**NEWSLETTER MARCH 2018**

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**ST PHILIP’S MARSH NURSERY SCHOOL**

**Changes**

The children will be continuing to learn about changes, including life cycles. We will be chitting and planting potatoes. Each class will look after tadpoles and observe the changes that occur. If anybody has any frogspawn they could bring in please see your child’s key person.

After the Easter holidays the topic will be ‘Opposites’. This will involve the children playing with language as well as beginning to learn mathematical concepts.



**Returners**

If your child is due to return to us in September you will receive a form from us shortly regarding the sessions that you will require. Please could you return the form by **Monday 9 April** as we will then be writing to families with children on the waiting list to offer them places.

**INSET Day**

**Tuesday 13 March**

**The School will be CLOSED on this day.**

**Curriculum Focus**

Literacy

Easter is a great time of year to encourage your child to recognise print in the environment. If your child is given an Easter egg you can read the name of product e.g. ‘Buttons’ or the names of other food items in the cupboard e.g. ‘Kelloggs’, ‘Heinz’. This can then lead on to talking about other environmental print e.g. road signs, shop names.

Numeracy

Easter is also an ideal time to talk about 3D shapes. If your child is given an Easter egg you can talk about the shape of the box (e.g. cuboid, cube) and the egg (ovoid). This can then lead on to talking about other shapes in the environment e.g. a pipe being a cylinder, an ice-cream cone being a cone.

**Fundraising**

On Sunday 18 March Ruth Dean (Alexei’s mum) will be running her first ever half marathon at the Weston Super Half in Weston-super-Mare to raise funds to buy some very needed outdoor play equipment for the Nursery School. We would like wish Ruth the very best of luck. We would be very grateful if you could show your support by donating to her Justgiving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/stphilipsmarshnursery?utm_id=2&utm_term=MejdZJjpK>

This link can be found on the School website and Facebook page.

**Friends of St Philip’s**

The Friends of St Philip’s are a group of parents of children who attend the nursery. The Friends of St Philip’s meet once a month to organise fundraising events to purchase equipment for the benefit of children’s learning. If you would be interested in joining in the informal meetings or, equally importantly, would like to help out in any way, please speak to Tia, Ruth, Sarah, Fran (Friends members) or Mrs Sandell and Heidi (staff members). You can also contact them by email (stphilipmarshfriends@gmail.com). They would love to hear from you!

**Spring Easter Egg Hunt**

The Friends of St Philip’s are organising a Spring Easter Egg Hunt on **Friday 16 March** at **3.30 pm**. Everyone is welcome, so please come along. Please note that this is a ticketed event. Buy your ticket at Reception (50p per child).

We will also be selling raffle tickets for a variety of spring prizes. Donations for this would be very gratefully received, e.g. potted plant, Easter chocolate, unwanted gift sets.



**Chicken pox**

We have had confirmed cases of chicken pox in the School. Chickenpox and shingles are caused by the same virus which causes an itchy rash starting with flat red spots that become raised and filled with fluid. Chickenpox is usually a mild childhood illness but there is a risk of complications in people who have a weakened immune system, young babies and pregnant women and these people should seek advice from their GP. The incubation period of chickenpox is between 13 and 17 days after contact with the infected person. The recommended period to be kept away from school is 5 days from the onset of the rash (subject to not developing new lesions). It is important that Ibuprofen is not given.

For further information please see:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/chickenpox/>

**Parking and Children’s Safety**

Your child’s safety is our number one priority at all times. We ask you to make sure that this is yours too. Every school in Bristol has an issue with parking and we are no exception. We are fortunate that we have a small car park at the front of the premises that parents can use. This can get very congested and if you are in a hurry it is best to park in a nearby side street. Walking, cycling and lift sharing are all ways in which to reduce congestion. Please ensure you keep a close eye on your child whilst walking in and out of the school.

Also a polite request: if you are sat in your car waiting, please switch your engines off as the exhaust fumes go directly towards children waiting to come in.

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**Donations**

The school provides free milk for all children. We do, however, rely on donations of fruit, vegetables (e.g. carrot sticks, cucumber, peppers) and other healthy snacks (e.g. cheese, bread sticks) for your child to share at snack time. If you could bring in a small amount each week it would be greatly appreciated.

It is the time of year for cold viruses and we would also appreciate donations of **boxes of tissues** for the children’s use.

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**Suitable clothing for outside**

The children access the garden in all weathers and water play is available both inside and outside. ‘All weather’ suits are a very good way to keep children dry and can be purchased quite reasonably.

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**Speech and Language**

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

Speech and Language Drop-in **Thursday 8 March**

**World Book Day**

Thank you to all the staff, children and parents/carers who took part in World Book Day. We raised £38.50 (at the time of going to press) which will fund new books to be sent to Africa.

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**Sing-alongs**

The next sing-alongs will be held on **Monday 19 March** at **9.15 am** (followed by Friends of St Philip’s coffee/cake sale) **and Friday 23 March at 2.30 pm**. The current list of songs we are practising can be downloaded from the website. Come along and join in!

**Some important dates**

Speech and Language Drop-in **Thursday 8 March**

**Tuesday 13 March** – INSET Day - School CLOSED

**Friday 16 March 3.30 pm –** Friends of St Philip’s Easter egg hunt

**Monday 19 March 9.15 am** - Sing-along followed by coffee/cake sale

**Friday 23 March 3.00 pm** - Sing-along

Easter holidays - School CLOSED – **Monday 26 March – Friday 6 April (inclusive)**

Return to School – **Monday 9 April**

**Monday 7 May** – School CLOSED for Bank Holiday

Best wishes for a good Easter break.