NEWSLETTER APRIL 2019

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ST PHILIP’S MARSH NURSERY SCHOOL

The theme this term will be ‘opposites’. The children will be playing a lot with language as well as beginning to learn many mathematical concepts. Some of the learning objectives and activities are displayed outside each class. Please talk to your child’s key person if you have any questions or suggestions. This information, and much more, is also published on the School website which is regularly updated ([www.stphilipsmarshnursery.co.uk](http://www.stphilipsmarshnursery.co.uk))

The children will also be learning about ‘life cycles’. The School has tadpoles which the children will look after and observe. We have also been chitting potatoes and these are currently being planted.

Please take time to talk with your child about what they are learning.

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**Staff changes**

We welcome Naznin and Deqo to St Philip’s Marsh. Naznin will be working as a support worker for Fir Class and Deqo has joined our lunchtime team as an SMSA.

Kim will now be working full-time as a teacher in Fir Class and Alison will be a full-time key person in our new outdoor classroom (‘Ash’).

Leanne and Catalina have rejoined us after maternity leave and will be working with the lunchtime team. Tara will be supporting our additional 2-year olds.

**Governor changes**

We would like to welcome Amran Arab as Parent Governor. Amran is a parent at our sister site, Cashmore Early Years Centre.

**Summer safety**

When the sun begins to shine (hopefully!) it is important to take certain precautions. Please make sure you child’s shoulders are covered, bring a sun hat and, if you think it is necessary, apply sun cream before your child comes to school, some sun creams are available which will last all day. Staff are not permitted to apply sun cream to children. 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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**Sponsorship**

Colin and Maggie will be running in the Simplyhealth Great Bristol 10k on Sunday 5 May. We are raising money for the development of a sensory room at St Philip’s and a sandpit area at Cashmore Early Years Centre and would welcome your sponsorship please. A sponsor form is available at Reception. Thanking you in anticipation.

**Thanks to PROPS**

Over the last few months PROPS Bristol have been working hard to improve our garden. They have built a new planter and planted it with herbs, repaired and refurbished our wooden bikes, cleared the garden of weeds, cleaned out the pond and jet-washed the soft play areas as well as other maintenance work. PROPS is a charity which supports adults with learning disabilities to achieve their full potential in the community by providing practical learning, skills development and work-based experiences. We would like to extend our huge thanks to the team for all their hard work. The garden looks great!

**‘My Place’ Arts Project**

Over the next few months we will be working with the artist Kirsty Claxton exploring children’s ideas of place and what is important to them. It is sponsored by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, the Architecture Centre and House of Imagination arts organisation to whom we are very grateful.

**Curriculum Focus**

**Numeracy**

The children are exploring measurement, comparing lengths and heights using objects in the environment. For example, different lengths of ribbon, string or lace. You can talk to your child about how long or short a piece is. You can also use real measuring devices such as a tape measure or ruler and model the language of measure e.g. 4 cm long. Children also love measuring their height. You could make your own height chart using handprints. This is also a wonderful opportunity to encourage children to write their own numbers too.

**Literacy**

Explore with your child the different sounds we can make with our voices. Think about the sounds – hissing, cooing, wheeing, whistling, clicking, humming, hooting etc. Try to make sounds for objects in the house e.g. the microwave. Encourage your child to look in the mirror whilst making the noise to see how the shape of their mouth changes for each sound.

You can also find phase 1 phonics games online ([www.letters-and-sounds.com/phase-1-games.html](http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/phase-1-games.html)).

**School admissions**

For the children that are starting school in September you will have now been offered a place at a school. Please could you let your child’s key person know as soon as possible which school you have accepted so that we can start to arrange transition meetings.

**Speech and Language Therapists - Drop-in sessions**

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

Tuesday 7 May 1.00-2.30 pm St Philip’s Marsh Nursery School

Tuesday 14 May 1.00-2.30pm Barton Hill Settlement



**Dates for your diary**

**Monday 6 May** – School CLOSED for Bank Holiday

**Monday 27 May to Friday 31 May** (inclusive) – School CLOSED for Half Term holiday

Return to School – Monday 3 June

**Wednesday 12 June** – School CLOSED for INSET day