

# newsletter



**Summer Newsletter – July / August / September / October 2024**

**“Together we make a family!”**

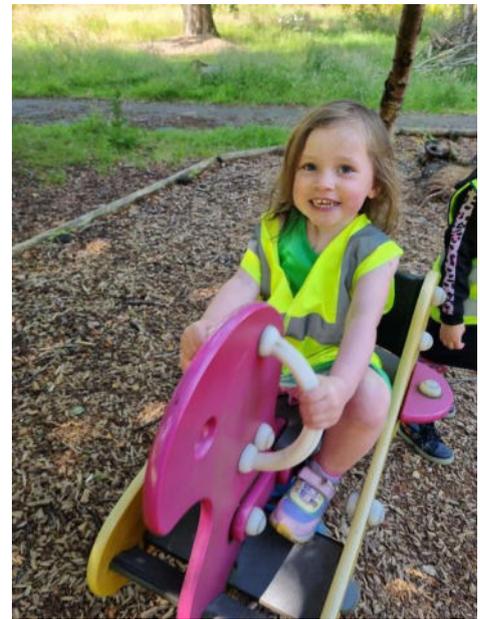
Follow us on Instagram and like us on Facebook!

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

## **What have the KingsWellies and QueensWellies Gang been up to so far this term?**

We have been very busy with Graduation planning and partying, visiting the new Hazelhead Park, Health Month, bucket fillers, stay and play days, friendship and teamwork, the Olympics, daily mile, visits around the community, Child Safety Week, supporting the RSPB, Happy Body Healthy Me Campaign, sun safety, Eco Schools and sustainability, planting and improving our gardens and playgrounds, picnics at “the hills”, pizzas at the park, getting ready to go to school, learning Makaton, learning all about minibests, farm animals, learning about Space, people who help us, lots of outdoor play, road safety, reading our book bug bags and LOTS more.....

We have also LOVED working with all of our extra-curricular teachers; French, Moo Music, Chef Lisa, Kids Rock, Flashdance, Yoga Totts, Rugby Totts, Gym Bunnies. We are developing a HUGE number of inter-disciplinary skills every day.



## **West End Wellies Nursery**

We are delighted to let you know that we have been making great progress in totally refurbishing our new nursery in Mannofield. We have the Care Inspectorate coming to visit it on 13/8/24 and again later in August. We aim to have completed all construction by 1/8/24. We therefore hope to open around mid-September 2024. Provisional dates have already been sent out to all parents. We will be holding a variety of open days and would like to invite all of our Wellies parents to come along for a nosey at our new setting. We also cannot wait to share our BEFORE and AFTER videos

with you all. It is SOOOOOO exciting! We will keep you posted with all progress over the next few weeks.

**Please contact us if you would like to know more about booking a space with us at one of our Wellies Nurseries.**

## QueensWellies Nursery

We cannot believe that QW has nearly been open for a year! And what a successful year it has been! We have achieved so much! Look out for more information about our 1<sup>st</sup> birthday party celebrations. Who doesn't love a party? Thank you all so very much for all of your amazing support over the past year. We have loved getting to know our lovely QueensWellies families.



## Stay and Play Days

Look out for some stay and play dates in term one at each Wellies Nursery. More information to follow. We love welcoming you all in to join us!

## Wellies Nurseries – Health Month

Throughout the months of June and July, both Kingswellies and Queenswellies spent time focusing on Health Month. This involved planning lots of activities around the following topics: Keeping Fit, Healthy Eating, Mental Health and Keeping Safe. The children LOVED experiencing a range of different activities to progress their skills. Some of their favourites were; making smoothies, healthy recipes, football, sports day, self-portraits, developing their friendships, visits from police, fire, dentist and vet, Gym bunnies, baking with Chef Lisa, talking about emotions, having spa days and much more.



### **Staffing Update**

As always, we have some Summer staff who have been helping us out this year. Please welcome them to the Wellies family. Please see our regular staffing updates on our Facebook pages. We also have staff photo boards outside each room and in each reception.

We will also ensure that you that you are kept fully updated with details of the new West End Wellies staff who have been training with us and will be moving there soon. Natalie and Emma (WEW Managers) are very excited to get their teams settled into their new setting.

Children are also becoming more involved in the recruitment process as we ask candidates to read them a story or complete an activity with them. We then ask our children and candidates for their feedback. This is working well.

### **Children's Attendance and Registers**

Please let us know by 10am if your child will not be attending nursery on that day. Staff will contact parents after 10am to ascertain the whereabouts of your child. This is in line with our Child Protection and Health and Safety Policies.

Please also let us know if you have any holidays booked and your child will be absent. This saves us from bothering you when sunbathing by the pool! Many thanks.

### **Best of luck to our boys and girls who are leaving us to go to P1 and school nursery**

We will miss you ALL very, very much but know that you are all ready for P1 and that each and every one of you will go far! Remember to send us photos of you in your school uniforms!! We have been very busy speaking to your new P1 teachers and also to your parents. Good luck everyone!

### **P1 Graduation Ceremony and Party**

This year we have 60 children leaving us to go to school. We have all really enjoyed planning our Graduation party and ceremony. Our Graduation Group were very busy organising everything themselves. We had a brilliant ceremony and a real knees up at our party. This year the graduates decided that they wanted a bouncy castle, ice cream van and disco. We also had Kids Rock performing with us. We really enjoyed every minute of it.





## Wellies Nurseries Class of 2024 🎓✏️

Here are some suggestions to help prepare your child for starting school in August 2024:

☀️ Do they recognise their own name? If not make a sign together for their room and where they hang their jacket at home so that they are used to seeing it.

☀️ If you are going to teach them to write their name please only teach the first letter as a capital. If they learn their whole name in capitals, it then takes time for them to unlearn it. The capital / upper case letter is the "name" and the lower case letter is the "sound".

☀️ They will not have the same child : staff ratios as in nursery. One teacher with up to 30 / 33 children. Encourage them to be as independent and resilient as possible, from now.

☀️ Remember school is different from when you went, they will be unlikely to have their own desk but they will be very used to the set-up as it's similar to Nursery.

☀️ Label EVERYTHING!

☀️ Encourage them to open their own snacks so that they are able to do it at playtime and lunchtime.

☀️ Velcro shoes are best!

☀️ Don't share your concerns with them and don't talk about how they are your baby and they aren't ready! They are taking their lead from you!

☀️ Can they put on their own jacket and zip it up? If not, start encouraging them now!

☀️ Can they use the toilet independently and wash and dry their hands independently? Now is the time to work on this.

☀️ When you find out their gym days it's best not to put them in shirt and tie on these days.

☀️ In Scotland all P1s-P3's get a free lunch. When you get a menu, pop it somewhere in the house and let them know what the choices are each day and decide what they will have together.

☀️☀️ P1 teachers are angels in disguise, we promise you can trust them with your baby! 😊

## Thank you from the bottom of our hearts

Lots of our children have already started to leave us and I have to say that all of the emails, messages and cards have really brought a tear to my eye. The very kind words mean such a huge amount as it proves that we have achieved what we set out to do. We genuinely only want the very best for all of our children and families.



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

- Happy Healthy Me
- Cultures of the world – PLEASE talk to us about your childhood memories, your culture, your traditions, your beliefs and your celebrations. We really want to learn more about cultures around the world.
- Rules and Routines
- KINDNESS – Are you a bucket filler or a bucket dipper?
- Child-led improvement groups – Our Eco Group, Kindness Group, Charities Group, Graduation Group and Playground Improvement Group will keep working hard to improve our nursery.
- Holidays and Landmarks
- Space
- The Olympics and Paralympics
- Seasons and sun safety– Summer
- Gardening, making dens and improving our playgrounds
- Our environment and local communities
- Our families and friends



- Autumn
- Walks out and about around our community and lots of outdoor play
- Daily mile – scavenger hunts, environmental print, shape, numeracy, literacy and pattern walks
- Writing our names and learning lots of rhyming words
- Getting ready for school and our new school nurseries
- 1<sup>st</sup> August – UK play day
- 2<sup>nd</sup> August – National day for play
- 3<sup>rd</sup> August – Water melon day
- 5<sup>th</sup> August – National sisters day
- 6<sup>th</sup> August – Fresh breath / toothbrushing day
- 8<sup>th</sup> August – International cat day



- 9<sup>th</sup> August – International planting and allotments week
- 9<sup>th</sup> August – National book lovers day
- 10<sup>th</sup> August – World lion day
- 11<sup>th</sup> August – Son and daughter day
- 12<sup>th</sup> August – Elephant appreciation day
- 19<sup>th</sup> August – World photo day
- 22<sup>nd</sup> August – World plant milk day
- 26<sup>th</sup> August – International dog day
- 30<sup>th</sup> August – National beach day
- 31<sup>st</sup> August – Eat outside day
- 1<sup>st</sup> September – World letter writing day
- 5<sup>th</sup> September – International Charities day
- 6<sup>th</sup> September – Read a book day

- 6<sup>th</sup> September – Zero waste day
- 8<sup>th</sup> September – International literacy day
- 9<sup>th</sup> September – Emergency Services day
- 9<sup>th</sup> September – Teddy bear day
- 13<sup>th</sup> September – Roald Dahl Day
- 13<sup>th</sup> September – Positive thinking day
- 16<sup>th</sup> September – World clean-up day
- 17<sup>th</sup> September – International country music day
- 18<sup>th</sup> September – Jewish new year
- 18<sup>th</sup> September – Eat an apple day
- 19<sup>th</sup> September – Pirate day
- 20<sup>th</sup> September – Recycle week
- 22<sup>nd</sup> September – World rhino day
- 25<sup>th</sup> September – World dream day
- 28<sup>th</sup> September – Good neighbour day
- 29<sup>th</sup> September – International end food waste day
- 1<sup>st</sup> October – International day of older persons
- 1<sup>st</sup> October - World vegetarian day





- 2<sup>nd</sup> October – Grandparents day
  - 5<sup>th</sup> October – World teachers day
  - 6<sup>th</sup> October – National poetry day
  - 7<sup>th</sup> October – National smile day
  - 9<sup>th</sup> October – World post day
  - 16<sup>th</sup> October – World food day
  - 25<sup>th</sup> October – Diwali
  - 25<sup>th</sup> October – World pasta day
  - 27<sup>th</sup> October – Tell a story day
  - 31<sup>st</sup> October – Halloween
  - 31<sup>st</sup> October – World cities day
- Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing are the responsibility of ALL nursery and school practitioners. We have LOTS of exciting learning opportunities planned for our Wellies Gang!

### **Nappies and Toilet Training**

We are making a plea to ALL parents to please support us in ensuring that your children are fully toilet trained by the time that they move into the pre-school rooms (aged three years). Whilst we fully appreciate that all children are individuals, the toddler stage is the most appropriate age for this training milestone to happen. Once in the older rooms, children become much more aware of themselves and wearing nappies can lead to embarrassment. We also really want to focus on lots of high-quality learning and teaching with our older children. Nappy changing takes staff away from this very important part of their job. Our staff are ALL here to help you with this very important milestone. Nappies are also only supplied by us until children reach 3 years old. Parents must then supply their own. Please don't hesitate to discuss with us and we will provide our full support.

### **Aberdeen City Council Pre-School Funding – Session 2024/25 – 1140 hours**

As per my previous emails, Wellies Nurseries will continue to provide the 1140 FREE hours from August 2024. **This equates to 30 hours per week over 38 weeks of the year.** Please ensure that you read ALL of the 1140-hour funding information that we send you. We are constantly inundated with queries around this. We provide you with this so that you can adequately plan your finances. There should therefore be no surprises. Regardless whether we work a 38-week model (which we do), a 46 week model or 50 week model, you ALL receive exactly the SAME amount of free hours and funding across the year. It is up to you to choose the nursery and pattern that suits you best. All parents are expected to pay their own invoices outwith the free funded period. We also only accept children who are with us for 52 weeks of the year. We do not accept term-time children only. There is no exception to this. Many thanks.



### **Messy Children are Happy Children**

As always, we have been playing outside as much as possible. Water walls, water slides, mud kitchens, shaving foam, playdough, construction, messy play, painting, planting and allotments, loose play, minibeast hunts, hedgehog preservation, picnics, forest schools, eco schools, park visits and so much more! We are having so much fun but sorry if we come home a bit messy!

### **Wellies Nurseries Policies of the Month**

If you would like to review any of our Policies, please get in touch and we will send you a digital copy immediately. We have a huge range of Operational and Curricular Policies which are reviewed on an ongoing basis. These are used to support staff with their daily routines and have all been agreed in consultation with Care Inspectorate and Aberdeen City Council. These can be found in reception areas, outside rooms and within each room. Just ask a staff member. As always, your feedback will shape our future priorities for improvement.

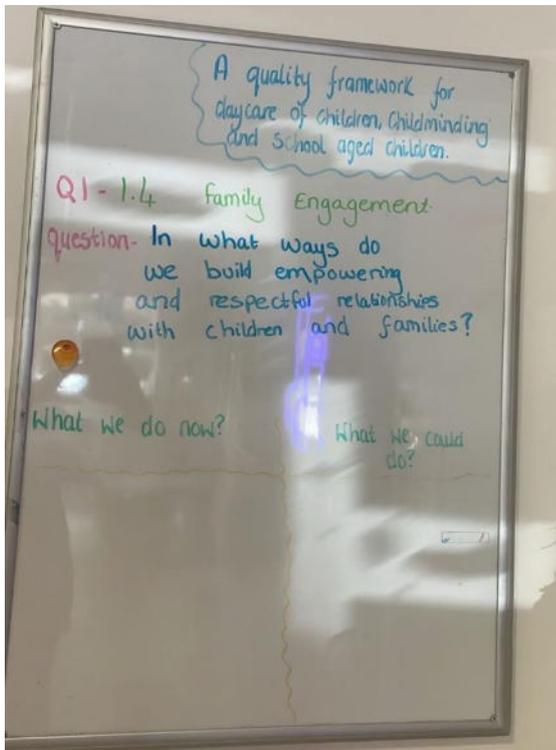


### **Parent Tips, Ideas and Suggestions**

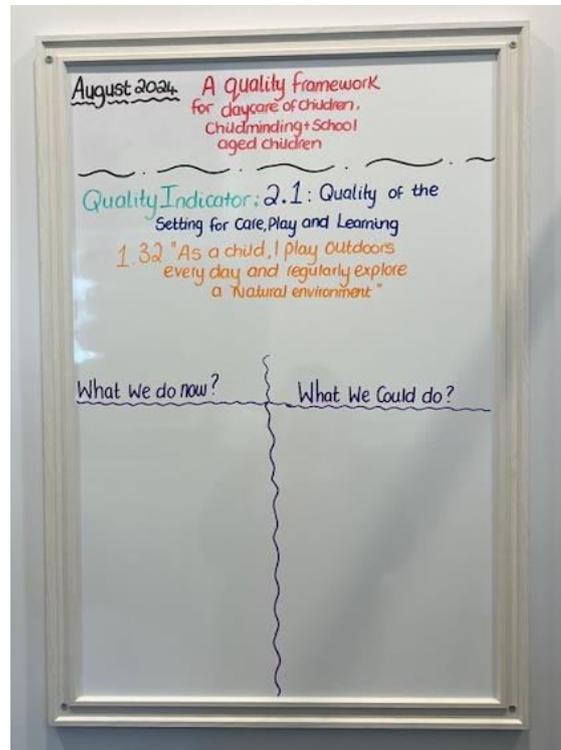
This is a space for parents to communicate with each other. If you have any suggestions, please email us with your ideas so that we can include them in this section of the newsletter.

## Question of the Month – August 24

Please take five minutes to add to our self-evaluation board in our receptions. We also have consultation walls. Please help yourselves to any of our consultations. Many thanks.



Kingswellies –  
Question of the  
Month



Queenswellies –  
Question of the  
Month

## 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 into another language or an alternate reading format, please do not hesitate to contact us.*