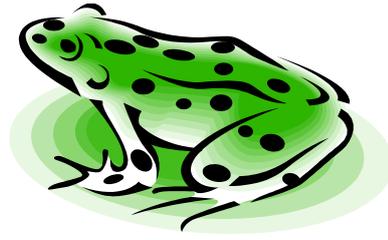


NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2021



ST PHILIP'S MARSH NURSERY SCHOOL

Colour and light

We recently celebrated Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Light (details and photographs can be found on the website and Facebook page). This term we are 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 2022. The Council are requesting that this is carried out on line at www.bristol.gov.uk/schooladmissions. Please let us know when you have applied.

COVID-19

Please continue to follow the measures to help reduce the spread of the virus:

We respectfully ask parents/carers to wear face masks/coverings whilst on school premises.

Do NOT come to Nursery if you, or anyone that you have contact with, has symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, fatigue, loss/change of sense of taste and/or smell, vomiting, diarrhoea). Follow government guidelines.

If your child displays symptoms of COVID-19 they should self-isolate and you should arrange a PCR test for them. They can only return to school if the PCR test is negative. We cannot accept negative lateral flow tests.

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 in the morning and afternoon. 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.

School closure due to bad weather

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 website and School website and Facebook page. We will also send an email to you via ParentPay.

www.bristolcity.gov.uk

www.stphilipsmarshnursery.co.uk

Clothing

As the weather is getting colder, children will need appropriate clothing and footwear. We go into the garden in all weathers. All clothing and footwear should be labelled. It would be helpful if you could show your child to put their hats and gloves into the sleeve of their coat when they take them off to prevent them being lost.

'All weather' suits are also a very good way to keep children dry and can be purchased quite reasonably.



Please ensure your child's bag contains enough **nappies and wipes** for the session (if they are in nappies/pull-ups) and **spare clothes (labelled)** in case we have to change children after toileting accidents or from water play. If your child comes home in nursery clothes, please could you return them as soon as possible.

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 for coughs and colds. 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/box with your child's name on it – we cannot give any medicines that you have bought over the counter.

Parking and 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. **PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE CAR PARKS OF LOCAL BUSINESSES (e.g. Grundons, Fox Storage).** Not only is this very dangerous but you may well get clamped.

Please also make sure you shut the gates behind you when entering/exiting the premises.

New parent governors needed

Our Nursery School Governing Body is made up of community, parent, staff and Local Authority Governors. Our Governors may come to us through a variety of routes and with a range of different backgrounds, skills and experiences, but they are all volunteers who work together for the benefit of the School and are the link between the School and the community it serves. We are currently looking for a new parent governor.

Being a Governor can be enjoyable, stimulating and rewarding. Please don't be put off by thinking that you have to have specialist expertise or knowledge. Enthusiasm and interest is much more important to start with and there is tried and tested training and support available to help you throughout. Please remember you will be joining a long-established Governing Body and will be supported by fellow Governors with many years of combined experience.

If you would like more information, please contact myself (Simon) or Maggie.

Outdoor play

We have attached our outdoor policy so that you are aware of the importance of outdoor learning for children's development. Allowing access to the outdoors during COVID is also important for the children's wellbeing and to reduce the risk of transmission. Please see above information regarding 'clothing'.

Winter raffle

We are currently running two raffles – tickets cost £1 each and are available at Reception. One raffle is for a food hamper (non-alcohol and non-meat products) and the other raffle is for children's gift sets (various prizes). The raffle will be drawn during the last week of term. We also have gift bags available containing new items (ideal for Christmas presents for all the family!) priced at £3 per bag. Come and grab a bag while stocks last! All money raised goes towards school funds (which is spent on children's activities in the future).



Christmas

During the last week of term, we will be celebrating the Christian festival of Christmas.

Chartwells (our catering supplier) will be cooking a traditional **Christmas dinner on Wednesday 15 December**, however due to the current situation regarding COVID, we are unable to invite all children in for this. For those children who usually stay for lunch on Wednesdays, there will be the option to

buy a school dinner on the day (or provide a packed lunch). The cost of a school dinner is £2.15 and is payable **in advance** on ParentPay (unless you are entitled to free school meals on that day).



All classes will host two parties:

Party 1 – Tuesday 14 December - AM

Party 2 – Thursday 16 December - PM

If your child does not normally attend one of these sessions, they will be able to attend one party (please let your child's key person know which one you would like them to attend). More details to follow in the December newsletter.

The children are busy practicing Christmas songs, but unfortunately due to the current COVID situation we will not be hosting sing-alongs with parents in attendance. We will however be filming the sing-alongs so you can watch them at home.

Forthcoming events

Party 1 – **Tuesday 14 December – AM**

Christmas dinner – **Wednesday 15 December**

Party 2 – **Thursday 16 December – PM**

Friday 17 December - Last day of term – all sessions as normal

School CLOSED for holiday – **Monday 20 December to Friday 31 December (inclusive)**

Monday 3 January – Bank Holiday – School CLOSED

Tuesday 4 January – INSET day – School CLOSED

Return to School – **Wednesday 5 January**



Outdoor Learning Policy

Policy

The Nursery School will fulfil the requirement that:

3.58. Providers must provide access to an outdoor play area or, if that is not possible, ensure that outdoor activities are planned and taken on a daily basis (unless circumstances make this inappropriate, for example unsafe weather conditions). Providers must follow their legal responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 (for example, the provisions on reasonable adjustments). (*Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage*, March 2017, Effective April 2017)

The Nursery school acknowledges the 'Key Messages' in the non-statutory guidance *Effective Practice: Outdoor Learning* (2007) that:

- The outdoor environment has unique characteristics and features.
- Outdoor learning has equal value to indoor learning.
- Outdoor learning has a positive impact on children's well-being and development.
- Children need the support of attentive and engaged adults who are enthusiastic about the outdoors and understand the importance of outdoor learning.
- Outdoor learning is enhanced by an environment that is richly resourced with play materials that can be adapted and used in different ways.
- An approach to outdoor learning that considers experiences rather than equipment places children at the centre of the provision being made.

The Nursery school acknowledges the non-statutory guidance *Development Matters in the Early Years Foundation Stage* (2012) that advises we should:

Give as much opportunity as possible for children to **move freely** between indoors and outdoors.



Procedure

- All Key-group Areas will have direct access to the outdoor learning environment.
- The daily routine will include a continuous extended period (at least 50% of total session time) during which children are able to move freely between indoors and outdoors.
- All reasonable measures will be taken to ensure that movement indoors/outdoors is 'free' i.e. children should be able to open doors independently, or with the help of other children.
- Free movement indoors and outdoors is supported in all weather conditions except 'unsafe weather conditions' (*Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage*, March 2017, Effective April 2017).
- "Planning time" in key groups will be used to make sure that children are fully aware that they can choose to move freely between the indoor and outdoor learning environments.
- The outdoor learning environment will be planned and resourced to ensure that it provides learning experiences that support all EYFS Areas of Learning and Development.

