NEWSLETTER JULY 2018

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ST PHILIP’S MARSH NURSERY SCHOOL

We would like to take this opportunity to say goodbye and good luck to the children leaving us for ‘pastures new’ in July. To the children who will be returning to us in September, we wish you a very happy summer holiday and look forward to welcoming you back at school from Tuesday 4 September.

**Summer safety**

It’s most definitely summer! When the sun begins to shine it is important to take certain precautions. Please make sure your child’s shoulders are covered, bring a sun hat (labelled with your child’s name) and, if you think it is necessary, apply sun cream before your child comes to school. It would be difficult for staff to apply sun cream to children due to the number of children attending the setting each day and due to allergies. There are sun creams available that last all day and this would be preferable. However, you can send in sun cream (labelled with your child’s name) and the staff will supervise whilst they apply it themselves. It might be a good idea for them to practice this at home first. Please do not leave sun cream in your child’s bag but ensure it is given to your child’s key person. The children spend a lot of time outside: climbing; riding bikes and scooters; playing ball games; gardening and running around. Open-toed sandals, crocs and flip flops are not suitable footwear and can be dangerous. Please ensure your child wears suitable footwear to School.

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**Transition**

Transition arrangements are well underway to prepare children who will be leaving us to start their Reception classes in September. Many of the schools will send their Reception teacher to visit your child in school and there will be opportunities for you and your child to visit their new school for ‘taster’ sessions. Please talk to your child’s key person if you have any concerns.

**African Caribbean Day – Wednesday 11 July**

Thank you to the parents/carers for contributing fruit and juices, the volunteers for helping and everyone for attending our annual African Caribbean Day on 11 July. I think you will agree great fun was had by all!

A huge thank you also goes to The Friends of St Philip’s who raised over £50 for school funds by selling ice lollies on the day.

**Summer raffle**

Raffle tickets are available from Reception (50p each). Raffle prizes include soft play sessions, a children’s hamper and events tickets. The raffle will be drawn on Wednesday 18 July.

**Staffing update**

Due to reduced funding and the restructuring of local authority children centre services, the Nursery School has also had to re-organise its staffing and is very sadly having to lose some outstanding and highly valued staff members.

Tamar Hunt

Tamar’s first association with the Nursery was as a parent. She has worked tirelessly for children and families at the Nursery School for many years in different roles. Tamar was a driving force in setting up our very successful Stay & Play sessions and for a number of years co-ordinated and ran this service. Her commitment to the environment and sustainability has hugely influenced the way the School works and informs our practice with the children who all learn about recycling and care for the environment. Most of all though, Tamar has a very insightful, gentle and inclusive approach to all children which enables them to feel safe, learn and grow in her care. We are so sad she is leaving, will miss her greatly and wish her every success for the future. We hope Tamar will stay in touch.

Hasina Mashuk

Hasina has worked in different roles at St Philip’s for almost 10 years. We first knew Hasina as a parent, she then became a dinner lady (SMSA) and more recently a Learning Support Assistant. Hasina’s quiet and gentle nature endears her to children, staff and families. This also belies a very witty and understated sense of humour! We are all delighted for Hasina in that she has secured a position as a ‘key person’ in another nursery. However we are sad she is leaving, will miss her and hope she will stay in touch.

Michelle Wilson

Michelle has also had a long association with the Nursery School. Michelle’s children attended St Philip’s and she volunteered and helped out wherever she could. Michelle then became a dinner lady. Her cheerful, bright, enthusiastic personality always brightens the day. Michelle’s kindness and willingness to always help and support others will be greatly missed. However, I am sure Michelle will stay in touch and that her association with the School will continue.

Julie McGill

Although Julie has only worked here for a short while, we have also known Julie as a parent and good friend of the Nursery School. Julie has worked as a dinner lady and more recently working with the children at snack time. Julie has a warm and empathetic personality and the children come to sit with her, learn about healthy eating and to chat. We are sad Julie is leaving and will miss her. We hope she will stay in touch and wish her every happiness and success for the future.

Kim Booth

We offer our very best wishes to Kim Booth who is getting married in August to Ben. She will be known as Kim Nother when she returns in September.

**ZooLab**

ZooLab UK will be visiting the School on Wednesday 18 July. The visit will entail the showing and handling of live animals and all the children will get the opportunity to handle some of the animals themselves. Further information to follow.

**Growing for Gold**

We are delighted to announce that our beautiful garden was awarded the Bristol in Bloom Learning Through Gardening 2018 Gold Award (2nd).  As well as a certificate we were presented with £40 voucher to spend at a garden centre.  The judges said:

"*St Philip's Marsh Nursery School ~ Gold 2nd ... encouraging children's awareness of their natural surroundings"*

**Stay & Play**

The Stay & Play sessions in our Family Room will now run on Monday morning and Wednesday afternoon. Unfortunately we have to say goodbye to Cherene who has led these sessions for the last few years. The sessions will instead be led by staff from St Paul’s Children’s Centre, including Karen Burfoot, who has a new job as Family Support Worker. Please drop in and say hello!

**Forest school week**

Last week we held valuable ‘forest school’ learning opportunities in our garden. Children engaged in activities such as making mud paint, making twig paintbrushes, cooking in the mud kitchen, building dens, mini-beast hunting, foliage crown and collage making, leaf printing, painting pebbles, cooking on the fire pit, stick percussion, stories outside and an outdoor picnic lunch on Wednesday 4 July. The website/Facebook has been updated in with the photos.

**Underwear Rule**

You’ve probably already talked to your child about keeping safe on many things like crossing the road and not talking to strangers. The **Underwear Rule** is a simple guide to help parents explain to children where others should not try to touch them, how to react and where to seek help.

The following websites give advice to parents on the subject:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/underwear-rule/>

 <http://www.underwearrule.org/underwear_en.asp>

**The Grand Appeal**

During the last week of June, the children painted our very own Feathers McGraw sculpture with their finger prints and splatters. We think he looks amazingly colourful. Feathers will join his friends for the summer holidays at The Grand Appeal Shop at The Mall, Cribbs Causeway where he will be displayed with other sculptures decorated by Bristol schools. Don’t worry, he will be back in school at the beginning of September.

We would like to thank Mandy from Belle & Boo (one of the Gromit Unleashed 2 sculpture artists) who visited the school on Wednesday 27 June and ran interactive workshops with the children, storytime and colouring in – all through the eyes of an artist of the trail. She also kindly donated a set of books to the School. For further information and to order products please see Belle & Boo’s website <https://www.belleandboo.com/>.

**Wrong Trousers Day**

Thank you for participating in Wrong Trousers Day on Friday 29th June. There were some wonderful examples of crazy trousers/shorts/ pyjamas. We raised the grand total of £25.00. which will go to The Grand Appeal (Bristol Children’s Hospital).



**Tesco Bags of Help**

Please remember to pick up your token(s) when you make a purchase at local Tesco stores from now until 31 August and vote for sensory equipment at St Philip’s Marsh Nursery School. You can also claim token(s) when using the self-checkout, just ask at Customer Services. Please tell your friends and family too. Every little helps!



**INSET Days**

The School will be **CLOSED on Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 July** for our final INSET days of this academic year. The School will also be **CLOSED** on **Monday 3 September**.

**Important dates**

Sing-alongs – **Monday 16 July at 9.15 am and Friday 20 July at 3.00 pm**

**Wednesday 18 July** - Zoolab

INSET Day – **Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 July (SCHOOL CLOSED)**

**25 July – 31 August** (inclusive) – School CLOSED for summer holidays

INSET day – **Monday 3 September** – (**SCHOOL CLOSED**)

Return to school – **Tuesday 4 September**

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