



newsletter

Autumn Newsletter – September / October 2020



“Together we make a family!”

Follow us on Instagram and like us on Facebook!



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

What have the Wellie Gang been up to this time?

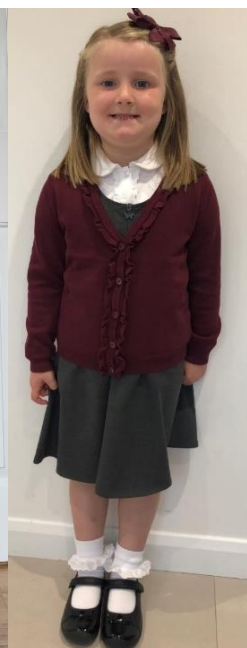


As usual, we haven't stopped! We can't believe that it is Autumn already! We have been completing the Hands Up Travel Survey, Macmillan coffee morning, music making, national fitness day, national literacy day, national country music day, sausages on the bbq, pizzas in the pizza oven, national good neighbour day, National Recycling week, lots of planting, elephant appreciation day and exploring minibeasts and insects! Phew – what a busy bunch we are!



P1 Photos

We look sooooo grown up in our school uniforms! Remember to keep in touch boys and girls and ALWAYS do your VERY best at school!



LOTS of messy play with our Wellie Babies!



Graduation – Class of 2020

We had a great Saturday afternoon at our graduation party. It was so very lovely to welcome all of the boys and girls back to nursery for one last shin dig. Great fun was had by all. Parents and staff gave the boys and girls a very well-deserved standing ovation when they left the nursery for the last time. It really did bring a tear to our eyes. Congratulations everyone!



KingsWellies Nursery Uniform

Please see Kerry if you would like an order form. Our uniform is very durable and it doesn't matter so much if it gets a bit messy! We can order any time for you.

Staffing Update

We are a number of staff OVER our ratio EVERY day. This is unlike most other nurseries. This ensures that we can easily accommodate lots of high quality staff training, holidays and any staff absences. We are also able to ensure that all of our Covid 19 policies and procedures are stringently followed on a daily basis.



We would like to welcome Shannon Robertson, Rachel Wilson, and Lucy McQueen. We are delighted to welcome them all to the Wellies team. Good luck also to Campbell Oag who will be leaving us soon to start studying medicine at Oxford University. Campbell will continue to work with us during his holidays from Uni.



Shannon Robertson



Rachel Wilson



Lucy McQueen

We also wish Emma Campbell all the very best. Emma has just started her maternity leave and her new baby is due in October. HUGE congratulations also go to Kayleigh Gordon who has also just announced her pregnancy. Stay safe and healthy Kayleigh!



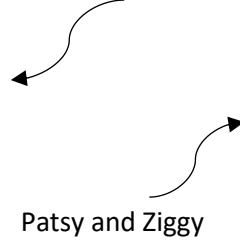
We are also very proud to say that we are now a certified Real Living Wage employer. Our staff work very hard and it is very important to us that they are celebrated, praised and complimented.



Senior Management Team



Scott and Kerry



Patsy and Ziggy



Depute Managers – Marcia, Laura and Caroline

Office Supervisor – Kerry



Baby Room Supervisors = Steph, Kerry and Emma

Samantha, Kirsty and Ashleigh



Ellis, Shannon Rogers, Olivia, Shannon Robertson and Joanna



Toddler Room Supervisors = Laura, Rachel and Hannah



Karla, Chloe W and Katelyn



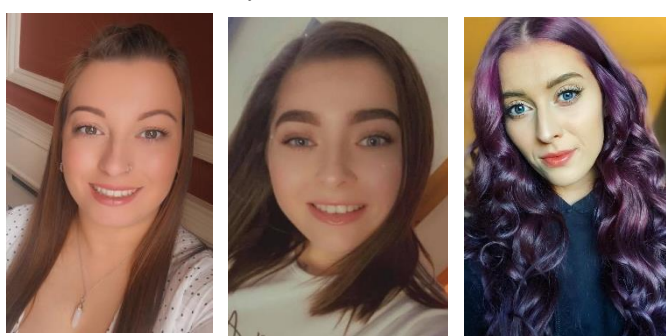
Amy D, Natasha, Samantha, Amy W, Chloe B and Rachel



Pre School Room Supervisors = Caroline and Natalie



Jenny, Lauren and Ailsa



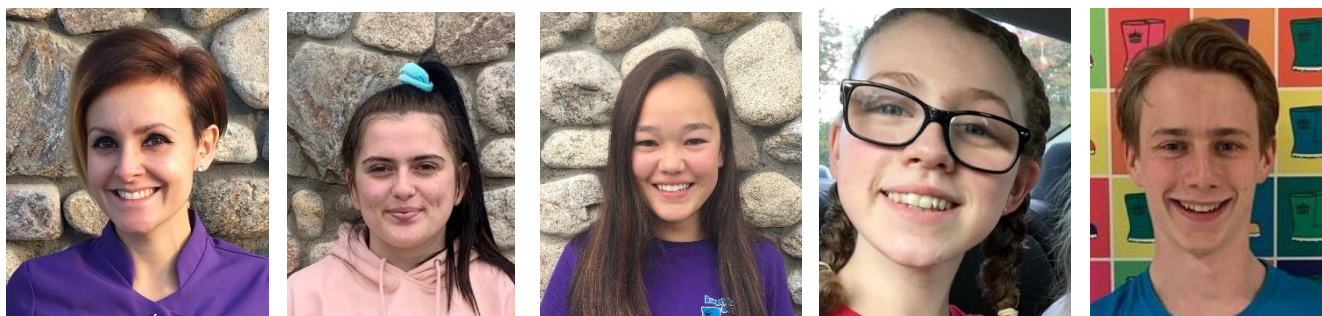
Kayleigh, Gillian, Eibhlish and Cari



Kitchen Staff - Shona



Extra staff - Leanne, Lucy, Lily, Eilidh and Campbell



Fund Raising

Our graduation photo shoot was also a huge success. Some LOVELY photos! Thank you to those who participated and of course to Kevin Buchan (our photographer) who did such an amazing job.



We held our annual MacMillan coffee morning on Friday 25th September. The children were very busy baking for it all week. We raised a whopping £359.04 for MacMillan. Thank you so much to everyone who donated!



Festivals, Traditions, Harvest and all things Autumn

As part of our Festivals and Tradition topic, we will be celebrating Halloween. We have lots of activities planned and we are all very excited!

We asked the children what they wanted to do for Halloween. They suggested a party, lots of games and dressing up!!

Throughout this topic we will also be learning about:

- Concepts of light and dark
- Seasons – Autumn and Winter
- Colours
- What is hibernation and which animals hibernate?
- Harvest thanksgiving
- Diwali – Festival of Lights
- Animals – nocturnal, diurnal and crepuscular
- Pumpkins and tasty treats

We will be doing lots of baking and food tasting activities throughout the week also. Lots of great fun!



Life Skills Awards

We have been busy working through our Life Skills Awards in each of our rooms. Please help us by reinforcing our very important life skills at home too.

Learning and Teaching in KingsWellies

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

- **KINDNESS – Are you a bucket filler or a bucket dipper?**
- The Scottish Daily Mile - we aim to jog, run or walk for up to 15 minutes every day! Laura will be sending you out more information shortly.
- Fun with forces – LOTS of Science experiments!
- LOTS of Reflection Time in our interest groups; talking about our learning and what we would like to learn with our key workers
- Child-led improvement groups – Eco group, kindness group, gardening group, playground group, charity group, celebrations group, Xmas group, risk monitors, enterprise group. We will keep working hard to improve our nursery.
- Seasons – Autumn and Winter
- Weather
- Hibernation – nocturnal, diurnal and crepuscular animals
- Festivals, traditions and celebrations
- Grow well choices – making healthy decisions
- Guy Fawkes – Bonfire night and firework safety
- Christmas and festive traditions around the world
- The Nativity and birth of Jesus
- **31st October** – Halloween. Lots of celebrations!
- **31st October** – World Cities Day. Learning all about Edinburgh, our capital city and London, the capital city of the UK.
- **3rd November** – Kindness day. LOTS of bucket filling! Have you got any ideas for us?
- **5th November** – Guy Fawkes Day! Marshmallows and songs and sparklers around the fire.
- **11th November** – Diwali. Festival of lights.
- **10th November** – Remembrance Sunday. Making our own poppies.



- **13th November** – International kindness day
- **15th November** – Children in Need Day. More information to follow
- **20th November** – Universal children's day. What are the rights of the child?
- **21st November** – World hello day. How do we say hello in LOTS of different languages?
- **30th November** – St Andrew's Day. Celebrating the patron saint of Scotland. Learning about ALL things Scotland and being proud of our Scottish heritage! Remember to wear something Scottish this week.
- **3rd December** – International day of persons with disabilities
- **5th December** – World Soil day
- **9th December** – International Xmas Card day
- **10th December** – Human rights day
- **14th December** – International monkey day
- **24th December** – Hanukkah begins (Jewish)
- **25th December** – Christmas day
- **31st December** – New Years day
- Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing – LOTS of exciting learning opportunities.



KingsWellies £10 Snack Shopper – Would you like to do our snack shopping for us?

Number, Money and Measure: “I am developing my awareness of how money is used and can recognise and use a range of coins” MNU 0-079

Our children are learning all of the time. Our main focus for learning is through developing our **Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing** skills. As part of the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence, we also develop skills, knowledge and understanding in:

Expressive Arts

Social Studies

Technologies

Sciences

Religious and Moral Education

We would like our KingsWellies children to develop a good understanding of money. The best way to do this is through using REAL money. If you would like to be one of our **“Snack Shoppers”** over the weekend, please email Kerryn. Kerryn will give you our snack “Shopping List” and Scott will give you the £10 budget. It would be a huge help to us if you and your child could buy some of the items for our snack over the weekend. This will also be a

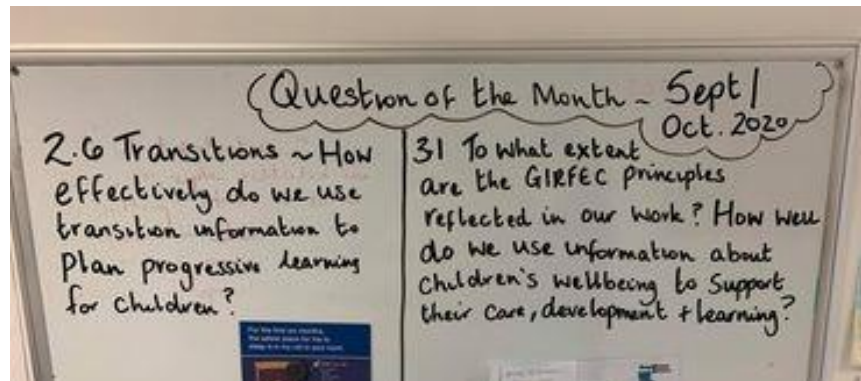


hugely beneficial experience for your child. Why not make this their “weekend responsibility”? This will provide a vast range of learning opportunities right across the curriculum.

Please just take back the shopping, change and receipt at the beginning of the week. Please also fill out our “Snack Shopper Diary” so that we can share your shopping experiences with our other children! Feel free to add any photos and also your feedback.

Parental Consultation – Question of the month

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. Each month we have a new self-evaluation question which comes from How Good Is Our Early Learning and Childcare. Please give us your comments. Your feedback means a lot to us.



Room Ages

Just a reminder to parents that our rooms are configured in the following ways:

- Babies – Birth to 2 years
- Toddlers – 18 months to 3 years
- Pre-School – 2.5 years to 5 years

Some children may move rooms earlier or later. These age ranges are a guide and we base all transitions around the individual needs of the child. Any questions, please see Marcia.

Staff Training

We are very busy with our training for Session 2020/21. Staff will be participating in lots of training during the next session. Much of this will be done through Zoom / technology. Despite Covid restrictions, staff training is still of paramount importance to us.

We have also enlisted the support of an Educational Psychologist who will be conducting a number of staff training events with us. These will include:

- Core cognitive skills
- Growth mind-sets
- Emotion coaching
- Self-regulation
- Mindfulness
- Positive behaviour management
- Attachment theory



There will also be an opportunity for a training event with parents which will focus on the importance of teaching core cognitive skills at home. This will be Covid dependent. More information to follow.

Kerry will also continue in her role as a member of the Children's Panel for Children's Hearings Scotland. The training has been excellent and Kerry will continue to disseminate this to all staff within the nursery.



Our Early Years Advisor, Leia Derounian, has also agreed to carry out a variety of training with us. This will focus on observations, writing observations, next steps in learning and unique transitions. Please see our attached Collegiate Calendar which outlines our Collegiate Staff meetings for this year.

Covid 19 – Practices and Procedures

We continue to review our Covid 19 practices and procedures on a daily basis. NO new guidance has come out from the Care Inspectorate / Scottish Government since 10/08/20. We therefore will continue to implement this very thorough guidance within the nursery. You can find our Covid 19 Policy and our Reopening Strategy on our website. This will be updated to coincide with new guidance or changes in our procedures.



If you are going to be more than 5 minutes with our staff, please wear face masks to protect yourself and KingsWellies Staff. Always socially distance please. Thank you.

Many thanks to all who contributed to our Covid-19 Consultation. We received lots of very positive and constructive feedback which we have implemented within the nursery environment. If you have any additional suggestions for us, please don't hesitate to give us your feedback.

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 our newsletter.

Eco Committee – Green Flag

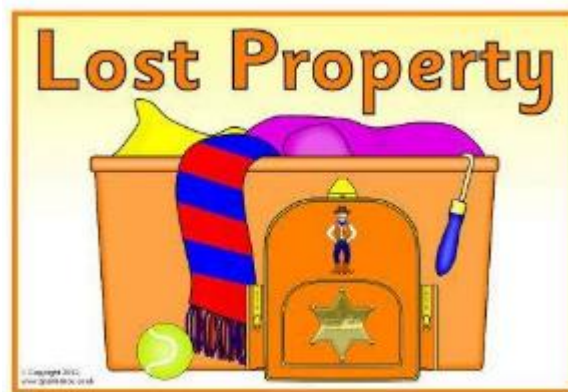
Our Eco Committee have been extremely busy ensuring that we continue as a sustainable nursery. Your hard work has had a very positive impact on our nursery environment. Well done everyone! We will be applying for our THIRD GREEN FLAG very soon.



Lost Property

Please label ALL clothes, toys and personal possessions. The nursery CANNOT take responsibility for lost articles which are not FULLY labelled.

Please also ensure that your children are appropriately dressed in warm clothing for the colder weather. We will still be out and about in ALL weathers. Thank you.



KingsWellies Policies of the Month

This month we would like to provide you with the opportunity to review our **IMPROVEMENT PLAN for 2020/21**. Thank you to those who provided us with feedback on our draft document. I have taken this on board and have now amended and finalised our Improvement Plan. We have also included our Quality Assurance and Collegiate Calendars so that you can see how we monitor our practice and also plan our improvements throughout the year. We hope that you find this information useful. Please give us your feedback and suggestions with regards to these very important documents. Your feedback will shape our future priorities for improvement.

KingsWellies Nursery Vision, Values, Aims and Mission Statement

We are totally committed to an agreed shared vision for our nursery and community. We want our vision to reflect the aspirations of our children, parents/carers, staff and partners. We are highly committed to providing strong leadership in order to develop and sustain our vision, values, aims and mission. These are not just words.

"Together we make a family!"

We last reviewed these with all of our stakeholders in 2018. We would very much like your feedback again as these are very important to us. We have to get them right.

- Are they still relevant?
- Are we getting these right?
- Are we achieving what we have set out to do?
- Is our vision ambitious and challenging?
- How well do these inform our daily practice?
- Do they have any impact on improving the quality of the learning, teaching and childcare within KingsWellies?
- How well do we communicate these?
- Have we missed anything?

Your feedback means a huge amount to us and will always shape our future direction. Please give us your thoughts and comments. We will then review and amend our Vision, Values, Aims and Mission Statement for 2021.



Christmas Holidays

Just a reminder that we are closed for two weeks over the Christmas and New Year Period. We close at 6pm on Friday 18th December 2020 and reopen 7.30am on Monday 4th January 2021. It will be here before we know it!

Due to Covid 19 restrictions, Christmas celebrations may be slightly different this year from what we usually do. More information to follow!



Aberdeen City Council Pre-School Funding

For all those of you who have children who are approaching aged three or are already three years old, you will be entitled to apply for pre-school funding from Aberdeen City/Aberdeenshire Council. Please see Kerryn or Scott in order to complete the appropriate forms.

KingsWellies Nursery Parent Council

The Parent Council had their first meeting via Zoom this week to discuss priorities for improvement within the nursery. We have also set up a closed Facebook page for our parent council members in order to ease discussion. Please let us know if you have any agenda items for them. We will keep you updated with our progress. Many thanks to past and present Parent Council members. We really appreciate all of your contributions. Our Parent Council Agenda and Meeting Minutes are displayed at our front door for your information.



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.

