DECEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

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**St Philip’s Marsh Nursery School**

**The staff and governors of St Philip’s Marsh Nursery School wish you and your family a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.**

**Christmas Sing-alongs**

We will be hosting two Christmas sing-alongs this year and the children are busy practising songs. Parents are invited to join the Christmas sing-alongs at **9:00 am on Monday 17 December** (followed by a tea/coffee and cake sale) **and Friday 21December at 2:30 pm** (children are able to leave early on that day once the sing-along has finished).

This is a very informal affair, not a performance!

**Christmas Parties**

All classes will host two parties and children are invited to attend at least one.

**Party 1 – Tuesday 18 December between 8:45 am – 11:45 am**

**Party 2 – Thursday 20 December between 12:30 pm – 3:30 pm**

If your child is in for their usual session on Tuesday 12 December then they do not need to bring a packed lunch or dinner money on that day as the children will be making sandwiches to eat at lunchtime. A list of party food will be provided in each classroom for you to sign up to make a contribution.

Children who usually attend afternoon sessions please attend as normal. Thursday 20 December school lunches will operate as normal so dinner money/packed lunch will still be required. The children will still be making sandwiches for the party and will enjoy them later in the afternoon.

If you would like your child to come to the Christmas party and they do not usually attend on EITHER a Tuesday or a Thursday please see your child’s key person.

Breakfast Club, ‘Buy Back’ and After School Club are running as normal.

We would be very grateful for any food donations and a list of party food that you can bring in will be available in each class. Please note that due to allergies: no nuts, no meat products and all food to be in original packaging.

**We are looking for volunteers and if you are available to help out on the day please see your child’s key person.**

**Winter Fayre**

A big thank you to the Friends of St Philip’s and everyone who supported our Winter Fayre this year. There was a joyous atmosphere on the day. This raised approximately £500 for the school which we can spend on resources for children with additional needs.

**Wednesday 19 December - Christmas Dinner**

All children are welcome to come to the School Christmas dinner. In order to enable this, the following arrangements apply.

All children who attend morning sessions please attend as usual. Children can then be collected at 12.30 pm.

Children who normally attend in the afternoon are invited to come in at 11:30 am until 3:30 pm as lunch will be served at 11.45 am. Please let your child’s key person know if you will be doing this.

If your child does not usually attend on Wednesdays you are welcome to bring them in at 11:30 am and collect at 12:30 pm.

Breakfast Club, ‘Buy Back, enhanced provision and After School Club are running as normal.

The cost of a school dinner is £1.95 and this is **payable in advance** (unless you are entitled to Free School Meals).

**Staff Changes**

**Val Golding:**

Val is retiring at Christmas after 28 years working as a kitchen assistant, helping prepare food for the children. Val is always cheerful with a positive outlook and greatly loved by children and staff alike. Whatever the weather Val is here, and the dinner always arrives! We will greatly miss Val and wish her and her husband Dennis a long and happy retirement.

We hope Val will pop in to see us from time to time.

**Sue Allan:**

Sue has been doing the early and late shift in our Froglets breakfast and after school clubs for the past 5 years.

Sue has created a lovely homely feel for the ‘Froglets’ where the children feel very safe and secure. Sadly Sue will be leaving after Christmas to take up a new role as receptionist at Southmead Hospital Accident and Emergency Department. Hopefully we won’t be seeing her there! We do hope Sue will come and see us though and stay in touch.

**Petition**

Please could all parent/carers sign the petition at Reception. This is a cross-party campaign to save our local authority maintained nursery schools which are all under threat due to continuing austerity measures.

**Curriculum Focus**

You are your child’s first and most important educator. Below are a couple of fun games to play with your child at home to help support their literacy and numeracy skills.

**Numeracy** – Number spotting game - When you open a number on the advent calendar, see if you can spot it elsewhere in the environment e.g. road signs, price tags, remote control, computer keyboard.

**Phonics** – Name that tune game - Sing known songs using only sounds e.g. ‘la, la, la’ and ask your child to guess the song.

**Primary School Applications for September 2019**

Please remember that the deadline for applying for a Reception Class place for your child is 15 January 2019. Your child will go to Reception if they are 4 years old on or before 31 August 2019. The Council request that this is carried out on-line where possible at [www.bristol.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/schooladmissions). 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.

**Free School Meals**

If your child is 3 and you are in receipt of certain benefits you may well be entitled to free school meals. Applying online (see website address below) is the easiest way to check. You’ll get an immediate decision or the site will tell you what more information is needed. <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/schools-learning-early-years/free-school-meals>. If you need help, please ask at Reception.

**Parking**

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. **PLEASE DO NOT PARK** **IN THE CAR PARKS OF LOCAL BUSINESSES**, not only is this very dangerous but you may well get clamped.

**School Closure**

We always endeavour to keep the school open and plan carefully for all eventualities. However, on occasions we have had to close because of severe conditions. This is usually snow related and because of Health and Safety or staff shortages. If we are in a situation where we cannot open the school it will be announced on local radio stations (Radio Bristol 95.5FM), and published on the Local Authority and school website.

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

**Post Box**

There will be a large red post box in the foyer. If your child would like to send a Christmas card to their friends, we suggest that they send **one** card to their key group. The post box will be emptied at the end of each day and the cards read out and displayed in the key group area. This saves paper and also prevents children from getting upset if they do not receive a card.

**Forthcoming Events**

**Friday 21 December 2018**

Last day of term – all sessions as normal.

**Monday 7 January 2019**

School CLOSED for INSET Day.

**Tuesday 8 January 2019**

School reopens.

**Friday 15 February 2019**

School CLOSED for INSET Day.

**Parents’ Consultation Evening**

We will be holding Parents’ Consultation Evenings to discuss how your child is getting on in January and details will follow in the New Year.

