



ST PHILIP'S MARSH NURSERY SCHOOL

Newsletter December 2024

The staff and governors of St Philip's Marsh Nursery School/Cashmore Early Years Centre wish you and your family a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year.



Elm Class

In Elm Class, the children have been enthusiastically painting their hands to make handprints and in the home area they have been role playing family scenarios and 'looking after each other'.

We are gradually introducing Christmas by singing Christmas songs, exploring sparkly decorations, decorating cards and reading Christmas stories.

The children have also used their creativity to decorate the floor Christmas tree with beads and natural resources (perhaps you can try this at home with your child by using masking tape to create the outline).



Beech Class

The children are still enjoying the story *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* and we have just started to read *Stick Man*. We have been learning a different *Incy Wincy Spider* song. Here are the words to sing along at home with your child:



Incy Wincy Spider climbed up the Christmas tree.
Down came the snow and made poor Incy freeze.
Out came the sunshine and melted all the snow.
So Incy Wincy Spider had another go.

We have been looking for ice in the garden on cold mornings, throwing it onto the ground and watching as it breaks into smaller pieces. Some children have been talking about having their Christmas trees up at home and soon we will be having our own class Christmas tree to decorate.

Oak Class

Oak Class have also been reading *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*. The children have really enjoyed this familiar tale and have loved acting it out as part of Story, Song & Sound. We have continued to learn winter poems from The Poetry Basket, and the children can now recite 'I can build a snowman' off by heart. Next week we will be learning the poem 'Jack Frost'.

There has been lots of interest in the upcoming festival of Christmas, and the children have been sharing some stories from home about Christmas trees and cheeky elves. Perhaps an elf will visit Oak Class in the coming weeks - let's wait and see!

We will be sharing lots of Christmas stories and songs, and there will be many opportunities for the children to use their creativity and imagination in various craft projects.

Some new balsa wood and nails arrived in the nursery this week. Next term we will re-open the woodwork shed, and lots of children will have the opportunity to have a go at using real tools and materials. They will no doubt be very

excited about this! We have lots of hard wood still to use, but would appreciate **donations of large buttons, milk bottle tops** (perhaps you could save them during the holidays), and **round wire nails** (25mm is the ideal length, but various sizes would also be very much appreciated).

We look forward to playing alongside parents and carers during our festive Stay & Play sessions.



Fir Class

In Fir Class, the children have taken their interest in maps further and we started creating our own maps, plotting areas and looking for treasure.

The children got VERY excited when it started to snow the other day. There was lots of exploration and joy. We heard children shouting "It's winter!", "I love the snow!", "Christmas is coming!". We learnt about how snow melts, as well as using magnifying glasses to carefully look at snowflakes.

The snow also tied in perfectly to the story that we had been reading *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* as within the story the characters go through a snow storm. We talked about the journey the characters went on and what they saw along the way. We learnt the different actions and all joined in to tell it together. Just like Beech Class, we will also be starting to read the book *Stick Man* soon.

We have started learning some winter poems and doing some winter craft activities, such as making snowflakes. We are looking forward to the Christmas parties and the craft stay and play sessions.

NUMERACY AND PHONICS

You are your child's first and most important educator! Below are a couple of fun games to play with your child at home to help support their maths and literacy skills:

Number/shape spotting games - See if you can spot shapes and numbers in the environment e.g. on road signs, price tags, remote controls, computer keyboards, door numbers.

Name that tune game - Sing simple songs that your child knows well (such as *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*) using only sounds e.g. 'la, la, la' and ask your child to guess the song! See if your child would like a turn to sing, too.

INSET Day

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

Christmas 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). **We ask parents to kindly provide the Christmas party food** (see attached list).

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.

Post Box

There will be a large red post box in the foyer. If your child would like to send a Christmas card to their friends, we suggest that they send **one** card to their class. The post box will be emptied regularly and the cards read out and displayed in the class. This saves paper and also prevents children from getting upset if they do not receive an individual card.

Winter raffle

Thank you so much for your support in buying raffle tickets. **Tickets cost £1 each** and are available at Reception. You can pay cash or by card. Prizes include food hampers, adult gift sets (perfect for a Christmas present) and children's gift sets. Come and get your tickets! **All money raised goes towards school funds** (which is spent on children's activities). A big thank you to Heidi Taylor (our school governor) for donating/sourcing the prizes.

We will be drawing the raffle during the last week of term. Good luck!



Thank you

Thank you to DAC Beachcroft (a local law firm) who donated chairs to the school for use in the staff room. They are very much appreciated.

Thank you also to Burges Salmon (another local law firm) who donated a large quantity of children's books to the school. These will be used in the classes and added to our library for you to borrow.



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**.



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.



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.

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.

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](#)



Christmas Party Food List

We ask parents to kindly provide the Christmas party food. **Please make sure all food is shop bought, in its original packaging and contains no nuts, meat or egg products (egg in cake is allowed)**

Cheese and tomato pizza (this will be cooked on site)

Cooked vegetarian sausage rolls

Cooked vegetarian cocktail sausages

Cooked cheese and onion rolls

Savoury snacks – e.g. Pringles, Hula Hoops, crisps

Savoury biscuits – e.g. Cheddars, Ritz, cream crackers

Cucumber and carrot sticks

Cheese

Bread sticks

Fairy cakes

Biscuits - party rings, chocolate fingers

Fruit

If you would prefer, you are welcome to **make a money donation** and food items will be bought prior to the parties.