



ST PHILIP'S MARSH NURSERY SCHOOL

Newsletter November 2024



Elm Class

We recently celebrated Diwali by trying on traditional clothes, watched a CBeebies film about the celebration, had henna mendhi painted on our hands (a form of temporary body art used in celebrations) and coloured hand prints using chalk, pens and pencils to represent mendhi. We also spoke a lot about Bonfire Night/firework displays the children had been to and used words to describe them such as “bang”, “crash”, “flash”, “pop”, “loud”. We created firework pictures using paint, chalk and glitter.

The children have been very interested in tea parties and we had a teddy bears picnic, baked shortbread and fairy cakes and had afternoon tea with our friends in Beech Class.

They are currently interested in making ramps using wooden planks, positioning them high and low and discovering how different objects roll down e.g. play food, conkers, balls.

There has been lots of exploring food and chopping vegetables and herbs in the tuff tray. Our Story Basket song has been *Chop, Chop, Chop*. Our book of the term is *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*. We are also introducing Helicopter Stories (storytelling programme) to the class and we will be able to tell you more about this next time.

Beech Class

For Diwali we looked at rangoli designs and then then used chalk to create our own, coloured in rangoli patterns, looked at artefacts and books, had henna or face paints on our hands and watched a CBeebies video about a family celebrating Diwali.

Our core book is *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* and lots of the children are repeating the reoccurring parts to the staff. They have also been saying “*he looks sad*” and “*wants a friend*” at the end. The children are now telling staff their own stories for our helicopter story sessions. They are beaming with pride when everyone acts out their story. For example, one child's story in their own words “*On an aeroplane, it flies. The people need to come out. Helicopter comes and rescues them. The people jumped out.*”

We noticed that lots of children were having their own tea parties. To extend this we put teapots, jugs, cups and fruit flavoured teabags on the tuff tray. The children were carefully pouring their own drinks and offering some to their peers. The children have been using lots of language to talk about what it smells/tastes like. We made shortbread and Elm Class made cakes and we joined together to have a little tea party.

Oak Class

In Oak Class we have spent some time learning about Diwali, a festival that is celebrated by Hindus, Jains and Sikhs. Diwali is often referred to as the festival of lights, and to celebrate this occasion the children have been making diva lamps out of clay. We have coloured in Rangoli patterns and have shared a lift-the-flap book all about Diwali. The children also reflected on their experiences of Bonfire/Firework night. We talked about the different noises we heard, like “*bang*” and “*whizz*”, and made expressive pictures using brightly coloured soft pastels.

Practitioners in Oak Class have begun to introduce Helicopter Stories to the children. This is a storytelling programme that aims to nurture language development through creative engagement. The children have been acting out stories from our special Helicopter Stories book and will soon begin to author their own stories with the support of a scribing adult. The children are very excited about this opportunity, and we can't wait to share their stories with you!

We have also been learning seasonal poems from The Poetry Basket. Next time you are making popcorn or a cup of tea, see if your child can share a poem about this with you.

The children continue to develop friendships with one another and have been spending lots of time playing imaginatively and challenging each other to chasing and racing games in our spacious garden.

Fir Class

In Fir Class, after half term we shared news on what we had been up to. We learnt about Diwali and to celebrate we made divas and decorated them, coloured in rangoli patterns, explored artefacts and books and learnt about how different people celebrated Diwali. We also talked about fireworks we had seen and heard. We made our own fireworks pictures using a splat effect with paint brushes and with chalk on black paper.

The children have shown a big interest in the author Julia Donaldson recently and we have been looking at many of her books. These include books like *Zog*, *Superworm*, *Monkey Puzzle*, *The Gruffalo*, and *The Snail and the Whale*.

Does your child have a favourite Julia Donaldson book?

There has been a continued interest in building and design, especially within large scale den making and more intricate 'junk' modelling (with recycled materials).

There has also been a large interest in rolling different objects down different sized tubes as well as trajectory (seeing what happens when an object falls or is thrown and then watched to fall).

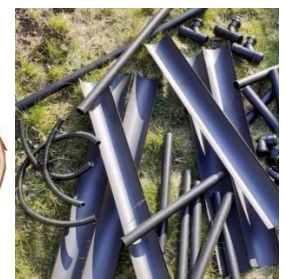
More recently, the children have been talking about where they live in Bristol, and interests in maps of their local community, and the wider world have been sparked.

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. Alternatively, you can donate cash or by card using the card reader in the School Office.



It is the time of year for cold viruses, and we would also appreciate donations of **boxes of tissues** for the children's use. We would also be very grateful for donations of **spare gloves** for the children, as well as natural resources like **pinecones**, varied sized **log circle shapes** and **guttering/plastic pipes**.



Allergy awareness

We have children/staff with severe allergies in school. Please **do not bring balloons** into the nursery due to a latex allergy. We also have an egg allergy in the nursery, therefore please **do not put egg** in your child's packed lunch (e.g. egg sandwiches, omelette, boiled eggs, quiche (egg in cakes is allowed!)).

Family photo board

Each class has a family photo board to help the children with their sense of belonging and community. Please could you bring in a family photo(s) (no more than 3) to display. If you do not have access to a printer, you can email Margaret.blake@bristol-schools.uk who will print it for you.

Volunteers welcome

Calling all parents/carers/grandparents – we would love you to volunteer with us. The children love to be read with and helped with all sorts of activities (e.g. gardening, art, music). Another pair of hands is always welcome! Please speak to your child's key person if you would like to help. Are you a doctor, nurse, vet, or in the fire/police service and can talk to the children about what you do? We would love to hear from you.



Clothing

As the weather is getting colder, children will need appropriate clothing and footwear. We go into the garden in all weathers. Please could you provide your child with a **pair of wellies and wet weather gear**. 'All weather' suits are a very good way to keep children dry and can be purchased quite reasonably. Children may need changing multiple times a day because of getting wet or toileting accidents so please ensure there are **lots of spare clothes (including socks)** in their bag. All **clothing and footwear must be labelled**. It would be helpful if you could show your child how to put their **hats and gloves** into the sleeve of their coat when they take them off to prevent them being lost.



Toileting

If your child is in nappies, please ensure there are enough **nappies** and **wet wipes** for the session and if your child is toilet training, please put **wet wipes in their bag** and lots of **spare clothes (including socks)** as children may need changing more than once.

Application for primary school

Please remember that the **deadline for applying for a Reception Class place for your child is 15 January 2025** (if your child was born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021). The Council are requesting that this is carried out online at www.bristol.gov.uk/schooladmissions. Applications are now open. Some primary schools may be arranging open mornings/evenings or have virtual tours available on their websites. If you require any help with this, please ask at Reception.

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. **If your child has a high temperature this means they are unwell. Please keep them at home until their temperature is normal.** A normal temperature is 36.4°C but this can vary.

We can only give prescribed medication at school that has a pharmacist sticker on the bottle or box prescribed to your child – we cannot give any medicines that you have bought over the counter.

The NHS have a useful website answering parents' questions 'Is my child too ill for school?'

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

[A parent's guide to keeping kids healthy this school year – UK Health Security Agency](#)

In addition, please find attached to this newsletter the UKHSA advice flyer 'Should I keep my child off school?'

Cases of measles are rising across England, and there are a small number of measles cases in Bristol and the surrounding area, please see information

[What to do if you think your child has measles and when to keep them off school – The Education Hub](#)

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 need 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.**

Parking and Children's Safety

Your child's safety is always our number one priority. 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. **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 ensure you keep a close eye on your child whilst walking in and out of the school and **close all doors/gates behind you.**

INSET Days

The school will be closed on the following day for staff training: **Friday 20 December**

Surplus food from Marks & Spencer

On Monday and Wednesday evenings, staff pick up surplus food from M&S which would otherwise go to waste. Anything we can't use for snack, we put in Reception for parents to take. Please help yourself to save food waste.

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



New parent governor needed

Our Governing Body is made up of community, parent, staff and Local Authority Governors. Our Governors come from 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 are much

more important to start with and there is training and support available to help you. Please remember you will be joining a long-established Governing Body and will be supported by fellow Governors with many years of experience. If you would like more information, please contact Maggie on Reception.

Christmas

During the last two weeks of term, we will be celebrating the Christian festival of Christmas. We will also be having a Winter raffle to raise money for school funds. You will be able to buy tickets at Reception very shortly.

Parties

All classes will host two parties:

Party 1 – Tuesday 10 December – AM

Party 2 – Thursday 12 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.

Drop-in Stay and Play sessions

We will be hosting drop-in stay and play sessions during the last week of term. Parents/carers are invited to come into nursery to explore, make decorations, create and play with their children, join in with a sing-along or listen to a story. These will be held on:

Monday 16 and Wednesday 18 December 2.15-3.30pm - Oak and Fir Classes

Tuesday 17 and Thursday 19 December 2.15-3.30pm – Elm and Beech Classes

If your child does not attend on a day when their class has a Stay & Play drop-in session, please speak to your child's key person.



Important Dates

Party – **Tuesday 10 December AM**

Party – **Thursday 12 December PM**

Menu change – **festive roast dinner – Wednesday 11 December**

Drop-in Stay & Play sessions:

Monday 16 and Wednesday 18 December 2.15-3.30pm - Oak and Fir Classes

Tuesday 17 and Thursday 19 December 2.15-3.30pm – Elm and Beech Classes

INSET Day – School **CLOSED** – **Friday 20 December**

Christmas holidays – School **CLOSED** – **Monday 23 December to Friday 3 January (inclusive)**

Return to School – Monday 6 January

Full details of all Bristol City Council term dates until Jul 2026 can be accessed

[HERE](#)

How to apply for help with childcare for working parents

The number of hours of free childcare you can get depends on the age of your child. If your child is:

- 2 years old, you can get 15 hours per week of free childcare
- 3 to 4 years old, you can get 30 hours per week of free childcare

(You will not be eligible if your child does not usually live with you).

30-hours free childcare using eligibility code

If your child is 3 years between September 2024-December 2024, you may be eligible for 30-hours free childcare (this can be used from January 2025). For this you will need an eligibility code. You can use this for the following nursery sessions:

- Monday-Friday 9:00am-3:30pm; or
- 3 days 7:45am-5:45pm.

15-hours free childcare using eligibility code

If your child is 2 and you are currently paying, you may be eligible for 15-hours free childcare (this can be used from January 2025). For this you will need an eligibility code. You can use this for the following nursery sessions:

- 5 x morning sessions
- 5 x afternoon sessions
- 2½ days (e.g. Monday all day, Tuesday all day, Wednesday morning)

To check if you are eligible, please visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

If you are eligible, you will be provided with an eligibility code. Please give the code and the National Insurance number it is registered with to office staff as soon as possible. Due to school holidays, please give this information to us by **Friday 13 December** to ensure the nursery can submit the code to Bristol City Council for the start of the new term.

To continue receiving the government support, you will need to reconfirm your details every three months on your gov.uk account.

Tax-free childcare

You may also be entitled to tax-free childcare which will help towards paying for nursery fees. For more information and to check eligibility, please visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

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 by email)
- 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

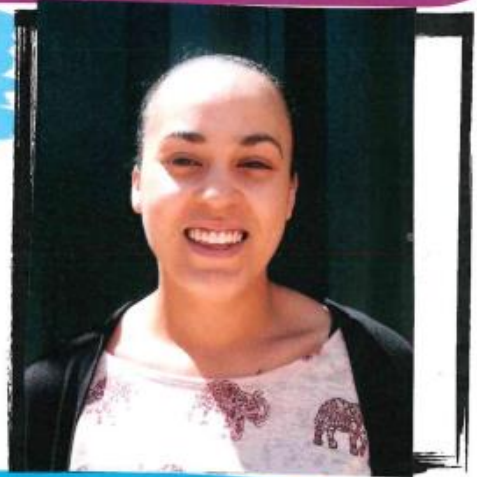
Please do not use ParentPay for nursery sessions. ParentPay is used for paying for meals and communication from the school to parents.

CAPO

**Children
Affected by
Parental
Offending**

Your CAPO Champion is:

Cressida



In every community there are families affected by having a family member in prison or the criminal justice system. We provide a welcoming space for children and families affected by offending and imprisonment.

For confidential, non-judgemental support contact:

0117 353 4295 / cashmore@bristol-schools.uk

or email: CAPO@everyfamily.org.uk

everyFAMILY



CAPO
Children Affected by
Parental Offending



UK Health
Security
Agency



Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.



Winter Clothing



Now the weather has changed, please remember to provide appropriate outdoor clothing for your child as we experience lots of learning when we go outside in all types of weather.

Also, please don't forget to label your child's clothes.

Thank you

Rainy Day



Wellington boots



Waterproof Coat & Trousers

Wintery day



Coat



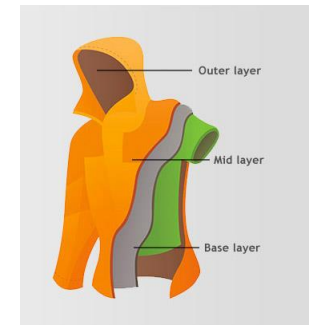
Hat



Gloves



Scarf



Layers of clothes