

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2024



ST PHILIP'S MARSH NURSERY SCHOOL

Happy New Year!

Welcome back to the new term

Fir Room

Fir Room have welcomed a new Key Group, Deer Group. We have been spending time welcoming new friends and getting to know our new rooms. Squirrels have enjoyed reading *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* and using props to tell the story, while Foxes have loved retelling *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. Many children are interested in building different kinds of homes and others are gaining confidence to make marks and draw – especially on whiteboards!

Elm Room

This term, Elm children have also been enjoying the story of the *Three Billy Goats Gruff*. They have challenged themselves to build bridges and balance on long beams, just like the goats! Elm Room have been singing [Old MacDonald](#) and [The Wheels On The Bus](#). Click on the links for great BBC song videos to help sing this song with your child at home.

Beech Room

Children in Beech Room have chosen to spend lots of time playing musical instruments and singing their favourite songs. They have also been cooking lots of tasty food in the home corner. Delicious! To help new friends settle, we have been reading *Owl Babies*, as well as *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. For a link to an animated video of [Owl Babies](#), click the link. Be aware that this is a YouTube link, so please supervise your child while watching together.

Oak Room

Oak Room children are happy to be back at nursery. We love playing together and are continuing to build relationships. Our core book this term is *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*. The children have enjoyed listening to the story and talking about the different sounds that appear. Over the next few weeks, we will bring the story to life using actions, props and musical instruments. Many children are choosing to spend time in the Art Area, exploring colour mixing and using different materials to create collages.



Soon we will be celebrating Chinese/Lunar New Year “Year of the Dragon”. It is always a really exciting celebration for the children and an opportunity to learn about a different culture and language. We will be tasting food and the children will also be learning different ways of expressing themselves through music and dance. You can find out more about Lunar New Year by visiting [Chinese and Lunar New Year - CBeebies - BBC](#). You can also find local celebrations by clicking on the link [Where to celebrate Lunar New Year in Bristol - Visit Bristol](#)

INSET Days

The School will be CLOSED for the following INSET days:

Monday 5 February and Thursday 28 March 2024

Activities to do at home

Literacy - Sound-talking

Developing children's ability to attentively listen to sounds around them, such as the sounds of their toys and to sounds in spoken language, is one of the starting points to developing children's awareness of sounds and letters. This will eventually enable them to become confident readers and writers. At home you could try the following activity to support your child with this.

Find real objects around your home that have three *sounds* and practice 'sound talk'. First, just let them listen, then see if they will join in, for example, saying:

'I spy a p-e-g – peg.'
'I spy a c-u-p – cup.'
'Where's your other s-o-ck – sock?'
'Simon says – touch your ch-i-n - chin.'
'Simon says – pick up your b-a-g - bag.'

Numeracy – Time

Encouraging children to notice order, predicting what comes next and recalling what they have done earlier will help them to become increasingly aware of time. Talk to your children about activities in natural contexts, for example: how long until bedtime, how long cakes need to be in the oven, how many sleeps until a child's birthday.

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.



World Book Day

World Book Day is 7 March 2024 and we are celebrating it on **Wednesday 6 March**. Your child is invited to dress up in pyjamas, bring a teddy, their favourite book and £1 donation. To find out where your donation goes, click on the link <https://www.worldbookday.com/>.

Please remember that children will still be playing outside so ensure that they have warm clothes to put on/under their pyjamas.

Local dentist offering one-off check-up for children

If your child is not registered with a dentist, a local NHS dentist is offering a **free one-off check-up** for your child on **Saturday mornings** (9.00am-1.00pm) at **Kings Road Dental Practice**, Kings Road, Bristol, BS4 3HH (<https://kingsroad-dental.co.uk/>):

27 January, 10 February, 24 February, 9 March and 23 March

If you are interested, please let the Office know and we will forward your details to the dentist.

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



School Library

The school library is always 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.



Clothing

As the weather is cold and wet, children will need appropriate clothing and footwear. Please ensure your child brings in a **warm, water-resistant coat, gloves and hat every day**. All clothing and footwear must be **labelled with your child's name**. 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. We are outside for a long time each day, in all weathers!

'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 with child's name)** 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.

Paying for nursery sessions

If you receive an invoice for nursery sessions, you can pay by:

- Tax-free childcare (please give your code to office staff)
- BACS payment (the bank details are at the bottom of the invoice and your reference number will be the six numbers starting with 2 on the top of your invoice)
- Cheque made payable to Bristol City Council Schools General

- Cash

Please do not use ParentPay for fees. ParentPay is used for paying for meals and communication from the school to parents. The School cannot keep arrears and it may lead to sessions being stopped.

School meals

School meals must be paid for **IN ADVANCE** via ParentPay. The School cannot keep arrears and it may lead to meals being stopped.

If your child is 3 and you are in receipt of certain benefits, you may well be entitled to free school meals. If you think you may be entitled, please ask at Reception.

Staffing and Governor changes

We would like to welcome **Cher Wood** and **Natalie Passco** who will be supporting children in Fir Room in the mornings and **Barbara Dick** who will be supporting children at lunchtime. We would also like to welcome **Emma Jones** back from maternity leave. She will be a key person in Fir Room on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

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.

Winter raffle

Thank you to the parents/carers who supported our winter raffle. We raised the fantastic amount of **£200.00** for school funds (which will be spent on children's activities in the future).



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, cycling and lift sharing are all ways in which to reduce congestion. Do not park in the car parks of local businesses (e.g. Fox Storage and Grundons).

We encourage everyone to be tolerant and respectful at all times when using the car park. Please **do not leave your car running** whilst parked in the car park as the exhaust fumes affect families waiting to come in.

Please keep a close eye on your child whilst walking in and out of the school and ensure that if you are coming to Nursery on foot, you **DO NOT WALK THROUGH THE CAR PARK and instead use the pedestrian entrance.** Please **shut the doors/gates behind you when entering/exiting the premises.**

Forthcoming events

Monday 5 February – School CLOSED INSET day

12-16 February (inclusive) – half term holiday – School CLOSED

Word Book Day celebration – **Wednesday 6 March**

Thursday 28 March - School CLOSED INSET day

Friday 29 March – School CLOSED – Bank Holiday

1-12 April (inclusive) – Easter holidays – School CLOSED



FREE
4 Week
Group

PARENTING PUZZLE



**For parents of children aged
0 - 5 years old**

Workshop 1: Understanding Children's Behaviour, Listening and Communicating, Praise and Encouragement

Workshop 2: Praise and Guidance vs. Criticism, Child-led Play, and Positive Moments

Workshop 3: Boundaries and Parenting Styles, Time to Calm Down, Dealing with Stress and Conflict

Workshop 4: Choices and Consequences, Behaviour to Ignore, Putting the Puzzle Together, Looking after Ourselves



**Scan here to
register
your
interest!**

Visit your local Children's Centre website to find out more



nbcc



EBCC



SAFEGUARDING TEAM

At St Philip's Marsh Nursery School/Cashmore Early Years Centre we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. This is our safeguarding team.



Simon Holmes
Headteacher
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Charlotte Carter
Acting Deputy Headteacher
Deputy Safeguarding Lead



Sharon Cutler
School Business Manager
Deputy Safeguarding Lead



Heidi Taylor
Governor
Named Safeguarding Governor