



ST PHILIP'S MARSH NURSERY SCHOOL

Newsletter October 2025



The children have been settling into their new key groups. They have been developing confidence to explore nursery, feeling safe and happy – finding places to play, busy learning and making friends.

Autumn is a great time of year to talk about changes in the environment with your child. You can find fun nature activities for your toddler here [Explore Nature with Toddlers](#)

Elm Class

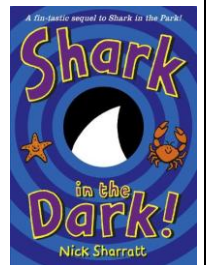
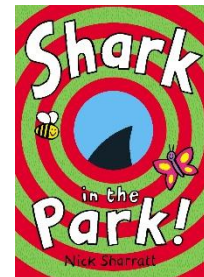
This term has been focusing on settling in and building relationships with key adults. We have been settling into the routines of nursery and exploring all the resources in continuous provision and group learning times.

We have been creating consistent and calm spaces, giving children time to process this big change and begin to feel safe at nursery without their parents or carers.

Our core books have been [Shark in the Park](#) and the sequel, [Shark in the Dark](#) by Nick Sharratt. We are learning to give attention to a story within a group whilst developing our communication and early literacy skills.

We had a later batch of caterpillars this year, and it was very exciting to watch the caterpillars make their cocoons and then emerge as butterflies. We enjoyed feeding them oranges to give them energy to be able to fly away.

We have been particularly interested in rolling cars down ramps, seeing how fast and far they go (*whee!*) and using construction blocks e.g. Duplo. This kind of play is important because it helps the children to build strength, control and coordination in their fingers. In the home area looking after the 'babies' has been very popular – we are feeding them, brushing teeth and pushing them in prams.



Beech Class

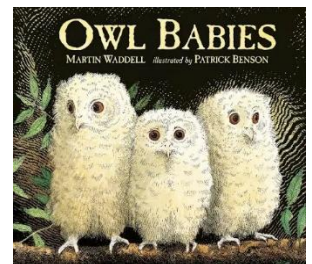
In Beech Class we have been busy welcoming and getting to know lots of new children and their families. The children have been happily exploring the resources in the classroom, corridor and garden.

Our core book is [Owl Babies](#). We read this as it mentions mummy coming back. We reassure the children that their grown-up will always come back, so, it ties in well. We have also been learning about the mathematical concept of subtracting, by taking one away each time with the song singing [5 little men in a flying saucer](#).

Some children have been interested in the farm animals. They have mentioned they have been to a farm, so we have also been singing [Old McDonald](#). We love making the animal sounds.

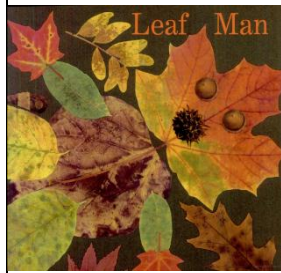
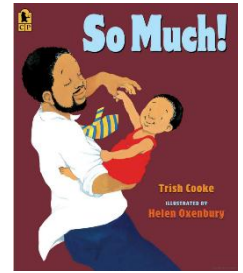
Children have been rolling conkers and pinecones down ramps, guttering and tubes. When it rained lots of children enjoyed jumping in muddy puddles "just like Peppa Pig".

Waterplay has been very popular. Children have been filling and emptying jugs, catching fish in nets, and exploring the waterwheels.



Oak Class

The children are steadily settling into Oak Class and have been building relationships with each other and their new key people. Our first core book of this year has been *So Much* by Trish Cooke (['So Much' by Trish Cooke. Read aloud](#)). The children have loved sharing this story, and it has opened up discussions about home and family. Thank you to parents/carers who have already brought in photographs for our family board.



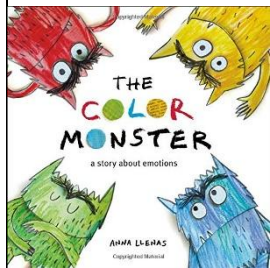
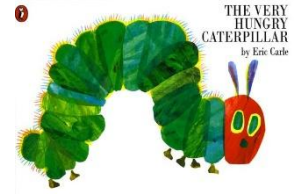
we have explored drumming, card making, ramp building and costume making. We have even made cubist portraits in the style of Pablo Picasso! What a fantastic start to the year it's been.

With autumn afoot, the children have started to notice the changes that are taking place in the garden. They have collected fallen leaves, acorns, twigs and pinecones. These are being used in potions, playdough sculptures and nature collages. We have been reading *Leaf Man* by Lois Ehlert ([Leaf Man, by Lois Ehlert](#)). Maybe you will discover a leaf man whilst you are out on an autumn walk?

Fir Class

In Fir Class we have been enjoying welcoming back our returning friends and finding out some of the things they have gotten up to over the summer like visiting farms, parks or beaches. We are also getting to know some new friends that started with us this term. The children are getting used to the new classroom layout and to each other, as well as their new key people. We had a later batch of caterpillars this year, and it was very exciting to see the caterpillars make their cocoons and then emerge as butterflies.

We were able to release them on a sunny day, where we had the opportunity to look closely at their beautiful wings and wave "bye, bye" as they flew off.



So far we have focused on 3 main books; [Owl Babies](#), [The Very Hungry Caterpillar](#) and [The Colour Monster](#). We have also been

looking at non-fiction books about Autumn and the change in seasons. It's great for the children to notice and talk about the changes in their environment, such as it becoming colder and the leaves changing colours.

Thank you to all the parents/carers who have provided us with photos for our Key Group boards (if you haven't done so yet, please keep them coming!). The children have loved sharing these photos and it has opened up lovely conversations about who we live with and

all different kinds of family units.

We have recently been recognising and talking about the things we have in common with people and things that are different, we spoke about our different eye colours and drew our feet and hands and compared size.

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, rice cakes) 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 are also running low on spare clothes for 3–4-year-olds, especially **trousers, socks and pants** and would appreciate donations.



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 or myself 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.



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 where children get cold viruses. If your child is unwell, please keep them at home and telephone the School on 0117 977 6171 to report the absence. 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.

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.**

Application for primary school

Please remember that the **deadline for applying for a Reception Class place for your child is 15 January 2026** (if your child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022). 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.

Catering supplier

From 1 November, the catering contract will be taken over by Aspens <https://www.aspens-services.co.uk/>. The new menu is below. The cost of a meal remains at £2.55.

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.

If your child is not actively potty training (i.e. attempting to use the toilet regularly), please could you provide **nappies (with tabs)** instead of pull-ups to help key people with the changing process.

School Uniform

Uniform is not compulsory, but we do have school jumpers, polo shirts and hats with the school logo which can be purchased quite reasonably from the school office.

Sweatshirts £10.50

Polo shirts £7.10

Woolly hats £5.00



INSET Days

The School will be closed on the following days for staff training: **7 November, 13 February, 2 April and 1 June.**

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.

We send best wishes for a **Happy Diwali** to the families in our school community celebrating!



Important Dates

Half term holiday – School **CLOSED** – **Monday 27 to Friday 31 October (inclusive)**

INSET Day – School **CLOSED** – **Friday 7 November**

Christmas holidays – School **CLOSED** – **Monday 22 December to Friday 2 January (inclusive)**

Return to School – **Monday 5 January**

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

15 October 2025 is National Burns Awareness Day. The aim of the day is to promote awareness of how we can avoid burn injuries occurring. Prevention and good first aid are key to reducing the number of burns and scalds occurring in the UK every single day. A burn injury is for life. The scars are physical as well as psychological, and can present life-long challenges for the individual and their families.

The average cost to the NHS for a major burn is £95,000, but what is the cost to the individual and the family? What many people don't know, is that children and the elderly are the most vulnerable, and the majority of injuries occur as a result of an accident that could so easily have been prevented.



Did you know hot drinks such are one of the most common cause of scalds in children? Something as common as a tea or coffee can have devastating effects. Other top causes of paediatric burns and scalds include **electric hobs and hair straighteners**. **9,244** children were so badly burnt or scalded in 2024 that they required admission to a specialist burns unit. This figure does not include the thousands who were also seen in emergency departments.

If you would like any more information about Burns Awareness Day or prevention of burn injuries please visit the websites listed below.

www.britishburnassociation.org

www.cbtrust.org.uk

www.safetea.org.uk

Burn First Aid : Three C's

- C Cool** the burn with cool running tap water for 20 minutes. If possible, remove all clothing and jewellery from the affected area
- C Call for help** – 999, 111, Minor Injuries Unit or your local GP
- C Cover** with cling film or a sterile, non fluffy dressing. Keep the patient warm, seek medical advice



NATIONAL BURN AWARENESS DAY
15TH OCTOBER 2025
#BeBurnsAware

A BURN INJURY IS FOR LIFE

9,244 CHILDREN WERE **BURNED OR SCALDED** IN 2024

This figure only relates to the most serious burns and scalds.
This doesn't include the thousands seen by A&E departments.

TOP CAUSES:

- Tea or Coffee Cup
- Electric Oven
- Hair Straighteners
- Hot Fluids

*Source: BOD Database

www.cbtrust.org.uk

www.britishburnassociation.org

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

We're pleased to announce that St Philip's Marsh Nursery School/Cashmore Early Years Centre is part 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

Understanding biting

Understanding Biting

We understand biting as a way of communicating – what is the child trying to tell us?

- Biting is a common behaviour that some young children experience.
- It occurs more often amongst children under 5.
- Emotions such as anger, frustration, need or even excitement can lead to biting.
- Children may not have the words to express themselves or the ability to regulate their emotions, thoughts and behaviour.
- As children mature, gain self-control, and develop language and problem-solving skills, they usually outgrow this behaviour.
- While not uncommon, biting can be an upsetting and potentially harmful behaviour.



Why do children bite?

Teething - Swelling gums can be painful and cause discomfort; this can be relieved by biting or chewing on something.

Exploration - Babies and young children explore the world around them using their senses and they do not always know the difference between sensory exploration with their mouth and biting others.

Excitement - Biting can occur if a child is expressing excitement but doesn't yet know how to regulate their emotions or control their behaviour.

Stress - Biting can be a strategy used to relieve stress, tension or anxiety. Particular events or parts of a child's day may cause feelings of stress or anxiety, such as changes in routine or caregiver, saying goodbye or significant transitions, or events such as moving house or a new sibling.

Frustration - A child's innate drive to be increasingly independent and do things for themselves can lead to frustration if they get stuck or aren't able to achieve what they want. Biting can be a way of dealing with this frustration.

Attention - Biting can be a way for children to say they are not feeling heard or seen, needing connection or comfort.

Anger - Children may not yet have the language to express their feelings or get their needs met. Sometimes 'big' emotions can be difficult to understand, process and express. Biting can be a way of showing anger or hurt, particularly in situations that demand sharing, turn-taking, conflict resolution or problem solving.

What do we do about biting?

Ensure safety and wellbeing offering comfort and reassurance.

Follow our Learning Behaviours Policy Approach calmly, acknowledge feelings, support solutions and provide further support.

Use clear consistent boundaries about the behaviour that is unacceptable.

Create environments and spaces that minimise conflict ensuring sufficient resources and calm spaces.

Provide opportunities for children to express feelings with trusted, sensitive adults.

Monitor incidents of biting, looking for patterns that can help identify underlying causes for the biting.

Work in partnership with parents/carers to share solutions and strategies.

What do we do if your child has been bitten?

- Offer comfort and reassurance.
- Wash the bite with warm soapy water, apply a cold compress if the bite has bruised the skin.
- Further First Aid given if the wound is bleeding, covering with a waterproof dressing.
- Complete an accident form and contact parents/carers to inform them of the incident.
- Advise further medical attention if appropriate, i.e. if the skin has been broken.



What can you do about biting?

- We acknowledge that if your child has been bitten this can be distressing.
- Working in partnership with your child's keyperson in ensuring your child feels valued, safe and can learn without fear of being hurt is essential.
- We recognise that if your child is biting you may be embarrassed or frustrated.
- Working in partnership with your child's keyperson is essential. They will work alongside you to:
 - Share solutions and strategies for you to use at home that can successfully support a child's communication and emotional needs to prevent further incidents of biting.
 - Share language used with children saying "biting somebody hurts... you use teeth to bite food".
 - Help identify the reason your child is biting such as teething, exploration, stress or expressing feelings.
 - Offer advice about how to address biting, giving praise and attention to the behaviours you want to encourage, such as sharing or turn taking.
- Please **NEVER bite your child back**. This is frightening and can teach them that biting is ok.



SAY
SEND AND YOU
SENDIAS

SEND and You Appointments on Wednesday 22nd October 2025

@Wellspring Settlement Family Centre, Barton Hill,
BS5 0AX

SEND and You can provide advice and support around: SEN support in schools, EHCPs, completing paperwork, your legal rights and much more!

Use the QR code below to book a free appointment with our SEND and You Practitioner!

Appointment times:

1pm
1:20pm
1:40pm
2pm



www.sendandyou.org.uk www.bristolparentcarers.org.uk



SAY
SEND AND YOU
SENDIAS

SEND and You Appointments on Wednesday 26th November 2025

@Wellspring Settlement Family Centre, Barton Hill,
BS5 0AX

SEND and You can provide advice and support around: SEN support in schools, EHCPs, completing paperwork, your legal rights and much more!

Bristol Parent Carers will also be offering a drop-in session from 1-2:30pm. No need to book for this if you would like to come along for a chat with people who understand.

Use the QR code below to book a free appointment with our SEND and You Practitioner!

Appointment times:

1pm
1:20pm
1:40pm
2pm



www.sendandyou.org.uk www.bristolparentcarers.org.uk



SAY
SEND AND YOU
SENDIAS

SEND and You Appointments on Wednesday 28th January 2026

@Wellspring Settlement Family Centre, Barton Hill,
BS5 0AX

SEND and You can provide advice and support around: SEN support in schools, EHCPs, completing paperwork, your legal rights and much more!

Bristol Parent Carers will also be offering a drop-in session from 1-2:30pm. No need to book for this if you would like to come along for a chat with people who understand.

Use the QR code below to book a free appointment with our SEND and You Practitioner!

Appointment times:

1pm
1:20pm
1:40pm
2pm



www.sendandyou.org.uk www.bristolparentcarers.org.uk

School Meals Supervisory Assistant

at

St Philip's Marsh Nursery School, Albert Crescent, St Philip's, Bristol BS2 0SU

Do you enjoy working with children? Do you have a little bit of time each day when you would be available to work?

This is a great chance for someone within the community to join our friendly and supportive team. We are looking for someone to work as part of the SMSA team who look after children aged 2-5 at lunchtime, serving lunch and providing high quality, safe supervision, talking with the children and supporting them in their play.

Days:	Monday to Friday (term time only)
Hours:	11.30 am - 1.15 pm (1 hour 45 minutes per day)
Grade:	BG2
Hourly rate:	Living wage
Contract:	Fixed term (until 31 August 2026)
Qualifications:	None required (training will be provided)
Closing date:	31 October 2025
Start date:	As soon as possible

The successful candidate will:

- have experience of working or volunteering in a school setting;
- be motivated, enthusiastic and organised;
- be able to use their initiative;
- be committed to building and maintaining positive relationships; and
- be a team player with good communication skills.

We offer:

- training and opportunities for professional development; and
- a friendly and supportive staff team.

The school is committed to the safeguarding of all children. For this position you will need to complete an enhanced DBS check.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please email

stphilipsmarshn@bristol-schools.uk

or call Sharon Cutler on 0117 9776171

FOOD FESTIVAL

By Asperia

WEEK 1

Autumn Winter 2025/26
03/11/25, 24/11/25, 15/12/25, 05/01/26,
26/01/26, 16/02/26, 09/03/26, 30/03/26



LUNCHTIME

PRIMARY



MONDAY

Cheese and Tomato Pizza with Wedges

B

TUESDAY

Moroccan Chicken Meatballs and Rice

B

WEDNESDAY

Roast Chicken, Skin on Roasties and Gravy

C

THURSDAY

Minced Beef and Onion Pie with Mash

D

FRIDAY

Golden Fish Fingers or Salmon Fingers and Home Cooked Chips

B

Baked Sweetcorn Fritters with Wedges

A

Sweet Potato Tagine and Rice

B

Cauliflower & Broccoli Cheese Bake, Skin on Roasties and Gravy

B

Bean and Roots Stew and Mash

A

Cheesy Bean Wrap with Home Cooked Chips

B

Cheese and Tomato Pizza with Wedges

B

Moroccan Chicken Meatballs and Rice

B

Roast Chicken, Skin on Roasties and Gravy

C

Minced Beef and Onion Pie with Mash

D

Golden Fish Fingers or Salmon Fingers and Home Cooked Chips

B



Vegetable Sticks

Mixed Greens

Carrots and Cabbage

Green Beans and Sweetcorn

Peas and Baked Beans

Orange Cookie

B

Strawberry and Pineapple Jelly

B

Apple Tea Cake and Custard

B

Chocolate Shortbread

B

Lemon Drizzle Cake

B

What impact has your meal had on planet Earth today?

A Very Low
B Low
C Medium
D High
E Very High

AVAILABLE DAILY

DAILY SALAD BOWL, FRESHLY BAKED BREAD, YOGHURTS, CUT FRUIT AND DRINKING WATER.

FOOD FESTIVAL

WEEK 2

Autumn Winter 2025/26

10/11/25, 01/12/25, 22/12/25, 12/01/26,

02/02/26, 23/02/26, 16/03/26



LUNCHTIME

PRIMARY



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Cheese and Tomato Pizza with Wedges	Creamy Chicken and Sweetcorn Pasta	Roast Chicken, Skin on Roasties and Gravy	Mild Beef Chilli Con Carne with Rice	Golden Fish Fingers and Home Cooked Chips
Green Veg and Butterbean Pie with Wedges	Veggie Wholegrain Pasta Bolognese	Cheddar and Spring Onion Pastry Slice	Vegetable Ratatouille with Rice	BBQ Veggie Wrap with Home Cooked Chips
Cheese and Tomato Pizza with Wedges	Creamy Chicken and Sweetcorn Pasta	Roast Chicken, Skin on Roasties and Gravy	Mild Beef Chilli Con Carne with Rice	Golden Fish Fingers and Home Cooked Chips



Vegetable Sticks	Broccoli and Cabbage	Carrots and Peas	Mixed Greens	Peas and Baked Beans
Chocolate Popcorn Bar	Orange and Peach Jelly	Banana Bread and Custard	Apple Flapjack	Maple Oat Cookie

What impact has your meal had on planet Earth today?



AVAILABLE DAILY

DAILY SALAD BOWL, FRESHLY BAKED BREAD, YOGHURTS, CUT FRUIT AND DRINKING WATER

FOOD FESTIVAL

by Asperia

WEEK 3

Autumn Winter 2025/26

27/10/25, 17/11/25, 08/12/25, 29/12/25,
19/01/26, 09/02/26, 02/03/26, 23/03/26



LUNCHTIME

PRIMARY



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Macaroni Cheese	Cottage Pie	Roast Chicken, Skin on Roasties and Gravy	Mild Chicken Korma with Rice	Golden Fish Fingers and Home Cooked Chips
Spanish Spinach and Chickpeas with Wedges	Shepherdless Pie	Carrot and Stuffing Puff Pastry Plait, Skin on Roasties and Gravy	Tarka Dhal with Rice	Vegetable Fingers with Home Cooked Chips
Macaroni Cheese	Cottage Pie	Roast Chicken, Skin on Roasties and Gravy	Mild Chicken Korma with Rice	Golden Fish Fingers and Home Cooked Chips



Sweetcorn and Cabbage	Mixed Greens	Roasted Roots	Carrots and Green Beans	Peas and Baked Beans
Shortbread	Sweet Potato Brownie	Oaty Apple Crunch	Banana and Custard	Vanilla Cookie

What impact has your meal had on planet Earth today?

Very Low Low Medium High Very High

AVAILABLE DAILY

DAILY SALAD BOWL, FRESHLY BAKED BREAD, YOGHURTS, CUT FRUIT AND DRINKING WATER