

January 2018

We hope you all had a magical Christmas holiday and are ready to return back to Nursery. We have loved meeting our new friends in nursery and look forward to learning together this year.

What have we been learning?

Children enjoyed their visit from Rachel, the Ambulance Technician in November. Watch what happened here; <https://vimeo.com/244401927>

I'm sure you will agree the children performed a fantastic rendition of "Our First Nativity" in December. I hope you managed to watch the video with the link issued on the last day of term, if you require another copy of this please get in touch.

We will continue to use the floor books for planning learning experiences over the next term. The floor books allow us to listen to the children's ideas about what they would like to learn and we encourage parents/carers to share any ideas with the nursery team too. Staff have spent time with the children to identify themes they would like to learn more about. To begin this term, the yellow nursery will be learning about animals, the orange and red nurseries will be learning about transport and the blue nursery will be learning about space.

Cloakroom area

Remember to check our noticeboards in the nursery areas to keep you updated as to what is happening on a daily basis. We continue to encourage the children **not** to bring toys in to the nursery to prevent them getting lost or damaged. We also thank you for your co-operation by keeping buggies outside the cloakroom area. Please also remember to check your child's tray, daily, for letters and pictures.

Clothing

This term we will be focussing on updating our outdoor space. Please ensure children are dressed appropriately for Nursery- warm, waterproof clothing including sensible footwear- with wellies for wet days. Gloves, hats and scarves in the cold. **Please, please, please name everything!!** Sometimes we get involved in activities which are a little messy, such as gardening and painting, so please ensure that your child comes with practical clothes on to allow them to play freely without fear of getting special clothes dirty.

Free-Flow

This term the Nursery staff will continue to facilitate daily free flow play sessions. The staff have worked hard to ensure there is no duplication across the nursery classes so children can experience more play opportunities.

Policy of the Month

We will be continuing with our 'Policy of the Month'. Please find copies on the noticeboard and we would welcome feedback on the post its available.

ILD

Please remember to check Interactive Learning Diaries regularly. Nursery staff love seeing learning which is happening at home- so please do add any special events. If you are having any problems logging on, please speak to the nursery team or you can email Miss McPherson (DHT) for support. Kathryn.mcpherson1@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Outdoors

We continue to work through our action plan. Outdoors risk assessments have been updated. After our audit in November, we have purchased some new equipment for outdoors. We are planning to transform our shed into a writing/quiet den. There will be plenty of opportunities to encourage mark making in our sand/mud pits too. Thanks to those who donated old kitchen equipment- this will help us to reinvent our mud kitchen area. The resources we purchase will be natural and open ended- allowing them to be used in a variety of ways. We are also planning to tidy up the planter areas, are you able to help us? Please let a member of the nursery know if you are able to support us.

Staff Development

This term staff will be developing their skills by attending some courses. Key themes include floorbooks, observations and using the new maths resource Numicon.

Dates for your diary

- Occasional Day/Mid Term Break- Friday 9th February 2018- Monday 12th February 2018
- In-service Days-Tuesday 13th February and Wednesday 14th February (school closed to pupils)
- Spring holidays- Friday 30th March to Friday 13 April (both dates inclusive)

Please remember we have an open door policy at New Machar Nursery. The nursery team are always happy to help. Any bits of information really do help us support the children better. Do let us know the little details- what kind of sleep/morning the children have had, changes in routine etc.