

Fettercairn Curriculum Newsletter

Nursery News

January 2017

This term the Nursery children have chosen 'Dinosaurs' as their focus. We will be reading a selection of dinosaur books to help us find out more information and we will also be looking at some dinosaur video and learning new vocabulary. Catherine the librarian read us a dinosaur story when we visited the library. We are delighted that our resident geologist Mr. Gould has kindly offered to visit and answer the children's questions about dinosaurs, fossils and rocks. We have asked the children to bring in any dinosaur items for 'Show and Tell' and we hope to create our own dinosaur museum, organising and labelling the exhibits. We have also been learning about comparing size, amount and length and exploring numbers in various songs and activities.

We had fun making paper mache dinosaur eggs and we hope this will inspire some imaginative activities as we see what hatches from them. We will create a variety of artwork and explore different materials.

We had a visit from 'Childsmile' to remind us about healthy eating, and we continue with the tooth brushing programme. At PE we are working on ball skills.

We will have Chinese activities to welcome the Year of the Rooster and will celebrate Shrove Tuesday by making pancakes. We will be having [veggie] haggis, neeps and tatties for snack to celebrate Burns on the 25th January and invite families to come in to Nursery at 12 noon to hear our Scottish songs.

We are also having a visit on 2nd February from Ross' Auntie Lisa from 'Earthheads' who has kindly offered to tell us about owls. Weather permitting we will also go round to the wood afterwards to see if we can spot any signs of owls.

Primary 1-2

This term in maths we are looking at measuring time. P1 are consolidating days of the week, looking at daytime routines, reading and recording o'clock time. P2 are learning the order of the months, reading analogue and digital clocks to half past and working out simple duration problems. P1 will continue to build addition facts to 10 and P2 will navigate within a 100 square.

In literacy P1 are learning to read and spell common and 'tricky' words and move on to 2 letter sounds in phonics. P2 are working on their spelling through peer reading teaching. In writing we are using own experiences and interesting words to engage the reader. We are learning to write poems and questions. P1 will begin to build their own sentences.

Our topic is Now and Then, which will allow us to focus on social and historical aspects of Fettercairn. We will look at evidence from the past and heritage. We will be going around the village to observe and record changes.

Achievement - If your child has gained a certificate, trophy, medal, badge etc. in any activity they do then we would like to hear about it. Please send it into school so that we all can celebrate in their success



Dates for your Diary

23/01/17 - 27/01/17 - S4 Pupils in school on Work Experience
30/01/17 - Judging of the Burns Poems
04/02/17 - Burns Poetry Winners at Fettercairn Burns Club Supper
08/02/17 - Ceilidh in school 6pm-8pm
09/02/17 - 15/02/17 - School closed to pupils (Mid-Term)
16/02/17 - School Re-opens
02/03/17 - World Book day and Enterprise day
17/03/17 - Travelling Gallery
21/03/17 - Parent Council at 9.30am
24/03/17 - Red Nose day
31/03/17 - School Talent show at 2pm
03/04/17 - 17/04/17 - School Closed for Easter holidays
18/04/17 - School re-opens

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Primary 3-4

Our topic this term is 'Our Local Community'. We will be exploring Fettercairn and learning about the heritage of the village.

In maths we are learning about multiplication, division and time. In literacy we are focussing on instruction writing.

We continue to enjoy the novels of Roald Dahl. Our current class novel is 'Danny the Champion of the World'. In Religious Education we are learning about Sikhism. In PE we are learning the skills to take part in Scottish country dances, in preparation for the ceilidh, and working hard to improve our fitness by circuit training. In science we are learning about electricity.

Primary 5/6/7

This term in maths we are working on fractions, decimals and percentages. We are focussing on equivalent fractions, simplifying fractions and some problem solving tasks.

In language we are working on how to make our writing more interesting and descriptive through the use of adjectives and adverbs. We are continuing to do weekly sessions on comprehension, grammar and spelling.

Our topic this term is 'Space' and we will be learning about Nasa, moon landings, designing a landing capsule, making a fact file, astronaut profiles and the international space station.

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Nursery News

This term the Nursery children have chosen 'Dark and Light' as their focus. We had great fun at our pyjama party on the 31st October when we played games in the hall and had hot chocolate and toast for snack.

We have discussed road safety on the dark nights, and learned about keeping ourselves safe from fire and fireworks. We will also be finding out about sun, moon and stars, and 2d and 3d shapes. We will use a variety of texts and invent our own 'alien' characters and shadow puppets. Our library visits this term are on 14th November and 12th December, when the children will hear a story and select a book to take home.

We will be learning about festivals of light and have already made Diya lights out of clay and painted them in bright colours as we learned about Diwali. Later in the term we will be learning about Hannukah and Christmas, and we will be rehearsing our nativity play to be performed on Friday 16th December. We will also be having a trip to Aberdeen Science Centre to learn about 'Snow Science' on the 14th December.

This term we have looked at some seasonal and current issues including Diwali and Remembrance day. We will also spend time looking at where the money we raise for Children in Need goes. In maths we are working on time and money. We have looked at timetables and time zones around the world. In money we will be looking at budgets, profit/loss and wages. In our language work we are continuing to learn the rules of language and how to consistently apply these to our written work. We have been writing spooky stories and acrostic poems based on a fireworks theme. Our topic this term is China. The children and teacher brainstormed and we will be covering Chinese art, famous people, food, animals, plants, language, culture, royalty and landmarks.

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Primary 1-2

In Our topic this term is Day and Night. We will be looking at sources of light and will attempt to trace the movements of The Sun, Moon and Earth. We will link these to our daily routines. We began to read and discuss our class novel about Plop and will use it as stimulus for creating a variety of texts. P2 will learn how to write extended sentences and use their targets to self and peer check their writing. P1 will continue to learn their sounds and begin to read 3 and 4 letter words.

In maths P1 will continue to work with numbers to 10 and begin to add. P2 will focus on developing mental strategies for subtracting within 20. We will revise 2D and 3D shapes. In art we are exploring how to use lines and various media to create a desired effect. In RME we are investigating special books. In PE we are looking at badminton skills and creating a sequence in gymnastics. In French we are continuing to take part in simple conversations.

Primary 5/6/7

November 2016

Primary 3-4

This term we are learning about Space. We are focussing on the relationship between the Sun, the Moon and the Earth. We are also learning about the planets of our solar system.

In literacy we are focussing on exploring different aspects of film to inspire our writing.

We have been enjoying the novels of Roald Dahl and recently began 'George's Marvellous Medicine'.

In maths we are learning about number sequences, addition and subtraction, and money. We will be learning number facts and a variety of mental strategies to work out addition and subtraction calculations as well as formal written methods.

We are enjoying Kodaly Music with Mrs Edgar.

We are continuing to embed the use of French language in everyday classroom routines.

In PE we are learning the skills to play badminton and rugby.



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Fettercairn Curriculum Newsletter

September 2016

Nursery News

We have had a great start to the year with our 'All About Me' focus as we learn and revise nursery rules and routines. To help the children learn everyone's names, we have been working on making our names with a variety of resources, as well as singing 'Search all the World Over'. Thank you for your support with the family homework which helped the children understand how unique they all are.

We had a visit from Mrs. Anderson and Baby Sam, and this has prompted lots of imaginative play in our 'Baby Clinic'. Our 'Guess the Baby Photo' competition along with measuring our heights has encouraged much discussion of how we have grown. We hope to display the photos for parents to guess also!

We will be learning about parts of the body and our senses through some fun activities including PE and drama, and talking about colours as we look at differences in eye, hair and clothing colour. Staff are attending training at Aberdeen Science Centre, so we hope to come back with some new ideas to share with the children.

We resume our Library visits on 19th September, when we have a story time with Catherine, and we will all borrow a book to take home. Sadly we are losing Mrs. Veitch to another Nursery, but are planning some activities including a farewell party on Friday 9th September to help the children manage this transition.

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Primary 1-2

This term in Numeracy P1 are working on identifying all numbers from 0-20 and P2 are learning the basic facts for addition and subtraction and number families to 20.

In Literacy P1 are working on learning how to say and write our sounds and P2 learning new spelling patterns and ordering the alphabet using the letter names.

Our topic this term is Senses and we identifying which senses we are using to explore our world.

In RME and Health and Wellbeing and we are looking at our differences and what makes us all special. In PE we are looking at ball skills and control.

In French we are beginning to take part in simple conversations.



Primary 3-4

This term we are learning to develop a growth mindset by focussing on how we think and feel, rather than what we can or cannot do. We are learning to tackle new challenges with a positive attitude, to ask for help when we need it and that mistakes are marvellous.

In literacy we are developing our descriptive writing to enhance our story writing skills by describing interesting characters and settings.

In maths we are learning about place value and partitioning, and the properties of 2D shapes and 3D objects.

In French we are focussing on the use of conversational language and embedding the use of French language in everyday classroom routines.

In PE we are learning the skills to play hockey and to work well as part of a team.

In science we are investigating forces with Mr Colbenson.

Primary 5/6/7

This term we are working on place value in maths and how to solve word problems. We are learning about rules of language and how to apply them so that they improve our written work. We are investigating Ancient Egypt, its culture and traditions in history.

In RME we are developing our understanding of how our own and other people's belief and values affect their actions. In Health and Wellbeing we are working on developing the skills/techniques needed to take part in hockey and gymnastics. We are also learning about the different organs that make up the human body.



Fettercairn Curriculum Newsletter Term 4 2016

Nursery News

For the next few weeks our focus is 'Science', and we have already been learning about electrical safety and the importance of electricity in our everyday lives [thank you to Scottish Power for arranging a power cut right on cue!] We are also going to be learning about how water can change from one form to another, exploring a variety of ways of making sound, and planting some seeds and plants in the Nursery garden. Our visit to Aberdeen Science Centre on 13th May includes a 'Bubbles' show, and we hope to go for a walk in the woods to observe the changes that Spring has brought. If you have any kind of scientific experience or resources which you could share with the children to enhance their learning, please speak to the Nursery staff.

The Nursery children are going to be included in the school weekly 'shared reading' activity from the 12th May, when they will be paired with an older child. The children all received their 'Bookbug' certificates from Catherine, and we continue our visits to the library on 16th May and 13th June.

Primary 1-2

This term we are working on money, time and data handling in maths.

In our literacy work we are working on our comprehension and understanding of what we are reading. For this we use four different activities (illustrator, question master, word finder and summariser).

In Health and Wellbeing we are doing gymnastics and Athletics. We are also looking at the concepts of honesty and truthfulness through stories and games. In Learning across the Curriculum we have been looking at the work of Wassily Kandinsky and creating our own works of art.

We are also looking at different countries around the world and linking this to the Olympic games.

P1/2 and P3/4 Outdoor Learning

From Monday 9th May P1/2 and P3/4 will be beginning a programme of Outdoor learning as one group. This programme will add value to the children's experiences in the classroom and further enrich their education. In order for this to be successful the children in these two classes must have a waterproof jacket and wellies every Monday until the end of term. Many Thanks, Mrs Flemming and Mrs Smith.

Primary 3-4

Our topic is Maritime. We are looking at evidence how seas and oceans are used and will recreate the story of famous Scottish explorers. We are also investigating how water changes, how to measure volume and learning to choose the correct materials to design boats that move.

In language we are looking at various forms of poetry and will write our own, exploring rhyme, pace, expression and choice of words to engage the listener.

In maths we will look at grid systems, locate and describe positions, use appropriate instruments to measure distance. Also gain deeper knowledge of division and fractions.

In French we are extending our vocabulary by learning names of fruit and re-enacting, 'The very hungry caterpillar' (French version).

We will be join P1/2 for outdoor learning sessions weekly to enrich our literacy and team work skills.

Primary 5-7

Through discussion with the children, we have decided to do World War 2 as our topic. Within the topic we will examine a detailed timeline of the war, but our main focus will be that of children in World War 2. There are many opportunities for learning across the curriculum, especially within Expressive Art (creating propaganda posters and Blitz pieces) and Drama (soldiers being sent to war, evacuation etc).

Our Literacy focus for this term is raising reading attainment, and we will be doing regular comprehension tasks based on our topic. These comprehension tasks have/ will be created to challenge the individual child, yet allow them to celebrate achievement. We are also going to be writing weekly, creative, diary entries from evacuees. Following on from this we will study, and create our own, war poetry.

Within Maths this term we will be continuing to work through division of 2, 3 and 4 digit numbers, with the P7's working on division of numbers with decimal points. Following on from this we will be doing the same format of learning but with long multiplication. And finally, we will be focusing on fractions.

Our health and well-being focuses for term 4 are hockey, which will be played indoors, and tennis which will be played outdoors (weather permitting). We will also pay attention to the atrocities within World War 2, paying particular attention to fascism and racism, how these are still prominent in current affairs and society, and how we feel about these issues.

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Fettercairn Curriculum Newsletter Term 3 2016

Nursery News

The Nursery staff recently attended training on NHS 'Grow Well Choices', and we have made this our focus. Grow Well Choices helps the children to learn about being healthy and making healthy choices through a programme of stories about the animals on Grow Well Farm, and fun PE activities. We are complementing this with additional cross curricular learning opportunities.

Over the coming weeks we will have a visit from a doctor, Childsmile staff, and Highland Dancers, and we will visit the local shop to choose and buy a healthy snack.

On Friday 26th February we will finish the focus by having our 'Grow Well Highland Games', invitations to follow.

As we have a Gaelic speaking family in Nursery, this year we are learning two Gaelic songs for our Burns' celebration. We look forward to performing these for you at the end of the session on 2nd February. We will also be celebrating Chinese New Year and Shrove Tuesday.

Primary 1-2

P1/2's topic this term is 'In the Garden'. We are looking at plants, minibeasts and what we can grow in the garden. Our writing this term is linked to our topic.

In health and well being we are looking at the following important qualities: Being kind, Being generous and being helpful.

In maths we are working on numbers to 20, subtraction to 10 and multiplying and dividing.

Primary 3-4

This term in literacy we are focussing on presenting facts in different ways, some Scottish vocabulary, Burns, using commas and prepositions as well as learning animal words in French. In Numeracy the children are learning about multiplication and division. In topic this term we are learning about Scottish wildlife, habitats, food chains and life cycles. In art we have been drawing portraits and using different media to present our work. We will be going on to working on animation and the children have asked to make videos so we will be using technology to create videos in our cooperative learning groups.

Primary 5-7

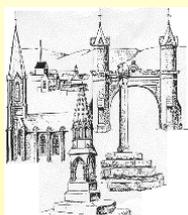
In class this term we have had Miss Davies who has been teaching the topic of farming, looking specifically at the types of farming which take place locally and providing a strong link to Health and Well-being in looking at where our food comes from. Following this, the class topic will be The History of Fettercairn where we will look at local industries, past and present, and we are hoping to liaise with the University of Aberdeen and their specialist students.

Miss Davies has been teaching data handling to all groups in Maths, and in the second half of the term the whole class will be moving on to position, movement and angles. Groups 5 and 6 will be using compasses and directions to plan routes, as well as looking at bearings and the obvious links to angles. Group 7 will be plotting coordinates on grids and maps, and will tie in links to plotting vertices and symmetrical shapes.

Our literacy focus this term linked to our History of Fettercairn topic will be report writing, with a particular emphasis on tenses.

In P.E the class have been doing circuit training with Miss Davies, and following this we will move on to badminton.

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Fettercairn Curriculum Newsletter Term 2 2015

Nursery News

After their successful Aeroplanes focus, the Nursery children decided to continue their interest in this area by investigating 'Transport' this term. We will be looking at numbers, shape and position, and sorting. They have already been learning about fire engines and how to contact the emergency services which linked in nicely with keeping safe on Bonfire Night. They also had fun making fireworks pictures and participating in fireworks music and movement.

Thanks to some parents, we are going to learn about transport people use in the world of work when we have a visit from a tractor and a Police car, and we are also going to find out about horses. We will be doing a travel survey, finding out where to get a bus in our locality, and drawing maps of how we get to Nursery.

Other celebrations we will cover include Diwali, St. Andrew's Day, and Hannukah. We will soon be talking about the transport Mary and Joseph used as we learn the words and songs for our Nativity Play, and of course the most magical transport of all, Santa's sleigh!

Primary 1-2

This term we are working on adding and subtracting to ten and twenty. Our topic this term is Mr Men and Little Miss. We have been reading the stories and writing our own versions. We are also making and designing our own characters. We will also be practicing our lines and songs for the Christmas.

Both P1 and P2 are writing short stories and we are concentrating on capital letters, full stops and finger spaces. We are also working on using different types of words in our sentences.

Primary 3-4

This term in literacy we are focussing on high frequency words and various strategies to learn them. Our topic 'Hodgeheg' is a great opportunity to look closely at writer's craft and use some of the elements in our own story writing. In numeracy we are working on symmetry of shapes and patterns. P3 are learning to partition, increase and decrease, organise and carry over numbers to 1000. P4 are working with numbers to 10 000.

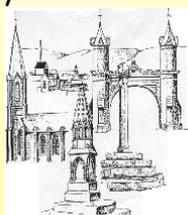
Primary 5-7

This term's topic is Harry Potter which has incorporated many aspects of the current curriculum. In literacy the children have been working on various imaginative pieces as though they were at Hogwarts, and have been learning how to write recipes for potions, as well as how to conduct an interview with an imaginary character. The Primary 7's have been working on writing full dialogue scripts when recalling conversations that were had, whilst the Primary 5's and 6's have been focussing more on how to achieve a particular atmosphere in their writing.

All of the children have been working on volume and capacity within their individual maths groups, and have now moved on to area. Primary 7's are now working on the areas of irregular shapes and triangles, whilst the Primary 5's and 6's are either recapping or are being introduced to the concept of area in a square or rectangle and how to give approximate areas. Primary 6's will then be moving on to finding the areas of right angled triangles, and this will lend itself to lots of active maths.

At the start of this term we were doing athletics as our topic in PE, and were focussing on high jump, long jump and relays (with the addition of hurdles towards the end.) Now, as we are approaching Christmas we have been practicing Scottish country dancing, and very soon the P5/6/7's will be expected to teach the primary 1/2/3/4's what they have learned so far.

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Fettercairn Curriculum Newsletter

Nursery News

The children surprised us by choosing Aeroplanes and Airports as our first focus this term, perhaps inspired by the helicopters that were parked at Balmain. We have had lots of fun playing with our small world airport, making model planes and helicopters, and testing how far our paper planes can fly. We have worked on our number skills by matching up the number of passengers on our planes, and have been practising our 'writing' on tickets and boarding passes. We will also be learning about night and day, sun moon and stars, Road Safety, and foods harvested around the world.

We continue to make use of resources in the village and so far have had a visit to Fettercairn Library and a trip to the Community Allotment. We also hope to visit the park while the weather is good.

Primary 5-7

This term our topic is 'Dragon's Den' which lends itself to almost every area of the curriculum. The children, in their groups, will be using and developing technology skills to design and build prototypes, art skills to develop marketing tools such as posters, and ICT skills when filming and editing their adverts on our green screen.

The focus in Literacy will be writing scripts and conversational pieces. Primary 5's will be specifically looking at how to correctly use quotation marks and associated conversational grammar between 2 characters. Primary 6's will do similar work, but will be focussing on group conversational work with up to 6 or 7 characters, which lends itself well to writing advert scripts. Primary 7's will be focussing on how to effectively include greater detail such as feelings, facial expressions, and tone between several characters in their conversational writing.

Maths work is also influenced by our topic. Primary 5's will be looking at the addition and subtraction of money up to £100. Primary 6's are working with the addition and subtraction of decimals up to 999.99. Primary 7's are working on converting numbers to fractions, and also on equivalent values. This will transfer well into working out profits and percentages.

In health and well being this term we are working on our netball skills, with the vision to transfer these skills to basketball. We are focussing mainly on throwing, catching, aiming, quick reactions, and planning our next steps. Our circle times will be mostly focussed on friendships and relationships both in school and at home.

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Term 1 2015

Primary 1-2

This term in Numeracy we are working on numbers and adding to 10 and numbers to 100.

In Literacy we are working on learning how to say and write our sounds and on learning new spelling patterns.

Our topic this term is Fairytales and we have been reading lots of different stories as well as making up some of our own.

In health and wellbeing we are looking at our rules and routines.

Through PE and circle times we are looking at how we care for ourselves and others and who looks after and cares for us.



Primary 3-4

In maths this term we are focussing on a variety of strategies when adding two and 3 digit numbers. In writing we are using personal dictionaries, adjectives, use of commas and time and cause connectives to link and expand our sentences. We will be working on creating texts in explanation and narrative genre and looking at the parts of a story. In topic this term we are learning to predict and explain the effect on toys and other objects by investigating forces. Exploring magnetic forces will lead to the introduction to fair testing and game design. In PE we are improving our big ball skills, working co-operatively and creating sequences in gymnastics.

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Fettercairn Curriculum Newsletter

Term 2 2014

Primary 1-3

This term our focus will be Houses and Homes. We will continue to work actively both independently and co-operatively. In literacy, as well as our phonic, reading and spelling jobs, we will be concentrating on persuasive writing and writing for information. Our numeracy focus will continue with numbers for P1 and addition, subtraction, multiplication and division for P2 and P3. We will all be looking at measurement too. In HWB we are making the most of the outdoors and showing we know how to travel safely. In art along with Mrs. Morrison's lessons, we will be looking at artists such as Klee and Lowry and using a wide range of materials in our artwork. Our PE focus will be dance and we will start to learn some traditional Scottish dances. Mr Masson will be with us every second Monday. French lessons with Madame Quinn, continue for our class every other Thursday. Our science work will mostly involve looking at materials and electricity. We will be looking at houses from the past in our local area.

Primary 4-7

In maths this term we are having a focus on mental maths skills and strategies, as well as looking at place value with Mrs. Smith, and information handling and graphs with Mr. Smith.

In literacy we are continuing to work on our letter and report writing but we are also going to be looking at writing and presenting factual information, linked to our topic, in a number of ways. There is a larger focus on spelling this term, tied in to our handwriting work. The children are also developing their research skills by working on group PowerPoint presentations about areas of the ocean that they have chosen, which are to be presented to the class. The P7's will be specifically looking at 'waves', whilst P4, 5 and 6 will be focussing on sea creatures.

Our topic this term is 'The Ocean.' We will be looking at the geography of the oceans, the different levels within it and the creatures which live in them, as well as numerous science links to floating and sinking, freezing, and waves.

In RME we will continue to explore world religions, and we will be learning about Buddhism this term. In PSE we will be looking at feelings as a class, and we will also be continuing our ongoing UNICEF rights respecting work.

In P.E we will be working on our hockey skills.

Nursery News

Our focus for the rest of this term will be 'Christmas'. We are looking forward to lots of creative activities and will be working very hard rehearsing the songs and words for our nativity play 'It's a Baby'. Song sheets will be sent home and we would appreciate your help in learning the words. We will also be learning about Hanukkah, the Jewish festival of lights. We plan to visit the village post office and then have our own Nursery post office in the role play area, with lots of opportunities for maths and language. We will learn about Scotland when we celebrate St. Andrew's Day on Friday 28th November, so please look out any tartan to wear that day. We are going to have 'Come and Play days' on 1st, 2nd and 4th December, so please sign up on the sheet if you can come!

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In literacy we are continuing to work on our letter and report writing but we are also going to be looking at writing and presenting factual information, linked to our topic, in a number of ways. There is a larger focus on spelling this term, tied in to our handwriting work. The children are also developing their research skills by working on group PowerPoint presentations about areas of the ocean that they have chosen, which are to be presented to the class. The P7's will be specifically looking at 'waves', whilst P4, 5 and 6 will be focussing on sea creatures.

Our topic this term is 'The Ocean.' We will be looking at the geography of the oceans, the different levels within it and the creatures which live in them, as well as numerous science links to floating and sinking, freezing, and waves.

In RME we will continue to explore world religions, and we will be learning about Buddhism this term. In PSE we will be looking at feelings as a class, and we will also be continuing our ongoing UNICEF rights respecting work.

In P.E we will be working on our hockey skills.

Nursery News

Our focus for the rest of this term will be 'Christmas'. We are looking forward to lots of creative activities and will be working very hard rehearsing the songs and words for our nativity play 'It's a Baby'. Song sheets will be sent home and we would appreciate your help in learning the words. We will also be learning about Hanukkah, the Jewish festival of lights. We plan to visit the village post office and then have our own Nursery post office in the role play area, with lots of opportunities for maths and language. We will learn about Scotland when we celebrate St. Andrew's Day on Friday 28th November, so please look out any tartan to wear that day. We are going to have 'Come and Play days' on 1st, 2nd and 4th December, so please sign up on the sheet if you can come!

Achievement - If your child has gained a certificate, trophy, medal, badge etc. in any activity they do then we would like to hear about it. Please send it into school so that we all can celebrate in their success.

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