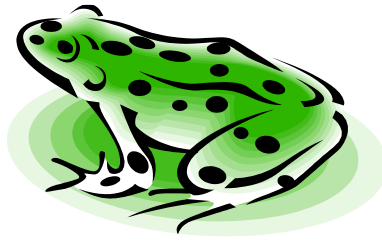


# NEWSLETTER JUNE 2023



## ST PHILIP'S MARSH NURSERY SCHOOL

**We are delighted to welcome new children to the school this term. There is a wonderful atmosphere in the school.**

### Patterns

The theme for this term is 'patterns'. The children will be observing, discovering and creating patterns in many different ways. There are patterns in nature, music, movement, literacy and maths. In fact, there are patterns everywhere! Recognising and understanding patterns is a key educational life-long skill. Understanding patterns helps children make sense of many different things. It helps to develop their critical thinking and logical skills and provides a sense of order in a complex and fast changing world. Please talk to your child about what they are learning and help them to recognise the patterns all around them and in their daily lives. Please talk to your child's key person if you have any questions or suggestions.

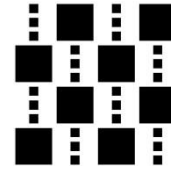


### Curriculum focus

#### Numeracy

Pattern is early algebra! It is about making predictions based on what you know. You can explore pattern through fun 'guessing' games which are really predicting games e.g. you can hide a patterned string of beads in your hand and pull out a few beads. Can you tell me what kind of bead is coming next? Or lay out a pattern of coins or fruit – cover them up – make it mysterious – uncover them one at a time – no peeping – what do you think is coming next? It's part mystery, part magic, but it's actually maths!

Or play a rhythmic, patterned, moving game, speaking as you move, "hop, skip, jump, hop, skip, jump" and then FREEZE! What were you going to do next?



#### Literacy

Encourage your child to experiment with sounds. Activities that involve children in making sounds with their body are fun. You can clap, stamp, click fingers, pat knees etc. Perform a pattern of sounds using your body and encourage your child to copy. Play 'Simon Says – Simon says clap hands/click fingers' etc. There are lots of songs and chants – 'if you're happy and you know it' is one that everybody loves. Here are some more you could try:

*Clap them, clap them, clap them so,  
Clap them high, clap them low,  
Clap them left, clap them right,  
Clap them, clap them out of sight.*

*Two little feet go tap tap tap,  
Two little hands go clap clap clap,  
I stand up quietly by my chair,  
Two little arms raise high in the air.*

*Two little feet go jump jump jump,  
Two little fists go thump thump thump,  
One little body goes round and round,  
One little child sits quietly down.*

## Transition

Transition arrangements are underway to prepare children who will be leaving us to start their Reception classes in September. Many of the schools will phone to speak to your child's key person or they will send their Reception teacher to visit your child in school. There will hopefully be opportunities for you and your child to visit their new school for 'taster' sessions. Please talk to your child's key person if you have any concerns.

## Wrong Trousers Day

On **Friday 30 June** we will be participating in Wrong Trousers Day. Please wear crazy trousers/shorts, pyjamas or even wear your trousers inside out! We suggest a donation of £1 per child which will go to The Grand Appeal (Bristol Children's Hospital).



## Snack 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.**



## Summer safety

It is summer at last! Please make sure your child's **shoulders are covered (no strappy tops)**, bring a **sun hat** (labelled with your child's name) and **apply sun cream** before your child comes to school. There are sun creams available that last all day and this would be preferable. However, if your child is at school all day, you can send in **sun cream** (labelled with your child's name) and the staff will help them reapply it after lunch. Please do not leave sun cream in your child's bag but give it to a staff member. The children spend a

lot of time outside: climbing; cycling, playing ball games; gardening and running around and therefore crocs, open-toed sandals and flip flops are not suitable footwear and could lead to trips/falls. Please do not send in sunglasses unless it is for a medical condition.



## School photographs

Please return all photograph proofs as soon as possible or by Friday 30 June at the latest (even if you do not want to order any).

## Staff changes

We welcome back Kim (teacher) from her maternity leave.

Faith will be leaving us at the end of term. We would like to thank her for covering Kim's maternity leave and give our best wishes for the future.

We would like to welcome Clare Morton (new teacher) who will be joining us in September.

## Parent consultations

Parent consultations will be held on:

Beech Class – 27, 28 and 29 June

Elm Class – 28 and 30 June

Fir Class – 3 and 4 July

Oak Class – 28 June and 3 July

The list of available times/dates will be displayed on your child's classroom door. Please sign up!

This will be a great opportunity to talk to your child's key person about your child's learning.

## End of Year Celebration Day

We are having an end of year celebration on **Wednesday 5 July**. We will have a range of exciting activities for the children to take part in throughout the day. More details to follow. Parents/carers are welcome to join us from 2.00pm for refreshments in the garden (weather permitting).

## Outdoor learning week

Before the end of this term (and when it is fine weather), we will be having an outdoor learning week with activities such as toasting marshmallows, making nature crowns, mini-beast hunts, mud painting, nature pattern art.

For this, we would appreciate donations of the following:

- Marshmallows
- double-sided tape
- conkers
- pinecones
- leaves
- sticks/twigs
- driftwood
- pebbles
- shells

## Bag on your child's peg

Please always provide a **bag with spare clothes** (labelled with your child's name), **wet wipes and spare plastic bags** (to bring home wet clothes) and **nappies** (if your child is in nappies) which will be kept on your child's peg.

## 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 and cycling 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 use the gated pathway rather than walking through the car park.**

## Session times

Please could we remind parents of the session times. The morning session starts at **9.00 am (doors open at 9.00am)** and finishes at **12.00 noon (door opens at 11.55 am)**. The afternoon

session starts at **12.30 pm (doors open at 12.30pm)** and finishes at **3.30 pm (door opens at 3.25 pm)**. We understand that the start and end of the sessions are extremely busy times of the day and the car park is often crowded and allowances should be made for this. If in an emergency you anticipate being late to pick up your child, please could you phone the school to let us know. This avoids your child becoming upset. This is particularly important at the end of the day pick-up.

If you have to pick up your child before the end of the session, please **pick up before 3.00 pm** (afternoon session) and **before 11.30 am** (morning session). At the end of each session we have story, song or sound and it is important that this is not disturbed. **It is an important part of their phonics and numeracy learning which needs to take place in a quiet atmosphere to develop listening and attention skills.**

## No scooters/bikes/pushchairs in the School

Due to health and safety reasons, bikes, scooters and pushchairs are not to be brought into the school, even for a short time. You are very welcome to leave them in the buggy park outside the school (at your own risk).

## Child car safety

It is the law in the UK that everyone wears a seat belt. One important part of protecting your child from harm is making sure they travel in a car seat best suited to their age, weight or height. Find out more about car seat safety here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/baby/first-aid-and-safety/safety/choosing-a-baby-car-seat/>



## INSET Days

The School will be **CLOSED on:**

**Friday 1 and Monday 4 September**

## Important dates

**Friday 30 June – Wrong Trousers Day**

**Wednesday 5 July** – End of Year Celebration Day

**24 July – 31 August** (inclusive) – **School CLOSED**  
for summer holidays

INSET day – **Friday 1 September** and **Monday 4 September** – (SCHOOL CLOSED)

Return to school – **Tuesday 5 September**



# Book Share Tips



Reading develops your brain and provides a window into the world around you. There are so many ways that we can help our children learn to read and enjoy books.

**Home language** - the brilliance of bilingualism! Reading and talking about books in your home language helps your child's language development.

**Words are all around us** - pointing out road signs, bus numbers and places, food labels. Talk about what the words say.

**Making time to read** - maybe share a story or book at bedtime.

**Turn off the TV** - Put the phones away and look at books- it's much easier to concentrate with fewer distractions.

**Looking at the pictures** together and talking about what you notice helps a child to make sense of the story.

Show your child how to **look after books**; which way up, turning the pages, looking at the pictures, pointing to the words as you read them.

**Favourite books** - children often have a favourite book or story and will often want to read it over and over again. Children love repetition and this helps them to understand and remember the language they hear.

**Children love to 'pretend' to read.** Encourage them to read you stories and give them attention.

**Talk about** the places, characters in stories as this will help to increase your child's understanding.

**Most of all...** relax and enjoy finding out about new things or going to another world with your child through stories.

Further information and ideas for exploring books with your child, book-based games and book recommendations please see website links below

**Booktrust**

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/have-some-fun/>

**Literacy Trust**

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/parents-and-families>