

A photograph of a baby sitting on a ground covered in fallen autumn leaves. The baby is wearing a light-colored, hooded jacket and a matching hat. The baby is looking upwards and to the right, holding a single large, brown autumn leaf in their hands. The background is a soft-focus field of more autumn leaves, with some leaves appearing to be blowing in the air, creating a sense of movement and a warm, golden atmosphere.

**September 2020**

**Parent Newsletter**

Dear parents and friends of Cowgate, welcome, once again to your monthly newsletter.

This newsletter brings our 'meet the team' person for September, Rebecca. I also would like to add that Rebecca has a full time position at Cowgate!!! We are so delighted. It is also worth sharing a little trip to forest kindergarten this week;

## Meet the Team

### ***Which part of Cowgate's ethos do you feel most passionate about?***

I really admire Cowgate's emphasis on the process of doing something rather than the end product. After years of working in formal learning settings where there was always a goal of an idealised finished product to work towards – it's very refreshing to see this challenged at Cowgate and I think it's so much more beneficial for the development of happy children.

### ***What's your top handy hint for treating children as creative and productive people?***

Never underestimate their capability! If you set boundaries and limitations for what you think children may achieve, you may never see what they are truly capable of.

### ***What's your favourite way to spend the weekend?***

I love being outside – in particular by the sea. I come from a family of boat builders and grew up in a seaside village so I think that this has had a huge influence on me. I enjoy walking, beachcombing, rowing and swimming – nothing beats fresh seaside air! I also love spending my time at the weekend teaching myself how to cook a tasty new meal (and the best part - eating it!).

### ***If you could choose any holiday destination, where would it be and why?***

The next place I would love to explore would be Mexico, as it seems so rich in culture – the food looks amazing too! I have never been to that part of the world and it would be a great adventure.

Saying this - you can't beat Bonnie Scotland for a camping holiday though!

### ***What would you put in to 'Room 101'?***

Inequality.

### ***What would your Desert Island Disc be?***

It would be *Normalizo* by Letta Mbulu, a South African Jazz singer. It's a great, uplifting song to dance to. It was also the song that was playing when I met my partner!

### ***What is your funniest Cowgate story?***

I have only had the chance to work at Cowgate for 3 afternoons so far due to the COVID-19 restrictions but once we return I am very excited to make lots of happy memories with the children and Cowgate team.

**In October we hope to resume adding our 'meet the parent' to our monthly newsletter – so please do get involved!**





The children, our wise elders, have really shown us how to respond to a pandemic. They have returned to Cowgate with a surge of energy, enthusiasm and overall positivity that has impressed us all .

I would like to take the opportunity to compliment the Cowgate team here, the three virtual learning sessions, the daily story and the regular calls to children will undoubtedly have made it easier for the children to return.

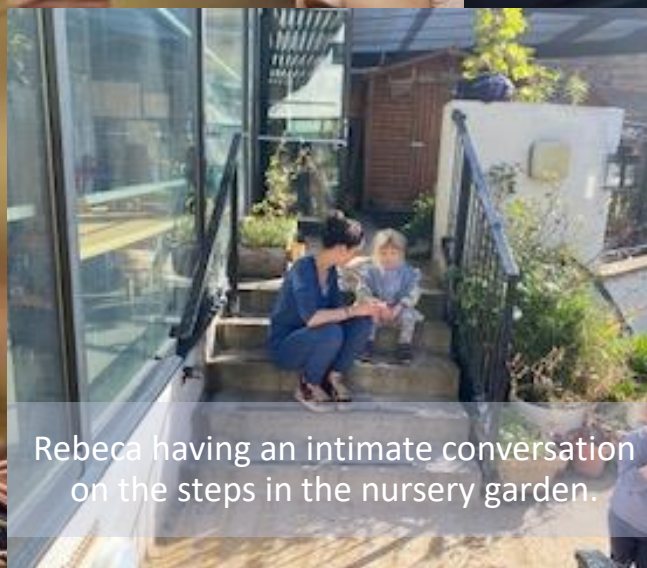
It is such a pleasure to be back!!!



Daniel sharing a story with props



I loved coming across this, evidence of children, but no child in sight!!

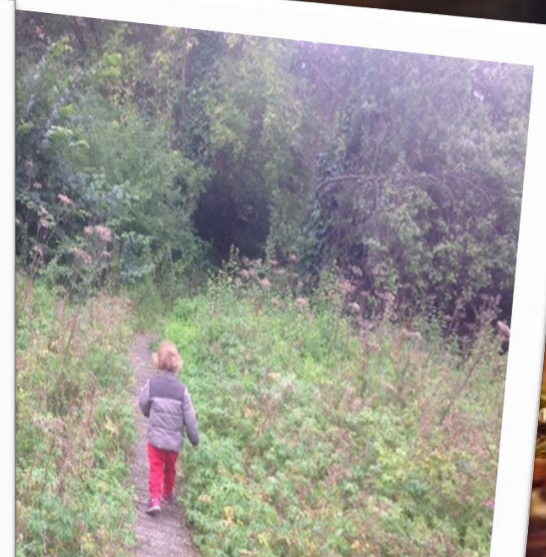


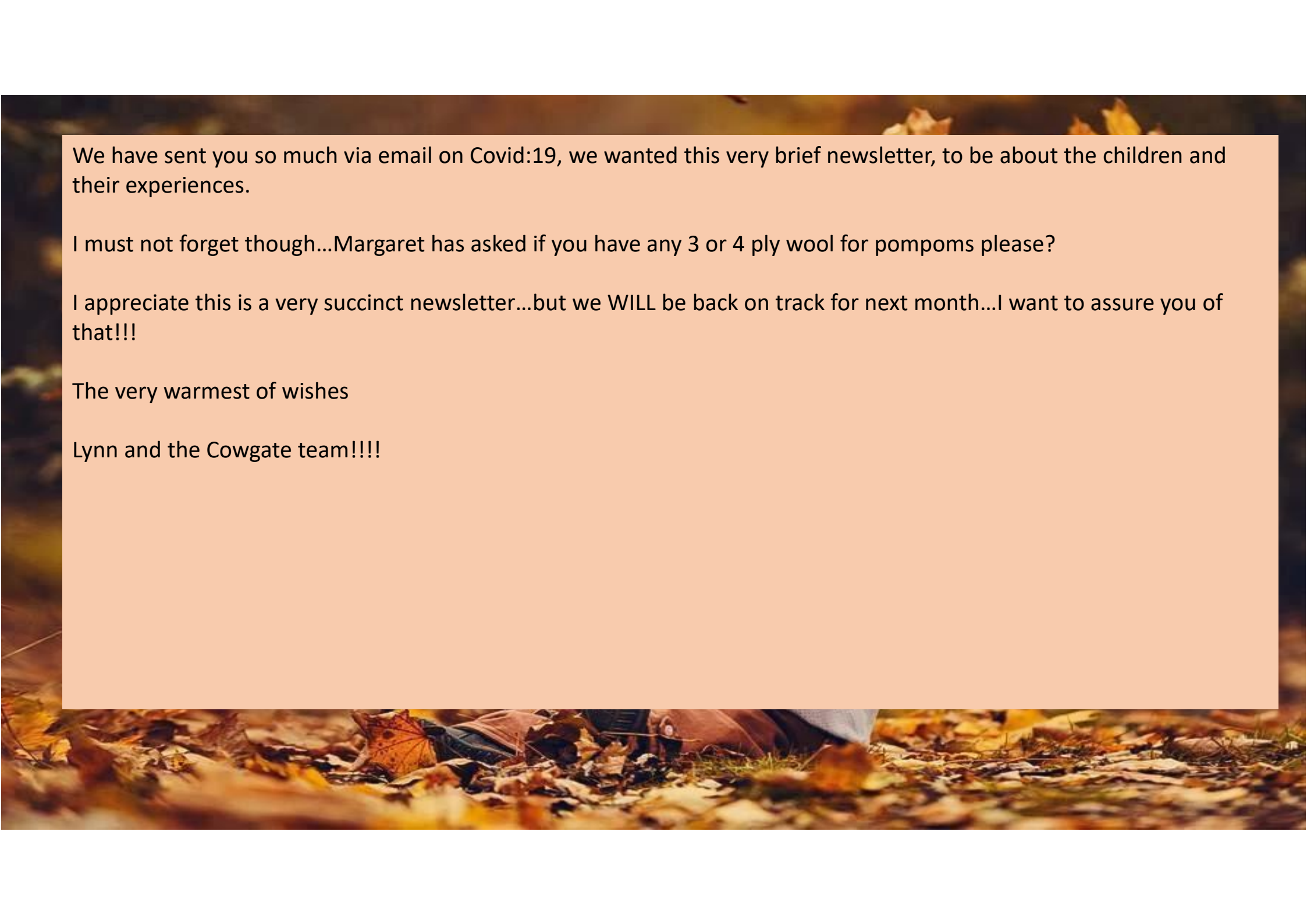
Rebeca having an intimate conversation on the steps in the nursery garden.



## Nature Kindergarten

Thanks to Simon's negotiating skills we can use Johnston Terrace again for nature kindergarten experiences, here is Monday's trip with Kasia and Ruta. So lovely to see children having personal time away from the others...as well as lovely little social gatherings...





We have sent you so much via email on Covid:19, we wanted this very brief newsletter, to be about the children and their experiences.

I must not forget though...Margaret has asked if you have any 3 or 4 ply wool for pompoms please?

I appreciate this is a very succinct newsletter...but we WILL be back on track for next month...I want to assure you of that!!!

The very warmest of wishes

Lynn and the Cowgate team!!!!