned during term 4.

Easter Celebrations

We have been very busy celebrating all aspects of Easter. We have been making Easter bonnets, painting daffodils, planting in our allotments, making lots of chocolate treats, finding out about the lifecycle of a chick, researching the life cycle of frogs, butterflies, and bunny rabbits, lots of arts and crafts, baking and making Easter cards.

We have also had great fun painting, decorating and rolling our eggs down the Prime Four “Mount Everest” hills beside the nursery. We will also be hearing about the Easter story from the Minister from Kingswells Church and will be learning all about this very important celebration.

What else have the Wellies Gang been up to this term so far?

Chinese New Year, Robbie Burns Day, national kindness day, Makaton training, baking, pancake day, Valentine’s Day, random acts of kindness day, national anthem day, minibeast hunts, planting in our allotments, supporting our Guide Dog puppy called Pudding, collecting tadpoles, World Book Day, Mother’s Day and LOTS more.....



Welcome Back

We are all also very excited to welcome all of our parents and friends back into the nursery building after a VERY long two years of dealing with Covid. Please complete our Welcome Back Consultation which is attached to this newsletter



Healthy Body, Happy Me - KingsWellies Health Curriculum

Health and Wellbeing is one of the main parts of our curriculum. During this term, we will be getting involved in LOTS of health and happiness activities. It is particularly important that we all focus on being kind to ourselves and others. It is vital that we safeguard the mental health and wellbeing of all of our children and staff

We are going to be extremely busy promoting our Health and Wellbeing curriculum.

For more ideas on what you can do with your child at home to promote health and happiness, you can download lots of activity guides from www.ndna.org.uk/healthy

- Music and movement
- Active play
- The Daily Mile
- Physical literacy
- Floorbooks
- Child-led committees
- Life Skills Awards
- Treasure hunts
- Grow well choices
- Healthy eating
- Keeping fit
- Staying safe
- Mental health – keeping my body and mind healthy
- Bucket fillers!
- Praise and encouragement – celebrating success
- Kindness and respect for those around us



Outdoor Education

Our Outdoor Committee will be working hard with Scott and AJ to improve our outdoor education area. Laura and Caroline also have lots of exciting ideas for our outdoor area so will be working hard to ensure that it is awash with lots of literacy and numeracy activities. Please complete our Outdoor Play Area Consultation which is attached to this Newsletter. Please give us your feedback on how we can continue to improve this very important area.



Staffing Update

Welcome to Alicia, Megan, Eliza, Molly, and Pedro who have all recently joined us as practitioners within our rooms. Pedro is a qualified primary teacher who will primarily be working with the children on their Spanish and PE skills.

Also to AJ who is our new part-time janitor. As part of his role, AJ will be working with the children on developing their Technology skills as part of the Early Level Curriculum. We even have a floorbook and wall display dedicated to AJ and his child-led projects. We are delighted to welcome such experienced practitioners to our team.

Huge congratulations also to Amy Watson who has stepped up to an Acting Supervisor role within the Wellie Totts room. Well done Amy – this is a huge achievement and very well deserved! You have worked extremely hard to get to this point. Please support Amy as this will be a steep learning curve.

Best wishes also to Sarah, Annabel, Maggie, and Hannah who have either recently left, or will be leaving us soon. Sarah has moved to work in England over the Summer (but will be returning to us), Hannah has moved to a school nursery and Annabel will be working in a travel agency. You have all been great assets to KingsWellies. We will miss you all so very much. Keep in touch.



Congratulations also to Marcia, Eibhlish, Steph and Simone who have all recently announced their pregnancies. We are really thrilled for you all. All four will be starting maternity leave over the coming months. That makes eighteen staff over the past couple of years who are going to be (or have become) new mums. Good luck ladies. We can't wait to meet the new members of the Wellies Gang!

HUGE congratulations also to Cari who will be getting married in May. We cannot wait to see your stunning wedding photos Cari. Good luck for the big day.

Welcome back also to Rachel, Lauren and Karla who will all be returning from maternity leave soon. All will be returning in the capacity of Supervisors.



Babies

We realise that there have been lots of staff changes recently. We have had to move some staff to new rooms in order to ensure that we have a good balance of old and new staff in each room. We have considered all room moves very carefully. However our aim is to ensure consistency as much as possible for our children, in their everyday lives. Although some children may experience changes in their Key Workers, we will ensure that this is done very sensitively and over time. Staff will keep you abreast of all changes. Please also see room supervisors and key worker charts (at each door) for your information. Photos of all staff members are also up outside the rooms.



Preschool



Toddlers

Children as Active Learners: Books for bereavement, loss, grief, stress, worry and separation

We have all of these books available in nursery. Please just see a member of staff if you would like to borrow any of them. We also have child lending libraries, parent lending libraries, kindness bags, bucket filler bags, literacy bags, numeracy bags, health and wellbeing bags, Pudding the Guide Dog bags and Ziggy and Patsy bags which can all be borrowed and used at home to further develop your child's learning and engagement. Please just ask a member of staff who will be happy to help.

- Fly, eagle, fly – Christopher Gregorowski
- Badger's Parting Gifts – Susan Varley
- No matter what – Debi Gliori
- The goodbye book – Todd Parr
- Ida, Always – Caron Levis
- I miss you – Pat Thomas
- Dead bird – Margaret Brown
- Mum and Dad glue – Kes Gray
- The huge bag of worries – Virginia Ironside

What will we be learning and thinking about in term 4?

Over the next few weeks, we will be focusing on a variety of topics in our playrooms. These will include:

- Health Focus– LOTS going on!
- KINDNESS – Are you a bucket filler or a bucket dipper? We will be working on promoting Kindness
- Writing our names and learning lots of rhyming words
- Child-led improvement groups – Our Eco Group, Kindness Group, Playground Improvement Group and Graduation Group will keep working hard to improve our nursery.
- Allotment planting and hanging baskets
- Life cycles
- 2D and 3D shape
- Seasons, Summer and sun safety – **please remember your sun cream!**
- The Scottish Daily Mile - we aim to jog, run or walk for up to 15 minutes every day!
- LOTS of Reflection Time in our interest / colour groups; talking about our learning and what we would like to learn with our key workers.
- Working on our floorbooks
- Technologies with AJ
- Outdoor play – barbeques, pizza oven, mud kitchen, water wall, minibeast hunts, dens, Mount Everest and lots more
- Grow well choices – making healthy decisions
- Makaton – we are getting good at using this sign language!
- Transport and Road Safety

- Reading and studying our books from our Book Bug Bags
- Visits out and about in the community – using the bus
- Visits from our P1 teachers
- Visits to some of our schools
- Rules and routines
- Getting ready for school
- 2nd April – World Autism awareness day
- 7th April – World Health Day
- 12th – Space Flight Day
- 21st April - Birthday of Queen Elizabeth
- 23rd April – St George’s day (England)
- 25th April – World Penguin day
- 27th April – Tell a story day
- 30th April – International jazz day.
- 30th April – National honesty day
- 1st May – Mother Goose day
- 12th May – World migratory bird day
- 15th – International day for families
- 24th May – Scavenger hunt day
- 25th May – National tap dance day
- 31st May – No tobacco day
- Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing – LOTS of exciting learning opportunities.



Staff Training Update

All staff continue to work through our Collegiate and Continual Professional Development Calendars and are also able to access a great number of courses and training opportunities through digital formats. Training which is ongoing during this term includes:

- Emotion coaching and positive behaviour management
- Sleep Safe Scotland Training
- Outcomes for children
- Stepping in to leadership
- Leadership at all levels

- Practical management skills and expectations
- First words – supporting children to say their first words
- Outdoor learning
- Meaningful community links
- Unlocking schematic play
- Attachment theory and mindfulness
- There are no high heels or a home corner in P1 – active play
- Core cognitive skills and self-regulation
- Azillo Training
- SVQ Training – Children and Young People
- Children's Panel Training – Ongoing (Kerry)



Extra – Curricular Activities

The children have LOVED having our specialist teachers back with us this term. Yoga, Flashdance, Moo Music, Kids Rock and French have ALL been a great success. Also we wish Linda (French teacher) to get well soon. Linda had a bad fall and ended up in hospital but is on the mend now! We miss you Linda. We will continue to add to these experiences for our children. Look out for lots of visits out and about this term too.

Parent Engagement Events

We would like to invite our parents to join us for a variety of parent engagement events this term. More information to follow. Please put the following dates in your diaries:

23/5/22 – Stay and Play Day Wellie Jellies – 2-4pm

24/5/22 – Stay and Play Day Wellie Babies – 2-4pm

25/5/22 – Stay and Play Day Wellie Totts – 2-4pm

26/5/22 – Stay and Play Wellie Beans – 2-4pm

7/6/22 – Parent's Evening for ALL children – 6-8pm

Parent Council

Marcia has been in touch to arrange a date for a meeting this term. It will be held on **27/04/2022** at **6:30pm** Please get in touch if you have any items for our agenda. Many thanks.



Parental Consultations

Question of the month April /May 2022

Each month we strive to self-evaluate our practice because we want to be a better nursery. We also need our parents to give us feedback. Please take five minutes to add to our YOU SAID / WE DID board. You will find post its and pens beside the board. Many thanks – we very much value your feedback.

KingsWellies Policy of the Month

This month we would like to provide you with the opportunity to review and consult on our Nursery Daily Routines Plan. This shows you all the different areas from CfE that we cover on a daily basis. We hope that you find this information useful. The Plan is attached for your information.

Parent Tips, Ideas and Suggestions

This is a space for parents to communicate with each other. If you have any suggestions, please email us with your ideas so that we can include them in this section of the newsletter.

KingsWellies suggestion: Think about mental health and how to be consistently kind and respectful to ALL those around you. Make use of our lending bags and libraries to have some fun with your children at home.

Comments, Compliments and Concerns

Please give us your feedback – good and bad. It means a lot to us! We only want to keep improving in order to provide the BEST service possible. PLEASE make us your first port of call if you have any comments or concerns. If we work together, we will be able to achieve the very best for all of our children. Many thanks.

Drive Carefully

Please always drive carefully and reverse park when in our car park. The speed limit is 5 miles per hour at all times. Many thanks.

If you would like this newsletter or any other documentation from nursery translated into another language or an alternate reading format, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Absences

Please call the nursery by 10am to inform us if your child won't be in that day. This is in line with our Child Protection and Health and Safety Policies

Clothing

Please ensure that all items of clothing, bibs, bottles, comforters are labelled with your child's name

Fundraising this term

Family Photo Days – Eastside Photography

Befriend A Child – 245 Challenge

P1 Transition

We have around 40 children who will be leaving us in July/August to go to P1.

These children will come from both rooms, Wellie Beans and Wellie Jellies. We have lots planned to make this transition process as easy for them (and parents) as possible. Activities include:

- Visits to their own schools (school to provide dates)
- Visits by their new teachers to Kingswellies (we have already invited them all)
- Visits to Kingswells School and Playground
- Practicing how to line up, get our own coats on, change our shoes, pack our bags, and eat our play-piece
- Can we write our names?
- Developing our independence and resilience
- Completing our Life Skills Awards
- Bus journeys
- Focus on Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing
- School Uniforms
- Rules, Routines and Friendships
- Looking at our school websites
- Wellie Beans and Wellie Jellies spending lots of time together to discuss P1 and prepare for school
- Individual Learning Journeys sent to each school
- Lots of "School" stories and "School" topic activities
- Parent's Night

- Key Workers to contact each school to pass on all relevant individual information
- Stay and Play dates
- Learning Packs/bags available at each door to take home.
- Parents invited to visit each school (schools to provide dates)
- Graduation!!



Please let us know if we have missed anything. Have you got any other ideas of how we can make this exciting (but daunting) process as easy as possible?

