

NEWSLETTER MAY 2024



ST PHILIP'S MARSH NURSERY SCHOOL

Wow! We are now in Term 5, with just one more term to go in this school year. This is a particularly busy time for nursery, with a new group of younger children joining us for the first time and older children starting to think about moving on to primary school. Our lovely garden is starting to wake up from its winter snooze and the children are enjoying noticing the signs of Spring all around us. Here is a brief round up of news from our rooms:

Fir Room

In Fir Class we welcomed our families back after the holidays and shared news of how we may have celebrated Easter and Eid. The children learnt about Eid using different books and pictures. We decorated hands with a henna design, decorated crescent moons and made lanterns for our room, too. We are currently welcoming children into Fir Class who have moved up from the 2-year old room, as well as some children who are new to St Philip's. We have continued our interest in nature and new life, talking about the signs of Spring we can see and starting to grow some plants.

Elm Room

Elm Class have been celebrating Easter by rolling eggs in paint and using cotton buds to decorate eggs with paint. We have also been making chocolate nests, having an egg and spoon race and reading 'We're Going on an Egg Hunt'. The children learnt about Eid by making patterns using loose parts and decorating printed hands. We are now looking after some caterpillars, so our focus book is 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. The children are still interested in balancing, especially using the new stepping stones. They have explored the rice in the tuff tray by filling, emptying, sprinkling and listening to the sound it makes when it falls on metal containers.

Beech Room

Beech Class have been busy welcoming new families and inducting the children into our room. They are all settling in well. Our story is 'Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes' and the children have been joining in by wiggling their fingers and toes throughout the story. We've also been singing 'Tommy Thumb' to link our learning. The children have been enjoying water play during inside and outside times. There has been lots of mark making taking place in numerous ways, such as with paper and pens, whiteboards, in the sand with fingers/sticks and using chalk.

Oak Room

In Oak Class we have been learning about lifecycles! The children were very excited to welcome the caterpillars into our classroom. Linked to this, we have been reading 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' and 'The Tadpoles Promise'. Some of the children have enjoyed working together to dig and plant wildflowers in the garden. We have also restarted woodwork sessions and the children have loved hammering and making holes in the balsa wood using the hand drill.

Donations

The school provides free cows' 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. We also appreciate donations of boxes of tissues.



Preparing to move to Primary school

Many children will be moving to Reception class at their new primary school in September. This is a big moment in family life! Over the next few months, nursery staff will gently help your child to understand this change, for example by reading books about school life, providing opportunities to dress up in school uniform and looking at photos of the many schools our children will be attending.

At this time of year there are some important deadlines, so please make sure you are prepared:

- Accept your child's school place without delay or follow the instructions in the local authority offer letter/email if you do not wish to accept the offer.
- Let your child's key person/office staff know which school you have accepted.
- Check your email inbox regularly. Your child's new school will contact you to invite you to events such as Welcome Evenings, Stay and Play sessions and to explain induction arrangements.
- Be aware that schools will have special induction arrangements to help your child settle in September. Your child will probably not start school full time straight away, so you may need to make childcare arrangements for the first few weeks of September.
- Nursery staff will share information with your child's new school and their new teacher may visit them at nursery. The Bristol Universal Transfer Record is a document used to support a smooth transition for all children from their early years setting into reception class. It summarises your child's interests and strengths and includes an assessment to ensure that your child's reception teacher has the information they need. Please speak to your child's Key Person if you have any questions about how we share information.
- For some children, additional conversations to support transition are beneficial and these will take place in partnership with you, as appropriate.

Session times

Please could we remind parents of the session times. The morning session starts at **9.00 am** and finishes at **12.00 noon (door opens at 11.55 am)**. The afternoon session starts at **12.30 pm** 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 time 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.**



Returns

If your child is due to return to us in September, you will receive a form from us shortly regarding the sessions that you will require. Please could you return the form by **Friday 10 May** as we will then be writing to families with children on the waiting list to offer them places.

Staff and Governor changes

We would like to welcome **Lucy Scally** who will be supporting children in Breakfast Club, Afterschool Club, at lunchtimes and in Oak Class.

Toni Lawrence (Oak Class) has commenced her maternity leave and our congratulations go to her, Anthony and Eliza-Rae on the safe arrival of baby Otis. **Vivi** will take over Toni's Key Person role and is already a very familiar adult for all the children in Oak Class. **Lauren** has kindly joined **Emma** to be Key People for Deer Group (in Fir Class).

Bag on your child's peg

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. They also need a **spare bag/plastic bag** to take wet clothes home. If your child comes home in spare nursery clothes, please wash them and return them as soon as possible.

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 or entrances 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.**



Summer safety

When the sun begins to shine (hopefully!) it will be important to take some precautions to keep your child healthy and safe. Please make sure your child's **shoulders are covered** (e.g. by wearing a T shirt instead of a strappy top), provide 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 give protection all day and this would be preferable. It is very challenging for staff to safely apply sun cream to every child due to the number of children attending the setting and due to the allergy needs of the children. Applying long-lasting sun cream at home ensures your child is safely protected and allows staff to focus on your child's learning and wellbeing. Staff will of course support children to wear sun hats, wear long-sleeved clothing when needed, drink water and provide shady areas to play etc.

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 for nursery and can be dangerous.** Please be mindful of this when choosing your child's summer shoes.



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.

Wrong Trousers Day

On **Friday 21 June 2024** 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). We know that this charity is important to many nursery families who have received hospital care.



Forthcoming events

Monday 6 May – School CLOSED – Bank Holiday

Tuesday 7 May (AM) and **Thursday 9 May (PM)** – School Photographer

27-31 May (inclusive) – Half term holiday – School CLOSED

Friday 21 June – Wrong Trousers Day

School Photographs

Tuesday 7 (AM) and Thursday 9 May (PM)

On **Tuesday 7 (AM) and Thursday 9 May (PM)**, Concept Photography ([Concept Photography LTD - Home - Specialists in under 5 photography](#)) will be taking individual photographs of all children in the school and family photographs with siblings, if requested. If you would like a photograph of your child with their brother or sister, you will need to stay with them. This service will be available from **8.30-9.15 am on Tuesday and 3.15-4.00 pm on Thursday.**

Please be aware if you are staying for family photographs it may be better to park in Meriton Street to avoid congestion in the car park.

For those children that do not normally attend on a Tuesday or Thursday, you are more than welcome to bring them into school for a **'drop in' session between 2.30-3.15 pm on Thursday.** You will need to stay with your child. Please be aware this is not by appointment and so you may have to wait.

