KingsWellies Nursery – Creating a Community That Cares

At KingsWellies Nursery, we believe that community is about coming together, giving back and teaching our children that even the smallest acts of kindness can make a big difference. Throughout 2026, we have worked alongside our children, families, staff, local businesses and the wider community to create meaningful opportunities to support others, make a positive difference and bring people together.

This year, KingsWellies Nursery proudly chose to support *Cash for Kids North East Scotland*, a charity close to our hearts which supports local children and families who need it most. Together, our nursery community has raised an incredible £2,260 so far, with even more fundraising still to come.

Our fundraising has been a true community effort. We have encouraged our children and families to get involved in creative and meaningful ways, ensuring that our youngest members understand the importance of kindness, generosity and helping others. We still have our annual Christmas Jumper Day ahead, as well as our registration for Mission Christmas, giving our children, families, staff and wider community the opportunity to donate gifts to children who may otherwise receive very little this Christmas.

Little Feet, Big Achievements

One of our proudest moments this year was our Wellies Waddle, held in May 2026.
We set our children a challenge: together, across the nursery week, could they walk 15 miles? With their families and friends sponsoring them, the children embraced the challenge with incredible enthusiasm.

And they didn't just reach their target — they absolutely smashed it!

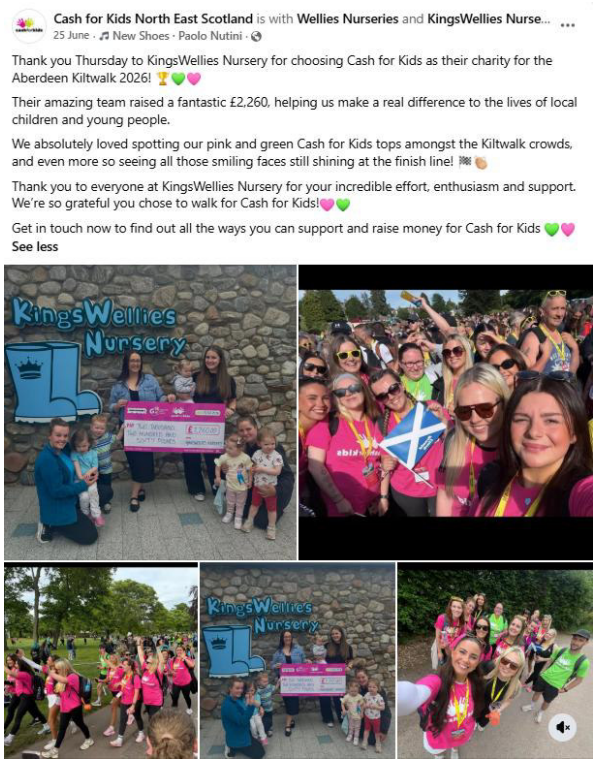
Our children collectively walked an amazing 42.1 miles, nearly three times our original target. What made this achievement so special was that it was about so much more than the distance. It brought children, parents, grandparents, family members and friends together around a shared purpose. Our children experienced first-hand that when a community works together, we can achieve far more than we ever could alone.

Inspired by the children's incredible achievement, our dedicated staff team decided to take on their own challenge and registered for the Aberdeen Kiltwalk.

On Sunday 7th June 2026, our staff walked an incredible 18 miles, completing the challenge in just six hours and taking an astonishing 45,000 steps along the way.



But once again, it wasn't just our staff who made this special.
Our community of families, friends and supporters gathered at Duthie Park to cheer us across the finish line. Seeing familiar faces waiting for us, celebrating our achievement and sharing in the moment was incredibly emotional. Receiving our medals surrounded by the people who had supported us throughout the journey was a powerful reminder of what community truly means.



It was a moment filled with pride, belonging, togetherness and genuine community spirit — and one that our staff and families will remember for a long time.
Giving Back, Together
Our relationship with Cash for Kids has been incredibly rewarding. We were delighted to receive a heartfelt thank-you from their team, along with a presentation of our fundraising total on a big cheque, which was proudly shared across social media.

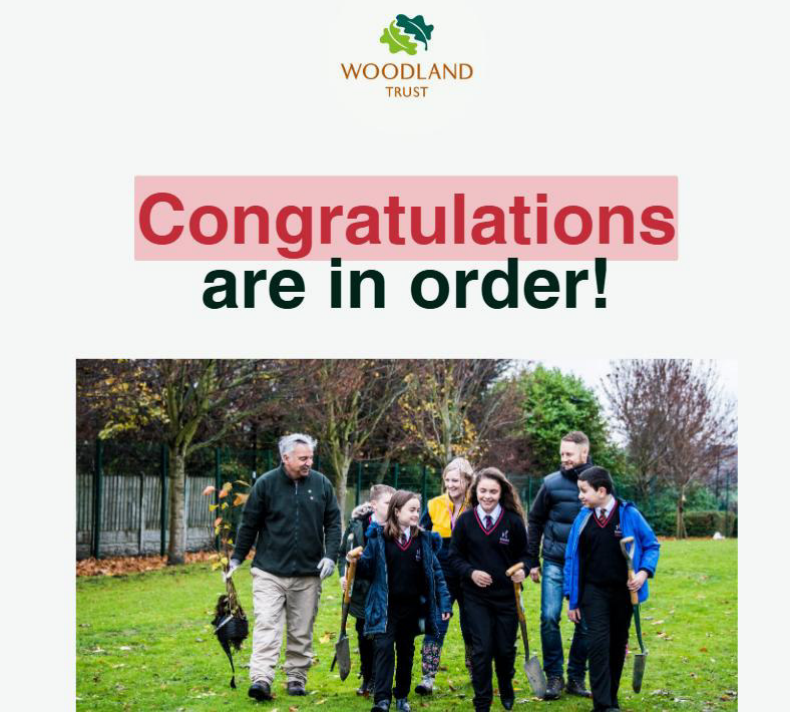
For us, however, the biggest reward has been seeing our children understand that their actions can have a real impact on the lives of other children in our local community.
Our journey doesn't end here. We are already looking at ways to continue working with Cash for Kids North East Scotland and are excited about creating even more opportunities for our nursery community to give back.

Caring for Our Community and Our Environment

Our commitment to community extends beyond fundraising.
At KingsWellies Nursery, we actively look for opportunities to build meaningful relationships with our local community and businesses within Prime Four, creating experiences that benefit both our children and the environment around us.

We recently applied for trees through a charity initiative and were thrilled to have our application granted. We are now working with our local community to plant these trees around the Prime Four Business Park.

This will be a wonderful opportunity for our children to work alongside members of the community, getting



their hands dirty, learning about nature and taking an active role in caring for the environment they live and learn in.

It is also helping us work towards achieving our FOURTH Eco-Schools Award — another achievement that reflects our commitment to sustainability and our responsibility to the wider community.

A Community Where Everyone Has a Part to Play

At KingsWellies Nursery, we don't see community involvement as something that happens occasionally or simply as part of a fundraising calendar. It is part of who we are.

We create opportunities for our children to lead, participate, care and contribute. We invite our parents and families to join us. We work with local businesses and community organisations. And we encourage our staff to lead by example.

Most importantly, we are helping our children understand from an early age that they have the power to make a difference.

Whether that is walking 42.1 miles together, raising £2,260 for local children and families, cheering one another across a finish line, donating a Christmas gift, planting a tree or simply showing kindness to someone who needs it — every contribution matters.

Our greatest achievement isn't the money we have raised or the miles we have walked. It is the community we have built along the way.

At KingsWellies, we are incredibly proud to be a nursery where children, families, staff and our wider community come together, support one another and give back.

We don't just want our children to grow up knowing what it means to be part of a community.
We want them to know that they can help shape one.



West End Wellies

At Westend Wellies, we believe exceptional early learning and childcare begins with exceptional relationships. Our team is at the heart of everything we do, and we are incredibly proud of the culture of kindness, professionalism and commitment that we have created together.

We are a close, supportive team who value each other both personally and professionally. We recognise that staff wellbeing is essential, and that when our team feels cared for, supported and valued, they are able to provide the highest quality experiences for children and families. We celebrate each other's achievements, encourage one another to develop and stand together through challenges. Whether supporting colleagues through difficult personal circumstances or coming together to support charity events close to our hearts, our team demonstrates genuine compassion and care.

Westend Wellies currently supports 90 children and their families, and every child is recognised as a unique individual with their own strengths, interests and needs. Our practice reflects the principles of Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC), ensuring children experience nurturing relationships, are listened to, included and supported to achieve their full potential.



We are guided by the principles of Realising the Ambition-Being Me understanding that children learn best through play, responsive interactions and meaningful relationships. Our practitioners create environments where children are encouraged to make choices, lead their own play, develop confidence and explore their interests. We believe children should feel a strong sense of belonging and know that their voices, ideas and achievements matter.

Our recent Care Inspectorate inspection recognised the positive impact of our team approach. Inspectors highlighted that children were cared for in a safe, secure and welcoming environment, with high-quality furnishings and resources. They recognised that children had fun accessing a variety of experiences, were supported to make choices and lead their own play, and experienced warm, supportive interactions with staff. Families benefited from positive relationships with practitioners, and effective quality assurance processes contributed to positive outcomes for children and families.

We were proud to achieve Very Good evaluations for Leadership and Children Thrive and Develop in Quality Spaces, reflecting the dedication, professionalism and commitment of our whole team.

Our quality assessor further highlighted the special ethos within Westend Wellies. They recognised that practitioners smile and welcome families and visitors, creating a genuine family feel throughout the setting. They commented on the strong communication between practitioners, effective deployment of staff throughout the rooms, and the caring and nurturing interactions children experience. They observed that children were relaxed and happy in practitioners' company, and that staff actively listened to children, giving them time to process questions and respond.

A particularly meaningful observation was our practice of celebrating children's successes at our front door. By sharing children's achievements as families enter the building, we support children's confidence and self-esteem while allowing parents and carers to celebrate these moments too. This small but important practice represents our belief that every child's progress deserves to be recognised.





Children's individual needs are always at the centre of our decisions. We work closely with families and external agencies to support children with additional support needs, whether these relate to medical needs, development, communication, emotional wellbeing or personal circumstances. Our team adapts learning environments, resources and approaches to ensure every child can participate, achieve and feel included.

Family partnerships are fundamental to our success. We operate an open-door policy and actively encourage families to share their views, experiences and ideas. Through feedback stations, Stay and Play sessions, newsletters and regular social media updates, we ensure families remain connected to their child's learning journey. We provide information and support around transitions, developmental stages and wellbeing, helping families feel confident and supported.

The impact of these relationships can be seen through the feedback we receive from families. One family recently shared the following with our team:

"We were going through a particularly difficult time personally as a family, but knowing our child was safe, happy and nurtured at Westend Wellies took one less worry away. It wasn't just our child that the team cared for, they always checked in with us in such a caring and genuine way to make sure we were okay too. We felt supported, valued and cared for as a family."



This reflects our belief that we support not only the child but the whole family around them.

Our team consistently goes above and beyond. Practitioners use their knowledge and creativity to develop individual approaches that support children through important milestones such as settling into nursery, toilet training, trying new foods and building confidence. Staff regularly source resources, create opportunities and adapt experiences to remove barriers and support children's wellbeing.

We have monthly collegiate meetings where practitioners reflect on practice, share ideas, support each other's professional development and work collaboratively to improve outcomes for children. We also recognise the achievements of our staff through initiatives such as Worker of the Month, where nominations can come from colleagues, families and team members, ensuring everyone's contributions are valued.



We are committed to supporting our wider community. Our partnership with a local care home allows children to regularly visit and build meaningful relationships with older generations. These experiences support children's empathy, communication skills and understanding of community, while bringing enjoyment and connection to residents.



Our team's compassion extends beyond our nursery walls. When one of our children required support from Ronald McDonald House Charities due to a medical condition, our team wanted to show our support to the child and family. We organised a sponsored bike challenge and proudly raised £1,760. This demonstrated the kindness, unity and commitment that makes our team so special.

We also promote children's wellbeing through a wide range of experiences, including regular Therapets visits, music opportunities, Song Time, Makaton Song and Dance of the Week, and activities that encourage creativity, movement and confidence. We are proud holders of our

Eco-Schools Green Flag, reflecting our commitment to sustainability and helping children develop respect and responsibility for the world around them.



We are passionate about supporting the next generation of early years professionals and were recognised by North East Scotland College as a valued provider of work experience placements, highlighting our commitment to sharing our knowledge, skills and passion for early learning and childcare.



Westend Wellies is more than a nursery, it is a community built on trust, compassion and belonging. Our team creates a place where children feel safe to explore, families feel supported and practitioners feel valued. Through strong relationships, reflective practice, teamwork and an unwavering commitment to children and families, we believe Westend Wellies truly represents what Nursery Team of the Year should be.

Nursery Awards – QueensWellies Submission

500 words about Queenswellies

QueensWellies Nursery would make a worthy winner of this award as the whole of the Queenswellies team show an unmatched amount of hard-work and strong teamwork during their every working day. QueensWellies set out with a goal of creating a team who are dedicated to ensuring each child that enters our setting leaves feeling valued, safe and have deep sense of self and sense of belonging. We work extremely hard to ensure each child is treated as an individual and all needs and comforts are catered for throughout their days at QueensWellies. Staff in both rooms of our setting work closely with every child within in their care to create strong bonds and emotional security. Staff support the children to relax, explore and build positive relationships with both staff and peers.

The staff at Queenswellies are constantly showing enthusiasm working together to come up with new, fun, engaging ideas to do with the children. Each week children and staff perform a dance of the week together that is purely planned by the children and their ideas. Children and staff discuss songs and dances together and even take the time to make up routines that children take lead on. This has created such a light atmosphere, making everyone feel joyful and stress free.

The team at Queenswellies are also dedicated to expanding the children's skills through different experiences and letting the children take lead in planning these experiences. Each month the children take lead in planning their chosen topic and put across all their ideas. Along with this the team also has Spontaneous planning in place daily, allowing the children to once again take lead of their own learning. The staff team work over and above to ensure all the children's ideas are taken on board and actioned to the best of their ability. Because of this "can do" attitude, the team have taken the children on many outings around Aberdeen, all from children's requests. The team have taken the children on train rides, on personal tours of highlander's museums, to the beach, on boat tours, different parks around Aberdeen, loose part play sessions and so many more places.

Aswell as allowing children to take lead of their own learning, the team work extremely hard to ensure all who attend QueensWellies Nursery feel seen and recognised. QueensWellies are very big on helping all children communicate in a way that is affective for them. QueensWellies are big Makaton users and use Makaton in both rooms on a daily basis. The team have all worked hard together to learn the signs that are most used within the nursery and by the specific children we work with. The team worked together in collegiate meetings to learn and perfect the signs. The team has also worked hard to create strong community links with additional support needs adult volunteers and Additional support needs groups. These volunteers and groups join our setting and interact with the children to help show us all that even though we are all unique individuals; we all deserve the same respect. The staff

team role model this to our children and this helps us meet our goal of having an inclusive, respected setting where all is welcome no matter their background and all feel seen.

QueensWellies Profile 50 words

QueensWellie Profile - QueensWellies Nursery is an Aberdeen based, private Nursery. QueensWellies Nursery consists of two rooms, 0-2 and 2-5. We also have 2 more different types of play rooms to choose from along with our 4 gardens spaces and outdoor classroom. All together we hold 57 children a day. QueensWellies has been open since September 2023 and we thrive everyday to create a warm, welcoming, inclusive environment where children feel seen and part of our small family. Everyone at QueensWellies are dedicated to creating engaging environments and to fostering excellent, positive relationships with our families. At QueensWellies we aim for every child to have a positive rememberable experience where all their differences are celebrated and respected. QueensWellies believe that inclusion isn't about making children fit in, its about changing the world so they don't have to.

CI summary

QueensWellies received a positive care inspectorate report on February 19TH 2025. The setting operates as a part of the Wellies Nursery group alongside two other settings, whilst maintaining strong standards in early learning and childcare. Highlighted was our nurturing environment, the inspectors found our children happy, secure and well-settled. Staff interactions were noted to be caring, professional and familiar with the individual children's needs and developmental stages of children attending. The children were also supported through their routine activities throughout their day.

We were scored –

How good is our care, play and learning – 4 (good)

How good is our setting – 5 (very good)

How good is our leadership – 4 (good)

How good is our staff team – 4 (good)

Since our Care inspectorate report we have been implementing different strategies, resources with our goal to keep improving our setting.

QUeensWellies Nursery - Scottish Nursery Awards – Indoor learning Environment of the year submission

400 Word Description of how indoor learning environments excite and inspire staff

Our learning environment creates a warm, welcoming and stimulating space where children feel safe, valued and excited to learn. In our nursery we are very lucky to have two dedicated playrooms, a sensory room, a role-play room and an inspiring free flow classroom from our garden. Each space has been carefully planned to provide children with opportunities to explore, investigate, create and develop their confidence through meaningful experiences of play.

Our two play rooms offer a wide range of open-ended resources and activities that encourage the children to follow their interests and promote their independence. The age groups within these rooms are 0-2 and 2-5. In both rooms the children make choices about what they would like to explore within in the room. Whether this is construction, small world, role-playing different characters, reading a story or getting messy in arts and crafts or water and sand, our free flow approach allows the children to explore their curiosities. Staff observe the children's interest and use the observations to adapt and enhance the environments in the rooms. This ensures the learning remains exciting and relevant to each individual child.

Our sensory room provides and calm and stimulating environment where children can explore light, colour, sound and different textures. The room provides the children opportunities for self regulation, relaxation and focused sensory exploration. Our sensory room inspires curiosity as the children discover how different sensory experiences respond to their own actions.

In both play rooms are different role play areas which reflect the children's interests. These areas and resources are changed and added to reflect interest reflected by the children. Along with these areas we have a dedicated role play room. Our role-play room brings learning to life and encourages the children to use their imagination, develop language and communication skills and to make sense of the world around them. We also include lots of family photos to our homely room, this encourages the children to open up and also provides them with a comfort from home.

Our outdoor classroom (free flow access to garden) extends learning beyond the indoor environment and provides children with opportunities to explore nature, develop physical skills and learn through real life experiences. We also have different themes within our classroom which the children pick each month, such as Halloween, summer festival etc. Our outdoor classroom encourages curiosity, appropriate risk taking, giving children freedom to learn through first hand experiences.

QueensWellies environments are equally inspiring for staff. Flexible spaces allow staff to engage with children, extend their thinking through questions and introduce new experiences. Together we create a space where children don't just, learn they flourish.

400 Words – How the environment empowers children to drive their own learning with examples of materials and activities?

In QueensWellies we believe children are capable thinkers, curious explorers and confident decision-makers. Our environments are very carefully designed to empower children to take full ownership of their learning, follow their own interests and develop their confidence to make choices of where and how they learn.

Our small size allows us to get to know each individual child and get to know their interests, strengths and skills. This knowledge is reflected through our environments. All resources are accessible to the children by being on their level. This allows them to independently select what they need and develop their own ideas.

Rather than providing set activities that the outcomes can be predicted, we offer open ended resources that allow the children to become creators, problem solvers and imaginative thinkers.

Natural materials such as wooden blocks, shells, pinecones, sticks and recycled boxes are used everyday at QueensWellies. These materials provide endless possibilities. A collection of boxes could be a rocket ship, a den or even a dinosaur habitat. Dinosaur habitat is very popular one at QueensWellies. Children can decide what they want to create whilst our staff listen, observe and ask questions that can extend their thinking without controlling their learning.

Our creative areas provide paint, clay, playdough, chalk, pencils, pens, collage materials and recycled resources. Children are encouraged to experiment with colour and different textures and shapes. We also encourage the children to discover that there are lots of different ways of creating art. A child's piece of art can inspire a story which can lead to redoing our role play area or investigating further. An example of this is one of children used a cardboard tube to create an airplane, this lead onto a discussion of holidays with the staff member observing. After creating more planes and more discussion that other children joined into, the children and staff worked together to change their role play area in the room into an airport.

Our role-play spaces evolve in response to children's interests. A fascination with doctors might inspire the children to make a doctor's surgery or an interest in jungle animals might inspire a jungle. Children contribute ideas, select resources and decide which roles to take, developing language, confidence, cooperation and an understanding of the wider world.

Our outdoor classroom (free flow access to garden) offers lots of opportunities for child-led discovery. Children can plant seeds, investigate minibeasts, build with natural materials, create mud kitchens and measure water. Our children have used their open-ended resources to create little bug hotels for the worms they have found and taking into our classroom.

By giving children choices, time to think, space and freedom to explore, we nurture independence, creativity and confidence. Most importantly, children learn that their ideas matter and that they have the power to shape their own learning journey.