



newsletter

May 2017



"Together we make a family!"



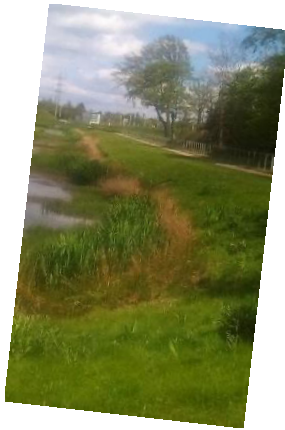
Follow us on Twitter, Instagram and like us on Facebook!

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

What have the Wellies Gang been up to this month? Yoga, library visits, Moo Music, Daily Mile (lots of walking), hot dogs on the BBQ, Book Bug Bags, visits from our P1 teachers, football training, building dens and LOTS MORE



We are trying to complete our "Daily Mile" challenge by walking LOTS during the day. Rob and Alistair (Prime Four Ambassadors) explored the new landscaped area with us. We can't wait to hunt for mini-beasts, have picnics, practice for sports day and investigate the plants and flowers! We have also been out and about looking for environmental print, shape, numbers and patterns in our local community. We have been taking lots of photos with our huddles and cameras and are making a floor-book showing what we have found.



Superhero Week

We had GREAT fun during Superhero Week! We especially loved our sponsored DANCEATHON! It was a lovely day, so we had our disco outside – Statoil certainly seemed to enjoy it too! Many thanks to everyone for your very kind donations. We raised a whopping £312.45 for Northsound Radio Cash for Kids Appeal.



Goodbye Chickens

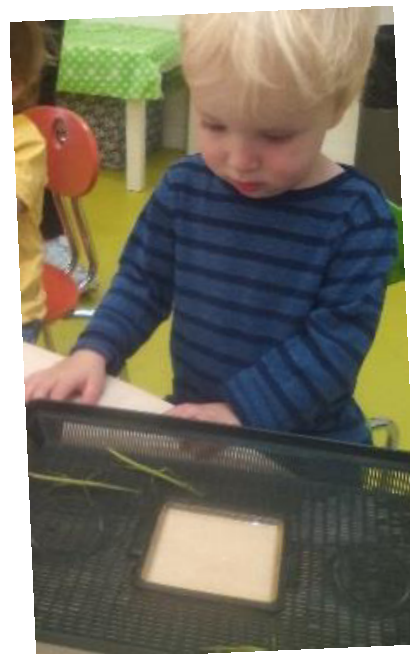
Our chickens have gone to a new home! They have gone to a lovely farm where they have LOTS of space to run and peck. They are very happy to have so much space and lots of other chickens to befriend. We will keep you updated on their progress. Good luck Graeme, Fife, Stuart, Deidre, Gail, Rocky, Jaws and Nippy! We will miss you!

Over the Summer, we will speak to the boys and girls about what sort of pet they would like to join the Wellies gang. Any ideas, please let us know.



P1 MAGIC Graduation Party

This year we have 22 very grown up boys and girls who will be leaving us at the end of the Summer (or before) to start the next exciting part of their lives in P1! As a special treat, they have decided that they would like to plan a graduation party to celebrate. They have already booked a magician and are planning, organising, preparing and shopping for their special party. The party will take place during the evening of Tuesday 27th June from 6-7.30pm. Parents are invited to attend from 7pm to see your children receive their graduation certificate. **Any boys and girls who do not usually attend nursery on a Tuesday and are leaving us to go to school, are more than welcome to come along to celebrate too!**



Wow - Look at our Aldi shopping lists! The boys and girls will have to budget and shop for their own party food! We have been busy making graduation decorations, hats and designing certificates and invitations too!



Pre-School Reports and Parent Interviews

The pre-school staff have been busy writing reports for our children who will be moving to P1. These will be sent home to parents shortly. There will also be an opportunity for staff to meet with parents to discuss individual progress.



Additional ad hoc days, holidays/illness days and swapping days

If you would like to book any additional ad hoc days, then please see Kerry or Scott. We will do everything that we can to accommodate you.

Unfortunately children who are on holiday or ill, cannot be given a discount in their fees. This is because we still have to employ all of our staff and pay all of our usual outgoings, even when children are absent.

We are also unable to swap days. If we agreed to swap days for everyone who made this request, it would be totally impossible to accommodate all patterns. It would also be extremely difficult to plan staffing, book lunches, buy snacks, book activities etc.

Many thanks for your understanding.



Staffing Update

A huge welcome to Amy, Leanne and Samantha who have recently joined the team. Please make them feel welcome as they get used to life within the busy Wellies environment. We will also be welcoming some new Summer support staff who will help by covering staff holidays.

Staff will also be visiting a range of other nurseries over the coming months.

Amy



Leanne



Samantha



Congratulations

HUGE congratulations to Holly and Kayleigh who have both just completed their SVQ3 in Early Years and Childcare. This is a great achievement and a huge amount of effort when working full time also. We are very proud of you both! Well done ladies – pay rise now!

Kayleigh



Holly



Natalie Darcy has also recently given birth to baby Layton. He is lovely and they are both doing well!

Kirsty

Well done to Kirsty who completed her Elementary Food Hygiene and Rights and Protection units whilst at college. Great work!

Kerryn also worked very hard in the production of Sister Echt for Aberdeen University student show. They raised an amazing £92194.15. Brilliant effort Kerryn – the show was amazing!

Kerryn



Life Skills Awards

This month in the Wellie Beans, we will be focusing on the following:

Pink Award: I have helped to grow a plant and know how to look after it, I can look after my nursery bag and its contents, I usually have a healthy snack

Red Award: I have helped to grow a plant and know its basic parts, I can work with numbers up to 20, I can use scissors safely, I can pick a healthy snack

Please help us by reinforcing these at home too! This is very important as we move on up to P1 and to our pre-school year.

Education Scotland Inspection

Please follow the attached link to take you to our full inspection report. We are delighted with the results, especially as we are such a NEW nursery. Most new nurseries / schools are not inspected by Education Scotland for at least five years. This is in order to give them time to fully embed the curriculum. I will produce our Improvement Plan for session 2017/18 shortly. This will focus on our areas for improvement as highlighted by Education Scotland. I will share this with you in due course. Many thanks for your ongoing support.

<https://education.gov.scot/reports/aberdeen-city/7328470>

World Play Day / Stay and Play Day

Many thanks to everyone who came along to our Stay and Play Day sessions. We hope that you enjoyed seeing all of the hard work that goes on at KingsWellies. If you would like to join any of our extra-curricular groups, please let Marcia know. The children and staff would LOVE to welcome you to join in all of our fun!



This month we will be focusing on a variety of topics in our playrooms. These will include:

- Planting our hanging baskets, our garden wellies and tending to our allotments
- Visits from our P1 teachers
- Visits to our new schools
- Visit from Stage Coach with one of their buses
- Visits to and from other nurseries
- Visits to Kingswells School playground for our snack
- Visits to Dobbies
- Practicing for our sports day (date to be confirmed)
- Bike Week 2017 with Dr Bike
- How to be GOOD TIDIERS, GOOD LISTENERS and GOOD FRIENDS
- Have you filled your bucket today? A guide to daily kindness and respect for kids
- KingsWellies Life Skills Awards
- Daily Mile – Environmental Print, shape, numeracy and pattern walks
- Building a bug hotel for our mini-beasts
- Learning about what lives under the sea
- Practicing our Fire Drill and learning about keeping safe
- 2d and 3d shape – lots of junk modelling. Please give us your junk!
- Writing our names and learning lots of rhyming words
- Learning about money in our class supermarkets
- Brushing our teeth and visits from Childsmile
- Learning Makaton sign language
- 25th May – Learning about Ramadan
- 31st May – World NO Tobacco Day – we will be campaigning! Look out for our posters!
- Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing – LOTS of exciting learning opportunities



KingsWellies Policies of the Month

This month we would like to provide you with the opportunity to review and consult on our **Sciences Policy** and our **Intimate Care and Adult Protection Policy**. We hope that you find this information useful. Please give us your feedback and suggestions with regards to these important documents.



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.

We also have Compliments slips available in reception in relation to our staff. The staff work very hard and we all know that it is nice to hear a compliment from time to time. Many thanks to those parents who have already paid staff members a compliment. We are always looking for Workers of the Week and Workers of the Month.

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

ParentLine

SCOTLAND 08000 28 22 33

Putting families and children first

Sciences Policy

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|------------------|-------------------|
| Published | October 2014 (V1) |
| Revised | Session 2017/18 |



Rationale

Scotland's social, economic and environmental future is increasingly dependent on science. At KingsWellies Nursery we believe that Science plays an important role in the education of all our children. A sound science education therefore is of crucial importance in our rapidly changing and growing technological world. Through learning in the sciences, children will develop the knowledge, understanding and skills necessary for their development as scientifically literate citizens. Engaging in collaborative and investigative tasks will also allow children to build skills to become inquisitive, creative, inventive and enterprising adults.

Principles and Practice

Learning in, through and about the Sciences enables children to:

- develop their interest in, and understanding of, the living, material and physical world.
- engage in a wide range of collaborative investigative tasks
- develop important skills to become creative, inventive and enterprising adults in a world where the skills and knowledge of the sciences are needed across all sectors of the economy.

Science has the capacity to engage and fascinate learners of all ages, interests and levels of skill and achievement. It is therefore important that all nursery staff look for opportunities within their own teaching approaches for interdisciplinary learning and to foster partnerships with professionals and organisations within the scientific field. This will allow delivery of rich and varied learning experiences to progressively develop skills, knowledge, understanding and attitudes, therefore maximising achievement for all KingsWellies Nursery children.

Sciences: Aims

Through providing a range of challenging and well-designed practical activities which cover a variety of rich contexts and draw on important aspects of everyday life; we aim to begin to develop a range of skills in our KingsWellies children.

These include:

- a curiosity and understanding of the environment and their place in the living, material and physical world
- a secure knowledge and understanding of the big ideas and concepts of the sciences
- skills for learning, life and work
- the ability to apply safety measures and take necessary actions to control risk and hazards
- the ability to recognise the impact the sciences make on their life, the lives of others, the environment and on society
- the ability to recognise the role of creativity and inventiveness in the development of the sciences
- an understanding of the Earth's resources and the need for responsible use of them
- the ability to express opinions and make decisions
- scientifically-literate citizens who have a lifelong interest in the sciences
- a foundation for more advanced learning and future careers in the sciences and the technologies

At KingsWellies Nursery, we also aim to work in partnership with others, in order to:

- engage the active support of parents and carers
- reinforce work across transitions into the primary sector
- maximise the contributions of the wider community
- draw upon specialist expertise
- ensure, through careful planning, that all contributions come together in ways which ensure coherence and progression for our KingsWellies learners

Learning and Teaching

In the sciences, effective learning and teaching depends upon the use of varied approaches.

Sciences at KingsWellies may be taught in the following ways:

- as a discrete Science topic
- through links with an inter-disciplinary learning project
- as a result of the children's own interests
- practical investigation and inquiry
- collaborative discussion and debate
- active learning and planned, purposeful play
- relevant contexts, familiar to our children's experiences
- spontaneously, in response to situations or news stories
- development of enquiry, critical thinking and problem solving skills
- personal reflection and independent learning
- appropriate and effective use of technology, real material and living things
- volunteering in the local community and outdoor education
- building on the principles of Assessment is for Learning

Differentiation in the children's responses and behaviour will reflect their broad level of development.

Learning will be coherent, progressive and meaningful and should be planned for and taught in ways that encourage our children to recognise that the knowledge, skills and attitudes identified are inextricably linked.

KingsWellies Nursery will select the most appropriate playroom organisation according to the kinds of activities which are taking place. These could be:

- Whole class
- Group methods
- Working pairs
- Individual work

Discussion of issues and sharing of the children's own ideas and opinions will be highly encouraged. Where appropriate, links will also be made with the rights and responsibilities that children and young people are entitled to.

Effective learning and teaching approaches extend experiential learning from the early years into primary school and beyond. As children progress in their learning in the sciences, greater advantage can be taken of opportunities for study in the local, natural and built environments, as an opportunity to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the big ideas of the sciences. Teaching and learning approaches should promote thinking as well as provide opportunities to consolidate and apply learning.

At KingsWellies Nursery we will teach:

Inquiry and investigative skills

Through experimenting and carrying out practical scientific investigations and other research to solve problems and challenges, children will:

- ask questions
- plan and design procedures and experiments
- select appropriate samples, equipment and other resources
- carry out experiments
- use practical techniques
- observe, collect, measure and record evidence, taking account of safety and controlling
- risk and hazards
- present, analyse and interpret data to draw conclusions
- review and evaluate results to identify limitations and improvements
- present and report on findings

The main approaches to science inquiry are through:

- observing and exploring – careful observation of how something behaves, looking for changes over time and exploring ‘what happens if ...?’ and ‘how could I ...?’ questions
- classifying – through identifying key characteristics
- fair testing – through identifying all possible variables and then changing only one while controlling all others
- finding an association – linking two variables to determine relationships

Scientific analytical thinking skills

Children will develop a range of analytical thinking skills in order to make sense of scientific evidence and concepts through:

- being open to new ideas and linking and applying learning
- thinking creatively
- developing skills of reasoning to provide explanations and evaluations supported by evidence or justifications
- making predictions, generalisations and deductions
- drawing conclusions based on reliable scientific evidence

Skills and attributes of scientifically literate citizens

Children in KingsWellies nursery will develop as scientifically literate citizens with a lifelong interest in science by exploring the sciences from a very young age. They will engage by:

- developing scientific values and respect for living things and the environment
- assessing risk and the benefit of science applications
- making informed personal decisions and choices
- expressing opinions and showing respect for others’ views
- developing informed social, moral and ethical views of scientific, economic and environmental issues
- developing self-awareness
- demonstrating honesty in collecting and presenting scientific information/data and showing respect for evidence
- being able to read and understand essential points from sources of information including media reports

- discussing and debating scientific ideas and issues
- reflecting critically on information

Through Science children in KingsWellies Nursery will be encouraged to develop, grow and become:

- **responsible citizens**, who can explore ethical questions, respond to personal and social issues, develop stances and views, and who have come to recognise the importance of science both nationally and globally.
- **effective contributors**, who can develop and express their creativity, work co-operatively and communicate with others, and in so doing, show initiative, dependability, leadership and enterprise
- **successful learners**, who can express themselves, think innovatively, meet challenges positively, find imaginative solutions to problems and who have developed knowledge and skills related to the different areas of science and broader skills as the use of technologies
- **confident individuals**, who have developed self-awareness, self-discipline, determination, commitment and confidence through drawing on their own ideas, experience and successful participation

At KingsWellies Nursery we enhance our Science programme by including interdisciplinary learning opportunities, extra curricular activities and outdoor learning experiences.

Experiences and Outcomes

To help nursery staff to achieve balance within the curriculum, aspects of learning have been divided into experiences and outcomes, each with a set of targets for children to achieve.

These have been sectioned into broad stages of development:

- Early level – approximately nursery to P1 but earlier or later for some
- First level – approximately P2 to P4 but earlier or later for some
- Second level – approximately P5 to P7 but earlier or later for some
- Third level – S1 to S3 but earlier or later for some

At KingsWellies Nursery our children will develop the early level experiences and outcomes in the sciences.

Organisation of the Sciences Experiences and Outcomes

The key concepts of the science curriculum have been categorised under five main organisers:

Planet Earth

- Biodiversity and interdependence – the rich and changing diversity of living things and understanding of how organisms are interrelated at local and global levels
- Energy sources and sustainability – types, sources and uses of energy and understanding of how energy is transferred and conserved
- Processes of the planet – the changing states of matter and the physical and chemical processes which influence Earth's atmosphere and oceans
- Space – the Earth's position within the universe while developing a sense of time and scale

Forces, Electricity and Waves

- Forces – how forces can change the shape or motion of an object, considering both forces in contact with objects and those which act over a distance
- Electricity – knowledge about electricity and how to use it safely

- Vibrations and waves – the nature of sound, light and radiations in the electromagnetic spectrum

Biological Systems

- Body systems and cells – the structure and function of organs of the body, including the senses
- Inheritance – similarities and differences between individuals, and how organisms develop and pass on genetic information to the next generation

Materials

- Properties and uses of substances – the properties of different substances and how they can be changed, and the connection between structure and properties
- Earth's materials – substances that make up the Earth's surface, properties, uses and methods of extraction of such materials are explored
- Chemical changes – the processes which take place in the environment and their impact

Topical Science

Topical science – scientific concepts and their capacity to form informed social, moral and ethical views

Continuity and Progression

The Sciences programme of study for KingsWellies Nursery has been devised with reference to the Curriculum for Excellence guidelines on Sciences and Social Studies.

The Sciences programme has been designed to build from the children's own experiences and levels of understanding in the Early Years. As they progress through the programme, children will build on their prior learning and gain a deeper understanding of issues related to the Sciences, including a deeper understanding of their own beliefs and values. The learning expectations are progressively greater as children go from stage to stage in their development.

The intention of the Sciences programme of study is to make learning easier and more accessible for our children. As the child learns and develops, the framework of experiences and outcomes provide opportunities to visit and revisit issues and topics in order to deepen understanding. The Sciences experiences and outcomes encourage links with other areas of the curriculum (particularly Social Studies) to provide children with deeper, more enjoyable and active experiences. These experiences contribute much to the development of the four capabilities of Successful Learners, Confident Individuals, Responsible Citizens and Effective Contributors.

Staff in KingsWellies Nursery are able to organise and group the experiences and outcomes in different and creative ways to bring together various elements of learning as well as the wider community.

In KingsWellies Nursery we will focus on the development of the 5 Sciences organisers. At each stage, there will be a major focus on:

- Planet Earth
- Forces, Electricity and Waves
- Biological Systems
- Materials
- Topic Science

Interdisciplinary Learning Opportunities

How can we make connections within and beyond the sciences?

Links exist between, and across, the sciences and other areas of the curriculum: for example, engineering offers possible links among the sciences, mathematics and the technologies. Such practice provides KingsWellies children with opportunities to recognise the connectivity which exists across the curriculum areas as a means of understanding the world around them.

All KingsWellies Nursery staff will look for opportunities both to develop and reinforce science knowledge and skills within their disciplinary teaching activities, and to work across the other curriculum areas to plan interdisciplinary studies and a coherent approach to the development of literacy and numeracy skills, aspects of health and wellbeing and ICT.

Through self-evaluation, KingsWellies Nursery will plan for an appropriate balance of learning and teaching approaches, progression in skills, and effective use of interdisciplinary work to deepen and extend learning for our children.

The Learning Environment

For effective learning and teaching in the sciences, the learning environment should:

- stimulate and provide discovery, experimentation and enquiry
- promote enjoyment and fulfilment through participation, experimentation, enquiry and reflection
- provide appropriate differentiation, giving every child opportunities to succeed
- provide children with appropriate materials and equipment
- provide a playroom ethos which is supportive of all children
- create opportunities to place Science in the wider context of the community

Planning

Our nursery forward planning takes account of:

- long-term, medium term (termly) and short term (weekly and daily) planning
- prior learning and varied learning styles e.g. visual, auditory, tactile/kinaesthetic
- setting targets, assessment criteria, learning intentions and success criteria which specify what children are expected to learn
- evaluating what has been taught and identifying next steps for learning and teaching
- both interdisciplinary and disciplinary learning opportunities

Assessment

In KingsWellies Nursery, assessment in the Sciences will focus on children and young people's knowledge and understanding of key scientific concepts in the living, material and physical world, inquiry and investigative skills, scientific analytical and thinking skills, scientific literacy and general attributes. Staff can gather evidence of progress as part of day-to-day learning, and specific assessment tasks will also be important in assessing progress at key points of learning.

Children in KingsWellies Nursery will demonstrate progress through their knowledge and understanding in:

- providing more detailed descriptions and explanations
- using a wider range of scientific language
- presenting, analysing and interpreting more complex evidence to draw conclusions and make sense of scientific ideas.

Children in KingsWellies Nursery will demonstrate progress through their skills in:

- planning and carrying out practical investigations, inquiries and challenges
- working individually and collaboratively
- describing and explaining their understanding of scientific ideas and concepts
- reasoning, presenting and evaluating their findings through debate and discussion
- expressing informed opinions and making decisions on social, moral, ethical, enonomic and environmental issues.

Through developing these skills, children will demonstrate growing confidence and enjoyment of the sciences. Assessments should also link with other areas of the curriculum, within and outside the classroom, to allow children to demonstrate their increasing awareness of the impact of scientific developments on their own health and wellbeing, society and the environment.

Quality Assurance

Monitoring the quality of the teaching, learning and attainment in Sciences will be carried out by the Nursery Director / Nursery Manager.

Recording and Reporting

KingsWellies Staff report to parents on pupils' progress in all areas of Science on individual pupil reports annually. They are available to discuss pupil progress on specific areas regularly at parent interviews and curricular events.

Parents are welcome to contact the nursery at any time if they have any concerns or queries regarding their child's involvement in the Sciences programme.