



ST PHILIP'S MARSH NURSERY SCHOOL

Newsletter March 2025

Well, Spring is in the air and there is a wonderful atmosphere in school at the moment. Children from all classes have loved experiencing the elements in the garden - splashing in puddles, playing in the mud and even exploring hail stones! We are delighted that the children who have moved classrooms are adapting very well to new their environments.



Elm Class

At the start of Lent, we had the opportunity to taste pancakes with toppings of our choice – what a nice treat! We used our fine motor skills to squeeze lemons and when we tasted them, we discovered they were 'sour'. We also flipped numbered cardboard pancakes in small frying pans. Other mathematical games have included rolling the dice for number recognition and number correspondence e.g. if it lands on a number 2, the child chooses to do 2 claps or 2 jumps.

Some children have noticed signs of Spring, and we have talked about how the environment is changing outside: buds are shooting, leaves are growing, there is blossom on the trees and it has been sunny.

The children enjoyed sharing books they brought in from home for World Book Day. Our core book is *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, and the children are retelling the story together using props.

The children have a keen interest in making enclosures and setting up farmyard scenes with animals. Following on from their interest we have been singing *Old MacDonald a Farm* (sing along here [Old MacDonald - CBeebies](#)).

Beech Class

The children in Beech Class have been building lots with the big classroom bricks. They have built towers and made enclosures for the animals. To link in with this interest, our story has been *The Three Little Pigs* (you can share the story with your child here [Tumble Tales: The Three Little Pigs - CBeebies](#)).

Children have been singing *Five Little Ducks* (sing along here [Five Little Ducks - CBeebies](#)). This is a fabulous opportunity for them to learn some mathematical counting skills.

Children have been noticing themselves and their peers in photographs in our environment. It would be lovely if the children could bring in a family photo to go in our home area.

Outside, children have been using the various sized bikes. Some are learning how to use their feet to push their bike around, whilst others are learning how to use their feet to peddle. They have also been spotting aeroplanes and helicopters.

Oak Class

At the moment the children are interested in faces! Lots of them are choosing to draw their own faces or the faces of their friends, and some children decided to make self-portrait collages last week (these can be seen in Oak Class). We have been naming the different parts of our faces, and this has led onto conversations about similarities and differences.

One of our core stories this term will be *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Over the next few weeks, the children will start growing beans from seed, and these will be planted in our nursery garden. We have been blessed with some beautiful sunshine this week, and the children have had a wonderful time playing outside.

We continue to enjoy sharing poems from The Poetry Basket. Last week we learnt Christina Rossetti's poem *Pancakes*, which goes like this:

*Mix a pancake,
Stir a pancake,
Pop it in the pan;
Fry the pancake,
Toss the pancake,
Catch it if you can!*

Fir Class

In Fir Class the children have been enjoying the new 'office space' in the classroom, using old laptops and note pads and pens. This has been encouraging a lot of mark making and imaginative play.

The children have also shown a really big interest in planting things and how different plants grow. We will continue to explore different plants, and their different parts, for example looking at their roots and leaves. The children have been approaching it all with lots of curiosity, wondering what would come out of these very tiny seeds. We spoke about how plants need water, sunshine and time to grow. We have related this interest to two core books. The first one we have started to look at is *Jack and the Beanstalk* and we will go onto to read *The Enormous Turnip*.

Some children have started to spot signs of Spring and ask questions about baby animals. We have been looking at different information books about different baby animals and what they look like as they grow.

LITERACY

Easter is a great time of year to encourage your child to recognise print in the environment. If your child is given an Easter egg you can point out the name of the product e.g. 'Buttons' or the words printed on other food items in the cupboard e.g. 'Kelloggs', 'Heinz'. This can then lead on to talking about other environmental print e.g. road signs, shop names.

NUMERACY

Easter is also an ideal time to talk about 3D shapes. At the shops, you can look at the shapes of the Easter egg boxes (e.g. cuboid, cube) and the egg (ovoid). This can then lead on to talking about other shapes in the environment e.g. a Pringles tube being a cylinder, an ice-cream cone being a cone.

Staff and Governor changes

We would like to welcome Alnour Fashir to our Governing Body as Parent Governor.

Nursery fees increase

From 1 April 2025, nursery fees will be increasing to:

Breakfast £6.00 (7:45am-9:00am)

Buyback £26.00 (AM Session 9:00-12:00 OR PM Session 12:30-3:30)

Afterschool £4.00 (3:30pm-4:00pm)

Afterschool £13.00 (3:30pm-5:45pm)

INSET Day

The school will be closed on **Tuesday 22 April** for staff training.

World Book Day

We recently celebrated World Book Day when the children (and even the grown-ups) wore costumes or their pyjamas to school. We raised £29 between our two sites. To find out where your donation goes, click on the link <https://www.worldbookday.com/>.

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 appreciate donations of **socks** and **jogging bottoms/leggings**. Please can we remind parents, if your child comes home in **nursery clothes**, **please return** as soon as possible.

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.



Website update

We are in the process of updating our website so that you will be able to see regular 'news from the rooms'. You can keep up to date with our learning here:

Website: <https://stphilipsmarshnursery.co.uk/>
and

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/stphilipsmarshnurseryschool/>



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**.

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 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.**

Home display board

Each class has a home display board. If possible, please could you bring in a photo of your child with something/someone/somewhere that is special to them e.g. a family member, a pet, a toy, a place. If it is easier, you can email a copy of the photo to Margaret.blake@bristol-schools.uk. The children can often be found talking to each other about these photos and take great pride in pointing out their special people/item.

Outdoor reflective framework



Both of our sites (St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre) have been awarded The Outdoor Play and Learning Reflective Framework Quality Improvement Certificate! Our joint submission was coordinated by Kim (teacher at St Philip's). The validation panel looked at all the evidence submitted and sent us a detailed response, which can be found attached. Highlights from their feedback include:

- ✓ "You have a deep insight and understanding of your children, families and local community which has informed and been central throughout your reflective journey. It is evident that children are at the heart of everything you do."
- ✓ "We like the way you provide children with a range of sensory opportunities such as loose parts, music and food exploration."
- ✓ "You have highlighted the importance of understanding early childhood brain development and the physical and emotional needs of young children utilising the limitless and unique learning opportunities available outdoors".

Returners

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 **Monday 28 April** as we will then be writing to families with children on the waiting list to offer them places.

Volunteers welcome

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 or me, 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.

Do you have a pet e.g. rabbit, tortoise which you can bring in to talk to the children about how you look after it?

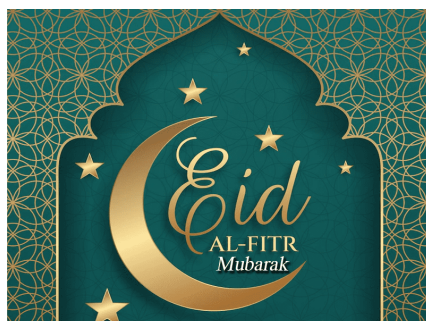
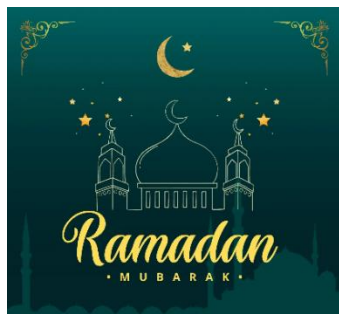


Progress development meetings

Progress development meetings will be held on **Wednesday 2 April 3.40-5.00pm**. Please sign up with your child's key person.

Family celebrations

We wish Ramadan Mubarak to everyone who will be observing this month and Eid Mubarak to our families celebrating next month.



Happy Easter to our families celebrating next month.



Important Dates

Progress development meetings - **Wednesday 2 April 3.40-5.00pm**

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

22 April – INSET Day (school CLOSED)

Monday 5 May – May Day Bank Holiday – School CLOSED

Tuesday 20 May (AM) and Thursday 22 May (PM) – School Photographer

Half term holiday (School CLOSED) – **26-30 May (inclusive)**

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



St Philip's Marsh Nursery School
St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and
Cashmore Early Years Centre
St Philip's Marsh Nursery School
Albert Crescent
bristol
Bristol
BS2 0SU

Early Years Consultant Team
Southmead Children's Centre
Doncaster Road
Bristol
BS10 5PW

Date: 30/01/2025

Dear St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre

Congratulations, your submission has gained the Outdoor Play and Learning Reflective Framework for the year from 2025 to 2026.

The validation panel felt that your submission was an excellent example of how to use the Outdoor Reflective Framework. The journey you have captured in your submission is inspiring! You have involved the whole team together with other early years professionals. You have a deep insight and understanding of your children, families and local community which has informed and been central throughout your reflective journey. It is evident that children are at the heart of everything you do.

We value how you share your learning, embed your training and understanding; keeping the benefits to children at the core of your practice. This is especially apparent in how you created a woodwork area to provide children with unique and 'real' hands on experiences, enabling them to use tools and natural materials. It was evident in your submission that children gained a deep level of learning and progressed across many areas and dispositions; gaining self-belief, pride and knowledge. We like the way you provide children with a range of sensory opportunities such as loose parts, music and food exploration.

You clearly involved the whole team including the children, parents and volunteers in creating your growing area and updating the outdoor provision to provide ongoing opportunities for rich play and learning, sharing the benefits of exploring, growing and eating healthy foods. You have highlighted the importance of understanding early childhood brain development and the physical and emotional needs of young children utilising the limitless and unique learning opportunities available outdoors.

Your benefits for children are clear and relevant to your targets. It has been an absolute joy to look at all your evidence which enabled us to feel we were in your setting and we look forward to your updates moving forward.

We would like to thank you for being part of the Outdoor Reflective Framework pilot. Your involvement as participants has been key in ensuring this is a valuable and user-friendly reflective framework which we can share with the wider early year's community. We will send you a short survey soon to ask for your honest feedback on the process,



what went well and to find out how we can improve before we launch publicly. We look forward to receiving your updates by 2nd June 2025; we will send more information about this with the survey. Thank you again for your time and dedication to this pilot.

If you would like support with your next submission please contact **Liz Leeson**,

You are now able to use the Bristol Standard logo on your letter headings, publicity and website. We can also provide information leaflets. If you would like the logo emailed to you please contact

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Liz Leeson".

Liz Leeson
Bristol Standard Strategic Operations Leader



**OUTDOOR PLAY AND LEARNING REFLECTIVE FRAMEWORK QUALITY
IMPROVEMENT VALIDATION TEAM**

Name of Setting	St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre
Future Development Points	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Share and celebrate your submission with your families and Early Years Professionals.	
We are looking forward to receiving your next Bristol Standard for Outdoor Play & Learning Quality Improvement submission which is due:	January 2026

St Philip's Marsh/Cashmore are part of the My School Fund initiative to help boost our budget

St Philip's Marsh Nursery School/Cashmore Early Years Centre is part of the My School Fund initiative. This innovative scheme allows for us to be able to boost our school's budget with your help.

How does it work?

Parents, guardians and carers can sign up to the scheme for free and start earning cashback on the things they buy in participating retail stores, including Sainsbury's and Argos. As you spend, you'll receive 2% cashback in the form of eGift vouchers that can be redeemed in participating stores. By linking your spend to our school on the My School Fund website we'll also earn 1% cashback on your spend.

Add that all up across our school's network of families and together we can all make a big difference!

How to get involved

Visit myschoolfund.org to register for free and link to St Philip's Marsh Nursery School BS2 0SU. From there, everything you spend in participating stores will go towards helping boost our budget, plus your own!

Sign up today at myschoolfund.org

Cashback for you and your school

In association with

Sainsbury's Argos ESPO

1% 2%

Your chosen school You

We're part of My School Fund

Find out more