NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2017

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ST PHILIP’S MARSH NURSERY SCHOOL

The children are settling in well and there is a lovely atmosphere around the School.

**Colour and light**

After half term we will be working with the children on the theme of colour and light. The children will be learning about autumn and seasonal changes, bonfires and fireworks and the Christian celebration of Christmas. The children will also be learning about mixing colours and experimenting with a range of art techniques.



**Primary School Applications**

Please remember that the deadline for applying for a Reception Class place for your child is 15 January 2018. The Council are requesting that this is carried out on line where possible at [www.bristol.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/schooladmissions). Please record your choices on the sheet in your child’s class.

**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 and do not walk through the car park (use the gated pathways to the side of the building). **Please do not park in the car parks of local businesses.**

In order to ensure that all our children are safe and secure in the school we would be grateful if you could observe the following protocol:

* The school doors open at 8.45 am, 11.45 am, 12.30 pm and 3.30 pm.
* Please wait outside until a member of staff opens the door (unless your child attends Breakfast Club).
* Please wait outside unless you have made a prior arrangement to pick up your child early. If you have made a prior arrangement, please ensure you sign them out at Reception and tell their Key Person you are taking them.
* Please do not open the door to anyone.
* Please ensure you **close doors behind you** and **put the safety catches over the gates**.

**Ofsted visit**

As you know Ofsted recently visited the school. The school has maintained its judgement of **GOOD**. We are particularly pleased that we are recognised as a ‘***beacon in the community***’ for our culture of safeguarding, and ‘***pivotal to the wellbeing and early education of the children who attend***’. We should all be proud of our school which continues to improve over time. Thank you to parents who took the time to complete the Parent View questionnaire and for those parents who spoke to the Ofsted inspectors on the day.

**Fundraising**

We are looking to improve our climbing equipment in the garden. Unfortunately this means that we will have to raise funds to do this. If you have any ideas for fundraising we would be very grateful.

**Speech and language sessions**

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

**Drop-in sessions:**

St Philip’s Marsh Nursery School – Thursday 19 October 10-11 am; and

Barton Hill Settlement – Thursday 30 November 10-11 am.

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

Barton Hill Settlement – Thursday 19 October 10-12noon; and

St Philip’s Marsh Nursery School –

Thursday 9 November 10-12noon.

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

At Barton Hill Settlement – Thursday 12 October 10-12noon; and St Philip’s Marsh Nursery School – Thursday 2 November 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.

**Website**

The School website ([www.stphilipsmarshnursery.co.uk](http://www.stphilipsmarshnursery.co.uk)) is regularly updated and has lots of information about the School, activities the children are engaged in, upcoming events, urgent news, the latest menu and much more! Please also check out our Facebook page.

**School Library**

The School library is 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.

The library is now situated in two places: the School foyer; and in the corridor to the left of Reception. All books are now lent on a trust basis - there is no need to fill in any paperwork, simply borrow the book you would like and return it when you’ve finished. Please feel free to sit and read books before or after school with your child in the library area.

We do, however, encourage you to use a book bag. These can be purchased from the School Office for £2.00. **We are missing books from our library, therefore please could you check at home if you borrowed books last year and forgot to return them.**

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**Clothing**

The weather is very changeable at the moment so please ensure your child always brings a coat to school. As the weather gets 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 hats and gloves into the sleeve of their coat when they take them off to prevent them being lost.

Spare clothes may be kept on your child’s peg if needed.

**Sickness**

If your child has sickness and/or diarrhoea please remember that they must stay off school for at least **48 hours** from the last time that they were ill. Also it is the time of year where coughs and colds are occurring. If your child is unwell keep them at home and telephone the School on 0117 977 6171 to report the absence. We can only give prescribed medication at school that has a pharmacist sticker on the bottle or box with your child’s name on it – we cannot give any medicines that you have bought over the counter.

**Froglets and wrap around care**

We still have places for wrap around care (morning and afternoon sessions) and also in breakfast club and after school club. Please see Hazel at Reception if you require a place and the relevant paperwork will be provided.

Children who are due to start wrap around or Froglets for the first time need the paperwork completed in advance of them starting.

Wrap around care is £18 per session (am or pm).

Breakfast club is £3.50 per day and includes a healthy breakfast.

After school club is £9.50 per day and includes a hot meal cooked in our school kitchen.

If you are using after school club as part of your 30 hour entitlement, there will be a charge of £2.25 for a hot meal during this session. Alternatively you can provide a packed lunch.

**Stay and Play Sessions**

We hold ‘Stay and Play’ sessions every Monday and Thursday morning in our Family Room. Cherene Roberts supports these sessions.

Sessions are open to all parents/carers with children on the waiting list, parents/carers of children under 3 with brothers or sisters in the school, or parents/carers who have had a child here who has since moved on to infant/primary school.

Please talk to Cherene if you are able to volunteer to help at any of these sessions.



**Paediatric First Aid Course**

This course will be held here every Tuesday from 31 October to 5 December 1.00-3.00 pm.

The course is FREE for those in receipt of means tested benefits. Please see Reception to book a place.

**Forthcoming events**

The School will be **CLOSED** for INSET day on **Friday 20 October** when the staff will undertake child protection training.

The School will be **CLOSED** for half term from **Monday 23 October to Friday 27 October (inclusive)**. The School opens again on Monday 30 October.