***Mid Term / In-Service and Public Holidays***  Please can we remind you that the nursery will be closed on the following days: Mid Term Holidays: Monday 14th February Tuesday 15th February For Term Time Wednesday 16th February All children Staff In-Service Training.

****C:\Users\gf00134231\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\F90XF2XM\blockpage[1].gif**Illness**. Please remember if your child or a member of your household becomes unwell with any of the COVID 19 symptoms we advise you take them for a PCR or carry out a Lateral Flow test at home and inform us of the outcome. This month there has been a high level of staff absences, some non COVID along with the normal annual leave. This has had a major impact on the service we are able to provide. Thanks to all those parents for their understanding and patience at this difficult time.

**Face Masks** Again can we remind parents and carers to wear a face mask when bringing or collecting children.

**Consultation with Parents/Carers** We understand how important it is to maintain effective communication links with our parents and carers. Following on from our recent Care Inspection where some parents expressed concerns regarding the lack of communication. We have put together a short survey on Microsoft forms. We have attached the QR code that will take you directly to the questionnaire. This will allow us to see where the gaps are and how we can improve. We value all your comments positive or otherwise.

**Parents Meetings** We intend to hold our next round of Parents Meetings in March. Dates and times will be given out nearer the time. However please do not hesitate to contact the nursery at any time to discuss your child’s progress. If you feel there is anything else we could be doing to support your child please let us know.

**Nursery/ Primary Transitions** We are in the process of putting together a calendar of Transition experiences between the nursery and our feeder primary schools. As soon as we have the final copy we will send it out.

**Staffing** This month Gillian Crawford will return from maternity leave. Gillian will job share with Joanne Currie in the Sunshine Room. Fiona Quinn will return in March to the Caterpillar room for our children aged 0-2 years. We cannot believe that’s a year since they both went off. Very soon Rebecca Currie and Aimee Cafolla will be stopping for their maternity leaves. Watch this space. **Outdoor Play** As part of our measures to minimise the risk of Covid-19 and in line with Scottish Government Guidance our children are continuing to spend even more time outdoors. We provide outdoor suits but sometimes the children do require to change their clothes especially socks and pants. Please can we ask you to send in a change of clothes. If you are bringing your child to nursery wearing wellington boots please can we ask you to bring a change of footwear.

**Indoor/ Outdoor Setting** Due to the amazing outdoor play spaces we have at Pikeman we are in the early stages of applying for registration as an Indoor/Outdoor setting. We are looking to set up a Parent’s Group to help support the development of our outdoor spaces. If you would like to join this group please can you speak to a member of staff. Thanks to those parents who have already put their names forward. We would like to hold an outdoor workshop sometime in March and are really keen for parents to be involved.

**Loose Parts Play** The children and staff have been further developing our loose parts play both indoors and outdoors.Loose parts are materials that can be moved, carried, combined, redesigned, lined up, and taken apart and put back together in multiple ways. Loose parts can be used alone or combined with other materials. There is no set of specific directions for materials that are considered loose parts. The child is the direction. If you have any of the following items please could you hand them in-Tyres, cogs, planks of wood, corks, pebbles, various containers, ropes, tarpaulin, cable drums, chains the list is endless.

**Helpers/Volunteers.** We are looking for helpers to tidy up our gardens, set up an outdoor shelter and lay some slabs in our garden. If you are able to help us please can you give your name into the office. We have lots of great ideas but need the manual labour to help us.

**World Book Day** We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 3rd March. If children wish to bring in a favourite book to show and tell with their friends.

C:\Users\mm2163838\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\269Z9J4A\MC900149565[1].wmf**Parent’s views**  If there are any questions/comments/ feedback or suggestions that you wish to discuss with us as a service please do not hesitate to contact the nursery or send us a text/email.

Dates to remember:

Spring Break/Easter Monday 4th April to Monday 18th April 2022 Good Friday 15th April and Easter Monday 18th April included Term Time Children return to nursery Tuesday 19th April.

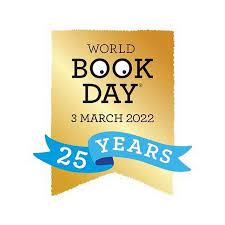
Easter Holiday Good Friday 15th April 2022 and Easter Monday 18th April 2022

May Day Holiday Monday 2nd May

In-Service Day Thursday 5th May this coincides with Scottish Local Government Elections

May Weekend Friday 27th May

June Holidays Thursday 2nd June 2022/ Friday 3rd June-Queen’s Jubilee all children.

****Summer Holidays Friday 24th June all term time children finish

Wednesday 17th August All children return.