NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2018

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ST PHILIP’S MARSH NURSERY SCHOOL

Happy New Year to everyone

**Primary School Applications for September 2018** - Please remember that the deadline for applying for a Reception Class place for your child is **midnight on 15 January 2018**. The Council request that this is carried out on-line where possible at [www.bristol.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/schooladmissions). Your child will go to Reception if they are 4 years old on or before 31 August 2018. Please let your child’s key person know your choices by completing the form on the classroom door so that we are able to plan transitions.

**Welcome back to the new term**

For the next few weeks the children’s learning will be around the theme of ‘changes’. The children will be observing changes in the natural environment and how different materials can change, for example through cooking, freezing and melting.

We will also be celebrating Chinese New Year after half term. This year is the “Year of the Dog”. Chinese New Year is always a really exciting celebration for the children and an opportunity to learn about a different culture and language. We will be tasting Chinese food, and so if you have any concerns please your child’s key person. The children will also be learning different ways of expressing themselves through music and dance.



**Friends of St Philip’s Winter Fair**

We are delighted to announce that proceeds from the Winter Fair and coffee morning after the Christmas sing-along amounted to **£1105.68**. Once again, thank you to the Friends of St Philip’s, staff, parents/carers and children for supporting these events. The proceeds will be put towards playground equipment.

**Speech and Language**

The Speech and Language Therapy Service will be running the following FREE sessions:

**Drop-in sessions:**

St Philip’s Marsh Nursery School – Thursday 11 January 10-11 am; and

Barton Hill Settlement – Thursday 25 January 10-11 am.

**Talk and Explore** (learn new songs, pick up tips for talking and playing with your children):

St Philip’s Marsh Nursery School –

Thursday 1 February 10-11 am; and

Barton Hill Settlement – Thursday 22 March 10-11 am.

**Confident Communicators** (information session on language development and how parents can help their children at home):

St Philip’s Marsh Nursery School – Tuesday 30 January 10-11.30 am; and

Barton Hill Settlement – Thursday 15 March 10-12noon.

The Talk and Explore sessions and Confident Communicators sessions need to be pre-booked. Please contact Barton Hill Settlement Family Centre or St Philip’s Marsh Nursery School accordingly.

**Parents’ Evenings**

Parents’ evenings are being held on:

**Thursday 25 January – 3:45–5:30pm**

**Tuesday 30 January – 3:45–5:30pm**

This is an opportunity for you to discuss how your child is progressing and talk to their key person about any concerns you may have. Please book a slot on the appointment sheet which will be displayed in due course.

**Bristol City Council school admissions 2019/2020**

Can you help? Bristol City Council Schools Admissions are consulting on the schools admissions arrangements for 2019/2020 and need input from parents with children who this will effect.

Consultation on admissions policies for a number of Bristol schools is currently underway and this is your opportunity see the admissions criteria for schools before they are finalised so you can add your feedback. <https://bristol.citizenspace.com/people/school-admission-arrangements-for-2019-20-school-y/>

**School Photographer**

On Thursday 8 February, Tempest Photography Company will be taking individual photographs and family photographs with siblings, if requested. Further details will follow in due course.

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**School meals**

From 10 February 2018 our school meals will be provided by Chartwells (a professional school catering company and subsidiary of the multinational company Compass Group). We are delighted to inform you that the school meal prices will be reduced to **£1.90** from this date.

**Rhymes of the term**

We continue to have rhymes of the term across the School so please check the board in the classroom so that you can sing it at home with your child. All rhymes are also available on the school website [www.**stphilipsmarshnursery**.co.uk](http://www.stphilipsmarshnursery.co.uk)

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**Activities to do at home**

**Literacy - Sound-talking**

Developing children’s ability to attentively listen to sounds around them, such as the sounds of their toys and to sounds in spoken language, is one of the starting points to developing children’s awareness of sounds and letters. This will eventually enable them to become confident readers and writers. At home you could try the following activity to support your child with this.

Find real objects around your home that have three *sounds* and practice ‘sound talk’. First, just let them listen, then see if they will join in, for example, saying:

‘I spy a p-e-g – peg.’   
‘I spy a c-u-p – cup.’  
‘Where’s your other s-o-ck – sock?’  
‘Simon says – touch your ch-i-n - chin.’ ‘Simon says – pick up your b-a-g - bag.

**Numeracy – Time**

Encouraging children to notice order,   
predicting what comes next and recalling what they have done earlier will help them to become increasingly aware of time. Talk to your children about activities in natural contexts, for example: how long until   
bedtime, how long cakes need to be in the oven, how many sleeps until a child’s   
birthday.

**School Library**

The school library is now open. Please use it! The best way you can help your children learn to read is by enjoying reading books with them in a relaxed and comfortable way.



**Severe Weather**

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[www.bristolcity.gov.uk](http://www.bristolcity.gov.uk)

[www.stphilipsmarshnursery.co.uk](http://www.stphilipsmarshnursery.co.uk)

**Clothing**

As the weather is getting colder, children will need appropriate clothing and footwear. We go into the garden in all weathers. All clothing and footwear must be labelled. It would be helpful if you could show your child how to put their hat and gloves into the sleeve of their coat when they take them off to prevent them being lost. In addition, due to the recent heavy rain, the garden is quite muddy and we would be grateful if parents could bear this in mind when dressing their children.

**Parking**

The School has a policy of **zero tolerance** and we cannot accept outbursts of anger, bad language, aggressive or intimidating   
behaviour on the School premises. Please remember to park with care, consideration and courtesy at all times. Many parents have to collect their child early as they have other children to collect who attend primary school and so it can be extremely frustrating if the car park is blocked for extended amounts of time. We understand that parking is an issue, as it is in every school in Bristol and we have taken every step we can to alleviate this. Your patience and co-operation is appreciated.



**Some important dates**

**Thursday 11 January 10-11 am** - Speech and Language drop-in

**15 January** - Deadline for applying for a Reception Class place (contact www.bristol.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

**Thursday 25 January (3.45-5.30 pm)** - Parents Evening

**Tuesday 30 January 10-11.30 am** – Speech and Language Confident Communicators

**Tuesday 30 January (3.45-5.30 pm)** - Parents Evening

**Thursday 1 February 10-11 am** – Speech and Language Talk and Explore

**Thursday 8 February** – School photographer

**12 - 16 February (inclusive)** - Half term holiday – School CLOSED