



Whales Newsletter

We have had a great start to not only a new school year, but a new group and classroom. It has been wonderful to see how well the children have settled into their new routine. As we approach half-term, I thought I'd take this opportunity to introduce the staff your children have been working with, the regular routines of the classroom, and some of the activities we have been up to.

Whales Staff



Lucy (Teacher)
(ESO)

Full time



Kerry (SESO)

Mon - Thurs



Megan (SESO)

Mon & Wed



Ellie (ESO)

Full time



Amy

Full time

Timetable

Our morning routine up to snack and break is always the same.

Workstation.



When the children arrive they sort their bags and coats and then complete activities in their workstation. These are 4 activities based around maths and literacy which they complete with support until they can confidently complete them independently. Then the activities are changed and the process begins again.

Circle time.



Circle time is a group activity. We register the children and each child takes part individually writing their name and choosing their welcome song. We also sing and sign songs to identify the day, date, month and year as well as one child becoming the weather forecaster choosing what they think the weather will be that day. We are lucky to have such lovely singers in our group and it is great to see them joining in with the singing and signing.

Learning trays.



These are completed one to one with an adult. They contain individually planned reading, writing and maths activities designed at developing skills, consolidating learning and meeting the child's current maths and literacy targets.

Rest of the morning

Monday
Friday

MSR



Tuesday

Attention Autism



Wednesday

Cooking



Thursday

Bike 4 Life



Afternoon sessions

Afternoon sessions now start with cleaning our teeth.



Monday: Life skills and colourful semantics



In life skills we have covered lots of tasks including shopping for the ingredients for our cooking, making sandwiches and pizzas. We have practised hanging out clothes and folding them up. Colourful semantics uses familiar songs and rhymes to construct sentences which match or change the words of the song!

Tuesday: Horse riding / Investigation



Four of our older students get the opportunity to go horse riding with horse riding for the disabled in Andreas. Our other students carry out investigation activities. These have included finding a heartbeat with a stethoscope, seeing the effect of marbling inks in water appearing on paper, and drawing around each other, identifying parts of the body.

Wednesday: Swimming and Music



The majority of Whales class go swimming on a Wednesday afternoon to Glencrutchery Pool. The children love this and engage really well with the staff there. In music we have been looking at high and low, fast and slow. The parachute, jack-in-a-box and pop-up puppet activities have been particularly popular.

Thursday: Life Skills Trip



This half term we have been familiarising ourselves with the local area. We have been to the local park, up to Shoprite, and to the local Glen. This has given the children the opportunity to practise their skills in road safety, buying things in a shop, how to swing on a swing by yourself, taking turns and helping one another (e.g. pushing each other on the roundabout), and appreciating the beauty of the local area. In future we plan to go further afield to try new skills.

Friday: Forest School



Forest School is run by Eva who has her level 3 qualification in forest school. The children have loved climbing trees, exploring the site hunting for bugs and building dens. They have used imaginative play finding plants to create potions or to 'cook' with. Last week they built and lit their own fire using foraged wood and a flint and steel to light it. The children were really respectful of the fire, enjoying watching the flames and feeding it sticks while keeping to the safety rules. Well done everyone!

Individual timetables and Questionnaire

This is an overview of what the majority of children are doing each day in Whales. Each child has their own individual timetable which shows other sessions they are accessing within the unit or in mainstream. I have attached a short questionnaire below to help with our planning. Please complete, detach and send to school. We see what the children do here, but they may do something different at home!

Thank you for a lovely half term - your children are wonderful - and I am looking forward to working with them next term. Any questions please just ask.

Kindest regards, Lucy, Kerry, Megan, Ellie and Amy

Name of child:

Favourite things to do at home?

Favourite song/rhyme?

Favourite TV programme/computer game?

Important people/family members/pets?
