



ST PHILIP'S MARSH NURSERY SCHOOL

Newsletter May 2025

Wow! We are now in Term 5, with just one more term to go in this school year. This is a particularly busy time for nursery, with a new group of younger children joining us for the first time and older children starting to think about moving on to primary school. Our lovely garden is starting to wake up from its winter snooze and the children are enjoying noticing the signs of Spring all around us. Here is a brief round-up of news from our rooms:



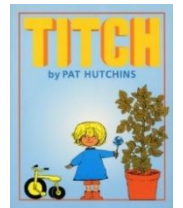
Elm Class

The children in Elm Class have been celebrating Easter by hunting for Easter eggs, racing with an egg and spoon, decorating and counting eggs, cutting playdough using Easter shaped cutters, baking Easter shortbread biscuits (yum!), reading *We're Going on an Egg Hunt* and singing *Chick, Chick, Chick, Chick, Chicken* ([CBeebies Songs](#) | [Something Special](#) | [Chick Chick Chicken](#)).

Elm Class have been enjoying the warm weather in the garden, noticing that the seeds we planted have started to grow. We are learning what they need to grow and carefully giving them water from our watering cans. Following on from the children's interest of growing we are introducing the book *Titch* by Pat Hutchins.

During the hot weather we used the hosepipe to add water to the sand in our large sand pit, making it more malleable to make sandcastles. There has been lots of water play both inside and out – filling, emptying and exploring floating/sinking – they have found objects that float e.g. corks and others that sink e.g. stones.

We are also developing our fine motor skills by practicing cutting and snipping paper using scissors and chopping vegetables using knives.



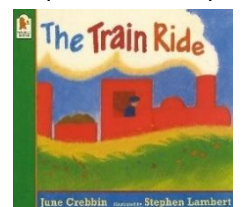
Beech Class

The children helped Mrs Hen to find her missing eggs in our classroom (Easter egg hunt). Once found we counted the eggs to make sure they were all there. The children were all able to take one from the total to eat (what a treat!).

Some children have been exploring the trains and using their fine motor skills to fit the track pieces together. We have been reading *The Train Ride* by June Crebbin to coincide with this. It's about a boy who sees various animals and places from the train and the children have commented on what he sees. The boy sees his reflection in the window when he goes through a tunnel, so the children have been looking at themselves in mirrors and there has been lots of language e.g. eyes, nose, mouth etc.

We have been singing *5 Little Men in a Flying Saucer* and they especially like the "Whoosh" part ([Five little men in a flying saucer - BBC Teach](#)).

Beech Class have been making the most of the sunny weather. They have been going on bug hunts in the garden and so far, have found a ladybird, a woodlouse, a spider, an ant and a snail. They also have a keen interest in filling and emptying jugs/tubes with coloured water.

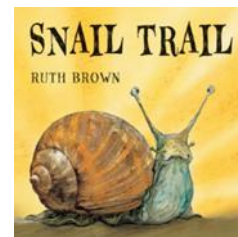


Oak Class

This term we have welcomed some new children into Oak Class and have enjoyed getting to know these new friends. Viviana has also brought us some snail friends from her garden. They have been living in a tank in our classroom, and we have enjoyed getting them out and watching them slowly make their way around the tuff tray and over our hands!

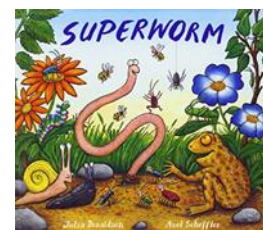
In the nursery garden, the children have started to spot some minibeasts and have been using guidebooks to discover more about the insects that might be hiding under logs or in the bushes. We have been reading the poetry book *Mad About Minibeasts*, and *Snail Trail* by Ruth Brown. The warm weather has also led to lots of cooling water play in the garden, with the children filling, transporting and emptying large containers, as well as having some initial conversations about how different objects sink and float. This week, some of the children have been making marks on the floor with chalk or wet paintbrushes.

Our Spring poem is called *Stepping Stones*, and the children have been learning this during Story, Song & Sound.



Fir Class

In Fir Class the children enjoyed some Easter activities such as egg hunts, designing Easter eggs, making nests with natural materials, as well as some chocolate ones (yummy!). Since returning from the holidays, the children have been keen to share what they got up to in the half term. As they are developing new interests around minibeasts, we have been having lots of minibeast hunts in the garden and reading the book *Superworm* by Julia Donaldson. We even found some ladybird larvae: we couldn't believe it was black and yellow! The children have also been wanting to do more helicopter stories, which is when the children tell their key people any story they like, the adult writes it down for them, and then their peers help them act it out on the carpet. It's been fantastic to see the children grow in confidence in their story telling skills and acting skills. One of our favourite action songs at the moment is *This Little Train Goes up the Hill* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=US-zwlwi1ok>).



OUTDOOR LEARNING

Did you know?

The national curriculum for the Early Years makes it clear that children must have access to an outside play area. Our garden is an important place for children to learn through play. Research has shown that **outdoor learning is important for children's development of communication skills, social skills, confidence, motivation, and physical skills.** These are all essential to help children to learn more specific skills like reading, writing and maths. **The children often use maths and mark-making (early writing) in their play in the garden. They also play out the stories that we read – they remember and invent new stories and work together.** Children explore social skills and develop fine finger strength and control when “cooking” together in the mud kitchen. They also explore water play, paint and craft materials. They help to tidy, sweep and clean and look after the plants.

Staff and Governor changes

We would like to welcome Rachael and Freya who have been working at Cashmore Early Years Centre (our sister site). They will be splitting their time between the two sites.

We would also like to welcome Toni Lawrence back after her maternity leave.

Website updates

On our website 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/>



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.



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.

We would also be very grateful for donations of the following: pieces of guttering/drainpipes, old cushions which can be used outside in the garden, wooden mug stands for our home areas.



Toys brought into nursery

Please encourage your child to **KEEP TOYS AT HOME**. Toys from home are likely to get lost, broken or cause conflict. Staff are not responsible for the whereabouts of toys brought in from home.

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 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.

Preparing to move to Primary school

Many children will be moving to Reception class at their new primary school in September. This is a big moment in family life! Over the next few months, nursery staff will gently help your child to understand this change, for example by reading books about school life, providing opportunities to dress up in school uniform and looking at photos of the many schools our children will be attending.

At this time of year there are some important deadlines, so please make sure you are prepared:

- Accept your child's school place without delay or follow the instructions in the local authority offer letter/email if you do not wish to accept the offer.
- Let your child's key person/office staff know which school you have accepted.
- Check your email inbox regularly. Your child's new school will contact you to invite you to events such as Welcome Evenings, Stay and Play sessions and to explain induction arrangements.
- Be aware that schools will have special induction arrangements to help your child settle in September. Your child will probably not start school full time straight away, so you may need to make childcare arrangements for the first few weeks of September.
- Nursery staff will share information with your child's new school and their new teacher may visit them at nursery. The Bristol Universal Transfer Record is a document used to support a smooth transition for all children from their early years setting into reception class. It summarises your child's interests and strengths and includes an assessment to ensure that your child's reception teacher has the information they need. Please speak to your child's Key Person if you have any questions about how we share information.
- For some children, additional conversations to support transition are beneficial and these will take place in partnership with you, as appropriate.

For more information on how to help your child get ready for reception, and for information on supporting children with additional needs, scan the QR code on the poster below or visit <https://startingreception.co.uk>

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) – **at least 4 nappies per day** - and **spare clothes** (labelled with child's name) in case we need 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 or vest), 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 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 may 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.

Get 30 hours of childcare now!

From this September, 15 hours childcare for working families with children under 3 will expand to 30 hours, meaning eligible working families can now apply for 30 hours of childcare from the term after their child turns 9 months until they reach school age <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/30-hours-childcare-support/working-families>

Important Dates

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

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

Summer holidays (School CLOSED) – 23 July - 1 September (inclusive)

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

School Photographs

Tuesday 20 (AM) and Thursday 22 May (PM)

On **Tuesday 20 (AM) and Thursday 22 May (PM)**, Concept Photography ([Concept Photography LTD - Home - Specialists in under 5 photography](#)) will be taking individual photographs of all children in the school and family photographs with siblings, if requested. If you would like a photograph of your child with their brother or sister, you will need to stay with them. This service will be available from **8.30-9.15 am on Tuesday and 3.15-4.00 pm on Thursday.**

Please be aware if you are staying for family photographs it may be better to park in Meriton Street to avoid congestion in the car park.

For those children that do not normally attend on a Tuesday or Thursday, you are more than welcome to bring them into school for a **‘drop in’ session between 2.30-3.15 pm on Thursday.** You will need to stay with your child. Please be aware this is not by appointment and so you may have to wait.



ERIC, The Children's Bowel and Bladder Charity



**Wee and poo is
what we do!**

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withholding, **constipation** and **soiling**,
daytime bladder problems or **bedwetting**?

We have over 30 years' experience of
providing information and support for families
dealing with wee and poo problems.

Visit our website:

www.eric.org.uk



Starting Reception

Your child's journey to school starts at home

We understand that all children develop at their own pace, and that we're all learning from birth. When it's time to start school, some children will need more help than others.

There's lots you can do at home to build your child's confidence and independence, helping them feel emotionally and practically prepared to start school.



For more information on how to help your child get ready for reception, and for information on supporting children with additional needs, scan the QR code or visit <https://startingreception.co.uk>.

When the sun shines,



bring a **sunhat** (labelled with child's name)



ensure **shoulders are covered** (no strappy tops or vests)



wear **appropriate footwear** (no open-toed sandals or flip flops)



and **apply sunscreen**

