

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2024



ST PHILIP'S MARSH NURSERY SCHOOL

Eid Mubarak. Best wishes to our school community who have been celebrating recently.



Here is a brief roundup of news from our rooms:

Fir Room

In Fir Class, the children continue to show a wide range of different interests. We have been having nature hunts in our beautiful garden, finding worms, woodlice and beetles. We have also been taking care of our fruit and vegetable plants by helping to water them regularly and observing their growth. There has been huge interest in exploring colour and what happens when you mix 2 different colours together. It is fantastic seeing our children's mark-making continue to develop as well! The book we are focusing on is *We're Going On A Bear Hunt*. The children are developing their skills to retell the story and join in with the actions. We hope to have a Bear Hunt around our garden soon! Do you think we'll find any bears?

We recently wished our families Eid Mubarak and talked about how they celebrated. We enjoyed looking at our friends' mehndi so much that some children chose to paint mehndi on their own hands. We loved looking at the beautiful illustrations in a lovely book called *Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns*, a Muslim Book of Colours.

Elm Room

Elm Class are exploring mathematical language such as big, small, tall, short and this ties in with our story *Titch*. We have planted sunflower seeds, just like in the books *Titch* and *Sam Plants a Sunflower*. The children are developing their gross motor skills by using the newly revamped climbing frame in the garden and their fine motor skills by chopping up fruit to make ice lollies and rolling and cutting playdough. They continue to be interested in building towers and connecting magnetic balls and pipes.

Beech Room

Beech Class have been singing *The Wheels on the Bus* and *Old McDonald has a Farm*. Our story is *Titch*. We are each going to plant a sunflower seed and hope our sunflowers grow taller than us - just like in the *Titch* story. We have been learning how to use scissors and made snips in paper and cut cooked spaghetti (we also enjoyed eating it at the same time). The children are particularly interested in looking at family photos in the home area – please could we remind parents/carers to bring in a photo of their family for our display.

Please could we also remind parents that parent evenings are Wednesday 3 July and Monday 8 July 3:45-4:55pm. You can check your appointment time from the list on the door.

Oak Room

The children in Oak Class have enjoyed spending lots of time in the garden. Claudia, from The Children's Kitchen, has been helping us to plant and look after wildflowers and a range of vegetables, herbs and salad. We have harvested and tasted some radishes and will soon be able to try the sugar snap peas. The children continue to show an interest in mini-beasts, especially snails, beetles and ladybirds. Some of the children have been inspired to make giant snail sculptures out of playdough.

Following visits to Primary Schools, some children have been keen to talk about their transition to Reception in September. We have been reading *Lulu's First Day* and *The Colour Monster goes to School*. We have been encouraging the children to ask any questions about school so that we can help them to find answers. There has been so much amazing play and learning happening in Oak Class. The writing area has been particularly busy this term, with lots of children using different tools and materials to mark make and create!

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.



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.

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.

Summer safety

When the sun shines it is 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 is likely to 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.

From 1 September 2024 the price of a **school meal will increase to £2.55**. This price will be held for a period of 12 months.

Wrong Trousers Day

Thank you to everyone who participated in Wrong Trousers Day by wearing crazy trousers/shorts, pyjamas or even trousers inside out. We raised £35 for The Grand Appeal (Bristol Children's Hospital). We know that this charity is important to many nursery families who have received hospital care.

End of Year Celebration Day

We are having an end of year celebration on **Wednesday 17 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 at 2.00pm for refreshments in the garden (weather permitting).**

Picking up from After School Club

It is very important that you pick your child up at 5.45pm (at the latest). Your child will be ready to leave, with all their belongings at the main door. If you would like to enter the building, we ask you to arrive by 5.40pm. After 5.45pm staff are not available to escort you on the premises.

Help with school uniform

The Schools Essentials Grant has opened applications today offering parents £150 per school-age child, limited to three children per house. This fund is meant to help aid the cost of school uniforms and is provided by the charity GroceryAid. The grant is specifically geared towards parents who work in the grocery industry and parents need to be working in the industry to be eligible. This includes workers in supermarkets, wholesalers, manufacturers, suppliers, convenience stores, independent grocers, petrol forecourt stores, or service providers to the grocery industry.

<https://www.groceryaid.org.uk/finances/school-essentials-grant/>

INSET Days

The School will be **CLOSED on: Monday 2 and Tuesday 3 September**

Forthcoming events

End of term celebration – **Wednesday 17 July – parents invited to attend at 2.00pm**

Last day of term - **Tuesday 23 July**

Summer holidays **24 July – 30 August** (inclusive)

INSET Days – **2 and 3 September** (School CLOSED)

Return to school – **Wednesday 4 September**

Term dates can be found here:

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/schools-learning-and-early-years/school-term-and-holiday-dates>





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

FAMILY LINKS

Starting **Wednesday**
7th - 28th August
7pm - 9pm

Online Group
via Zoom



If you would like further information or to register your interest directly then please call us on: 07721311497 or email: psso@bristol.gov.uk
Once you have registered your interest, a member of the team will be in touch to find the best course location for you (in person or virtual options available).



FAMILY CENTRE Summer timetable



From Monday 29th July to Thursday 22nd August 2024

Our weekly services include:

- Parenting information meetings face to face/ telephone support with Tracey or Laura
- Weekly Baby Hub for general health or breastfeeding support
- Family park activities on Mondays
- Barton Hill families only - family drop-in
- Baby Group 0-1 year old babies.



www.wellspringsettlement.org.uk info@wsb.org.uk
Settlement Site, 43 Ducie Road, BS5 0AX - 0117 955 6971
Wellspring Site, Beam Street, BS5 9QY - 0117 304 1400



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Mondays
Local Park Activities for the whole family
10 to 11.30am
Monday 29th July Urban Park BS5 9LY
Monday 5th August Gaunts Ham BS5 0BD
Monday 12th August Netham Park BS5 9RY
Monday 19th August Urban Park BS5 9LY

Baby Group 1 to 2pm: Babies 0-12 months
Settlement Site, Ducie Road, BS5 0AX

MONDAY 26TH August BANK HOLIDAY

Tuesdays 10 to 11:30am
Local parents drop in for Barton Hill parents and children
All ages welcome!

Wednesdays
Family information meetings/ telephone support
Call Tracey on 0117 9556971 ext 161

Thursdays 1 to 2pm
Baby Hub and infant feeding support
Healthy Start Vitamins

If you would like to find out more about what we have on offer, call us on 0117 9556971 and ask to speak with a Family Worker.



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.”

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>