



# ST PHILIP'S MARSH NURSERY SCHOOL

## Newsletter January 2025

**Happy New Year!**  
Welcome back to the new term



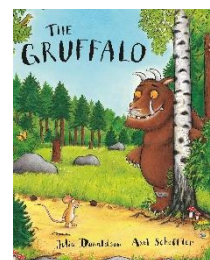
### Elm Class

This term the children are particularly interested in making pizza out of playdough and having tea parties and picnics in the home area. Following on from their interest, we will soon have a Lunar New Year celebration where they will have a party with real tea.

We have been developing our fine motor skills by using scissors to cut paper and flowers in the tuff-tray and exploring colours by naming them and through mixing paint and blending coloured discs together.

We are singing number rhymes to help them to become familiar with numbers and the patterns, such as *Five little speckled frogs* ([Five little speckled frogs - BBC Teach](#)).

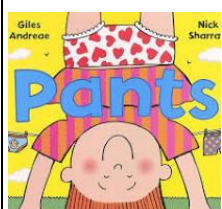
Our core book is *The Gruffalo* and we are using masks and props to act out the story (the film can be viewed here [BBC One - The Gruffalo](#)).



### Beech Class

We have been welcoming some new children and their families. Children have been throwing, catching and kicking the large balls outside and using ramps and tubes to roll small balls inside.

Our song is the really fun song that reinforces counting: *Alice the Camel* ([Alice the Camel nursery rhyme music and lyrics | Words for Life](#)).



A few of our children are toilet training, so thought it would be helpful for our main story to be *Pants* by Giles Andreae. They have talked lots about which patterned pants they like the look of in the book. We have been looking at different sized pants for maths. We are going to have a washing line so they can hang/peg pants on it to develop their gross and fine motor skills. There is a fantastic website called [ERIC](#) that offers advice on children's bowel and bladder health which may be useful.

### Oak Class

This term we have welcomed some new friends into Oak Class. They have been settling in really well, and we have enjoyed playing and learning together. Our core book in January has been *The Gingerbread Man*, and it was fantastic to see some of our new children acting out this traditional tale for group time. They showed lots of enthusiasm and courage and we are very proud of them!

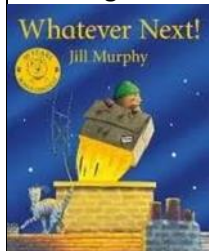
There has been an interest in construction over the past few weeks, and the children have shown lots of perseverance and problem-solving skills when building with different resources. They have really loved making 3D structures with our magnetic tiles, and this has led to lots of conversations about shape and size. We have been naming some of the 2D and 3D shapes that we have noticed when building, and have also been singing *Five Little Shapes Jumping on the Bed* ([Five Little Shapes | Original Nursery Rhymes By Little Baby Club](#)). The woodwork shed has been open for business as much as possible this term, and most children in Oak Class have had a turn at sawing balsa wood, sanding, and hammering. Some children are becoming very confident in their woodwork and have been

taking on more ambitious projects. They have started to plan what they would like to make, and are independently selecting the types of wood, resources and tools that they need.

The children continue to enjoy spending lots of their time in the garden. We have made bird feeders to hang from the trees, and have used binoculars to see what birds we can spot. The usual gathering of pigeons has been recorded, but the children have also seen a robin and some blue tits!

### Fir Class

In Fir Class we have been welcoming some new friends into our class who are settling really well. We have also been following children's interests around space, the stars, planets and rockets. We have been reading books like



*Whatever Next, My Sister is an Alien* and *The Smeds and The Smoos*. We have been singing songs like *5 little men in a flying saucer* ([Five little men in a flying saucer - BBC Teach](#)) and *Zoom, zoom, zoom we're going to the moon* ([Nursery rhyme 'Zoom, zoom, zoom' | Words for Life](#)). We have been creating telescopes, starry night pictures and using recyclable materials to create our own rockets. Soon we are going to pretend to travel to the moon and have our very own picnic up there! Currently when the nights are clear Jupiter, Mars, and Venus can all be seen in the sky. Let us know if you spot them!

## 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.



Soon we will be celebrating Chinese/Lunar New Year "Year of the Snake". It is always an 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 [Lunar \(Chinese\) New Year 2025, Bristol - Wai Yee Hong Chinese Supermarket!](#)

## Winter raffle

Thank you to the parents/carers who supported our winter raffle. We raised the fantastic amount of **£248** for school funds which will be spent on children's activities in the future.

## 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.

## Clothing

As the weather is cold, 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.



Please remember to provide your child with **gloves** for going outside, we've been having some cold little hands recently.

## 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](http://www.bristolcity.gov.uk)

[www.stphilipsmarshnursery.co.uk](http://www.stphilipsmarshnursery.co.uk)

## World Book Day

World Book Day is 6 March 2025 and we are celebrating it on **Wednesday 5 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 over/under their pyjamas.

## School Library

The school library in the Reception area 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.



## 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. Do not park in the car parks of local businesses (e.g. Fox Storage and Grundons).

**We understand the car park can get very busy at the beginning and end of sessions. We encourage everyone to always be tolerant and respectful 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.**

## Thank you

Thank you to Andrew at **Briscycle** for repairing some of our bikes. Briscycle is a locally owned, independent bicycle shop and repair workshop on Sandy Park (<https://www.briscycle.co.uk/>). Thank you!



## NHS Supervised Tooth Brushing Programme

Our school has enrolled to provide daily supervised toothbrushing for our children during the school day. This NHS scheme is brought to us by Big Brush Club (see website <https://bigbrushclub.co.uk/>) and the aim is to get children in Reception and Nursery/Pre-schools brushing during school time to help tackle tooth decay. Children will be supervised during the brushing sessions every day and will be under the guidance of trained 'Oral Health Champions'. Each child will receive their own toothbrush, which will be easily identifiable and will be stored in a safe storage system. Brushing at home is just as, if not more, important than brushing at school. As part of the supervised toothbrushing programme, we will provide your child with their own home kit.

Please see attached letter for further information. Before we start the scheme will be asking you to give written consent.

Big Brush Club are hosting several live oral health improvement webinars for parents/guardians. These sessions will provide valuable information on how to support children aged 0-11 years to have the best oral health start. During each session there will be two dental care professionals presenting and on hand to answer any questions you might have throughout the webinar. Cameras or microphones are not required to be used, however there will be a chat box to ask any questions you might have throughout.

## Parent Oral health improvement webinars:

**Wednesday 19th February at 7.30pm** - <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/d80297b4-a4eb-4736-9819-4f10f6c16a14@11f187f2-a328-4d92-a1f2-a711ff09055d>

**Thursday 20th March at 7pm** - <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/fc918f1d-1937-4dd6-8caf-876b2e17c4da@11f187f2-a328-4d92-a1f2-a711ff09055d>

Hello Parents/Carers

Your child is currently taking part in or due to start brushing their teeth in the classroom setting, which has been provided externally by the Big Brush Club.

Can I kindly ask for you to complete a short survey, using the link provided [Parent Survey - The Big Brush Club](#)

By completing this survey this will help the team at Big Brush Club to identify any barriers the children may face when brushing their teeth currently, it will also give an insight on their current brushing routines and how much support the children are receiving with their brushing at home.

Your support in providing this information is a key factor to help improve the oral health of young children across the Southwest.



### **Important Dates**

Half term holiday (school CLOSED) – **17-21 February (inclusive)**

**Wednesday 5 March** – celebration of Word Book Day

Easter holiday (school CLOSED) – **7-21 April (inclusive)**

Full details of all Bristol City Council term dates until Jul 2026 can be accessed [HERE](#)



Service provided by:



**AT HOME  
DENTAL**



### RE: NHS Supervised Tooth Brushing Programme

Dear Parent / Guardian,

Good news – Your school has been enrolled to provide daily supervised toothbrushing for your children during the school day.

This NHS scheme is brought to us by Big Brush Club and our aim is to get children in Reception and Nursery/ Pre-schools brushing during school time to help tackle tooth decay.

Developmentally, this is such an important age and we can really make a difference to children's long term oral health by committing to this simple and effective programme. Tooth decay is the most common disease in children and an average of 3 days of school per year are missed due to dental problems causing parents and carers to have time off work for appointments. This is easily preventable through the use of fluoride toothpaste and regular brushing.

Children will be supervised during the brushing sessions every day and will be under the guidance of trained 'Oral Health Champions'. Each child will receive their own toothbrush, which will be easily identifiable and will be stored in a safe storage system.

It is important children continue to brush their teeth at home, with a fluoride toothpaste. To support this, we are sending children home with their own pack which includes a toothbrush, toothpaste and information leaflet. We would greatly appreciate your support to encourage your children with their brushing in a positive way.

Visit our website ([www.bigbrushclub.co.uk](http://www.bigbrushclub.co.uk)) to learn more and view videos and apps that are useful in engaging your children and timing their brushing for 2 minutes.

**Allergies:** Please ensure you let the nursery or school know of any allergies or health issues your child may have which could mean they are unable to take part in the scheme.

**Consent:** to consent for your child to take part in the scheme, please fill in the attached form and return this to your child's school / teacher.

If you wish to discuss the scheme further or would like to know more about how to improve your child's oral hygiene, your Big Brush Club Facilitator can answer all your questions. Please get in touch via [info@bigbrushclub.co.uk](mailto:info@bigbrushclub.co.uk).

Yours Sincerely,

Justin Marney  
Managing Director



**AT HOME  
DENTAL**




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**Brushing together for healthy smiles**

[www.bigbrushclub.co.uk](http://www.bigbrushclub.co.uk)

[info@bigbrushclub.co.uk](mailto:info@bigbrushclub.co.uk)



Travelling Light presents

# Winter Lights

*Celebrating moments of joy and light*

A community event for the whole family

**Sunday 26 January, 1 – 5.30pm**

**Lantern parade, 5.30 – 6pm**

Wellspring Settlement,  
43 Ducie Road, Barton Hill, BS5 0AX.

**Free  
entry**

**Theatre performances & games**

**Crafts**

**Storytelling**

**Lantern making  
& parade!**



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.



**Charlotte Carter**  
**Headteacher**  
**Designated Safeguarding Lead**



**Clare Morton**  
**Deputy Headteacher**  
**Deputy Safeguarding Lead**



**Sharon Cutler**  
**School Business Manager**  
**Deputy Safeguarding Lead**



**Emmeline James**  
**Inclusion Lead**  
**Deputy Safeguarding Lead**



**Heidi Taylor**  
**Governor**  
**Named Safeguarding Governor**