



ST PHILIP'S MARSH NURSERY SCHOOL

Newsletter November 2025



Elm Class

The children in Elm Class have been particularly interested in building towers and structures out of Duplo and bricks, seeing how tall we can build them before they come crashing down ('*crash!*'). The children have also been constructing roads and ramps to see how fast the cars go down ('*wheweee!*').

We have been singing one of our favourite rhyming songs '*5 little ducks*' ([Five Little Ducks - CBeebies](#)). It supports early learning through counting, repetition and rhythm, and helps develop language skills, motor skills and emotional awareness. We also use an instrument bag (and after singing the introductory song "*I've got something in my bag ...*") – each child has a turn at choosing an instrument from the bag and we listen to our friend playing it. It is great for developing our listening and turn taking skills.

The children continue to be interested in the various inset puzzles we have in Elm Class, helping them develop fine motor skills, finger, hand and arm strength and eye hand co-ordination.

Towards the end of each day, we brush our teeth together and talk about the importance of taking care of our teeth. This forms part of the NHS Big Brush Club scheme – for more information, see later in the newsletter or visit the website <https://bigbrushclub.co.uk/>.

Beech Class

We have been reading *Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See?* ([🐻 Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? Animated and Read Aloud for Kids!](#)). This helps the children to learn about colours. Some of the children know which coloured animal comes next in the story.

The children have been interested in the leaves falling down from the trees. They have been collecting them. They have also helped to sweep the leaves up.

We have been singing:

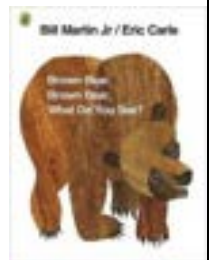
*"5 little leaves so bright and gay,
were dancing around on a tree one day.
The wind came howling through the town (whoo hoo),
and one little leaf came tumbling down."*

We repeat this until there are no leaves left. This helps them to count and learn one less than.

Children have been using the crates to build structures to walk along.

We have some feeling hand puppets in our classroom that the children have explored lots. Many of them know which feeling each puppet is. We have been using our facial expressions to copy these feelings.

The playdough area has been very popular. The children help to make the playdough with us. They have been using rolling pins and cutters. Lots have made worms and snakes. There is a recipe displayed in our corridor if anyone would like to make playdough with their child at home.



Oak Class

The children in Oak Class have continued to explore a range of interests this term. Fabrics are being transformed into dresses and capes, constructions are being made from magnetic tiles and stickle bricks, and many of the children are immersing themselves in imaginative role play. In the garden, lots of children have been playing in the mud-kitchen, as well as

challenging themselves to master different skills on the climbing frame, such as sliding down the big firefighter's pole! Within our key groups, we have been learning two songs: 'On Bonfire Night' and 'Five Little Firefighters'. The children have been joining in enthusiastically with these songs and have quickly picked up the actions/Makaton signs that accompany them. Our core book this term is [We're Going on a Bear Hunt](#) by Michael Rosen. Many of the children already know this story off by heart and so we have been reciting it together and finding ways to bring the story to life!



As a class, we have just started Helicopter Stories. This is a programme which helps children to develop language, confidence and creativity through storytelling and acting. Although we have only done a few sessions so far, the children are already showing their fabulous acting skills, and we can't wait to hear them tell their stories.

Fir Class

In Fir Class we have continued to explore seasonal changes, talking about different things that grow in Autumn, like pumpkins and other gourds. We have explored them by cutting into them and seeing what they look like inside and using our senses to explore them. We went on to talk about fireworks as some of us had heard and seen them around Diwali and bonfire night. We spoke about the sounds they make, and their different colours. We used different tools to make fire work effect paintings with various creative mediums, such as mixing paint and glue together and creating a dangling and flicking effect on paper.

The children in Fir Class have shown a large interest in exploring colours and mixing. We have explored mixing coloured paint together and mixing different coloured water with pipettes and clear pots, watching carefully as a new colour emerges! We even used our light table and placed coloured translucent tiles over the top of each other to make new colours. For example, a yellow tile on top of a red tile, and the light table shone through an orange light.

We have been observing the changes in weather and talking about the cold, and what happens in Winter. We have been talking about what we can wear to keep warm and practiced dressing up in cold weather clothes, as those gloves can be a bit tricky!! On this note, if parents have any spare children's gloves they no longer want, please bring them in to keep in our spares box.

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 would also be very grateful for donations of **spare gloves** for the children.

Allergy awareness

We have children/staff with severe allergies in school. Please **do not bring balloons** into the nursery due to a latex allergy. We also have egg and nut allergies in the nursery, therefore please **do not put egg** (e.g. egg sandwiches, omelette, boiled eggs, quiche (egg in cake is allowed!)) or **nuts or nut products** (such as Nutella or shop's own brand chocolate hazelnut spread) in your child's lunch box.

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 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.



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.



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.

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.

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 for coughs and colds. If your child is unwell keep them at home and telephone the School on 0117 977 6171 to report the absence. **If your child has a high temperature this means they are unwell. Please keep them at home until their temperature is normal.** A normal temperature is 36.4°C but this can vary.

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.

The NHS have a useful website answering parents' questions 'Is my child too ill for school?'

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

[A parent's guide to keeping kids healthy this school year – UK Health Security Agency](#)

In addition, please find attached to this newsletter the UKHSA advice flyer 'Should I keep my child off school?'

Cases of measles are rising across England, and there are a small number of measles cases in Bristol and the surrounding area, please see information

[What to do if you think your child has measles and when to keep them off school – The Education Hub](#)

The children's flu vaccine helps protect against flu. It's offered to children aged 2 to 3 years, school-aged children (Reception to Year 11) and children with certain long-term health conditions.

<https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/child-flu-vaccine/>

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.**

INSET Days

The school will be closed on the following days for staff training: **13 February, 2 April, 1 June 2026**

Surplus food from Marks & Spencer

On Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, St Philip's staff pick up surplus food from M&S which would otherwise go to waste. Anything we can't use for snack, we put in Reception for parents to take. Please help yourself to save food waste.

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 (www.stphilipsmarshnursery.co.uk) and Facebook page. We will also send an email to you via ParentPay.



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.

Progress discussion meetings

You are invited to attend a meeting with your child's key person to discuss your child's progress. These will take place on:

26 November (3.40-5.20pm) for Beech, Oak and Fir Classes

2 December (3.40-4.50pm) and 4 December (3.40-4.20pm) for Elm Class

Please sign up for an appointment on the list displayed on the classroom doors.

If you cannot attend this date/time, please speak to your child's key person and they will try to make alternative arrangements.

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 <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. **Please can we remind parents that brushing at home is just as, if not more, important than brushing at school.**



Best Start in Life



The Government has launched a new website for the [Best Start in Life](#) parent hub which is full of great advice '*from pregnancy to childcare right through to starting school, get advice and support for your child's development*'. Click on the link above or scan the QR code in the poster below.

Christmas

During the last two weeks of term, we will be celebrating the Christian festival of Christmas. We will also be having a Winter raffle to raise money for school funds. You will be able to buy tickets at Reception very shortly.

Parties

All classes will host two parties:

Oak and Fir Classes (3-4-year-olds):

Party 1 – **Tuesday 9 December – AM**

Party 2 – **Thursday 11 December – PM**

Elm and Beech Classes (2-year-olds):

Party 1 – **Monday 15 December – PM**

Party 2 – **Thursday 18 December – AM**



If your child does not normally attend one of these sessions, please speak to your child's key person. More details to follow in the December newsletter.

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:

Wednesday 10 December 2.00-3.00pm – Elm and Beech Classes (2-year-olds)

Wednesday 17 December 2.20-3.20pm - Oak and Fir Classes (3–4-year-olds)

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.

Important Dates

Oak and Fir Classes (3–4-year-olds):

Party 1 – **Tuesday 9 December – AM**

Party 2 – **Thursday 11 December – PM**

Elm and Beech Classes (2-year-olds):

Party 1 – **Monday 15 December – PM**

Party 2 – **Thursday 18 December – AM**

Menu change – **festive roast dinner – Wednesday 10 December**

Drop-in Stay & Play sessions:

Wednesday 10 December 2.00-3.00pm – Elm and Beech Classes (2-year-olds)

Wednesday 17 December 2.20-3.20pm - Oak and Fir Classes (3–4-year-olds)

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

Return to School – Monday 5 January

INSET Days (School closed) – 13 February, 2 April, 1 June 2026

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

How to apply for help with childcare for working parents

If your child is:

- 2 years old, you can get 30 hours per week of free childcare
- 3 to 4 years old, you can get 30 hours per week of free childcare

(You will not be eligible if your child does not usually live with you).

30-hours free childcare using eligibility code

If your child is 3 years between September 2025-December 2025, you may be eligible for 30-hours free childcare (this can be used from January 2026). For this you will need an eligibility code. You can use this for the following nursery sessions:

- Monday-Friday 9:00am-3:30pm; or
- 3 days 7:45am-5:45pm.

30-hours free childcare using eligibility code

If your child is 2 and you are currently paying, you may be eligible for 30-hours free childcare (this can be used from January 2026). For this you will need an eligibility code. You can use this for the following nursery sessions:

- 5 x morning sessions
- 5 x afternoon sessions
- 2½ days (e.g. Monday all day, Tuesday all day, Wednesday morning)

To check if you are eligible, please visit www.beststartinlife.gov.uk

If you are eligible, you will be provided with an eligibility code. Please give the code and the National Insurance number it is registered with to office staff as soon as possible. Due to school holidays, please give this information to us by **Friday 11 December** to ensure the nursery can submit the code to Bristol City Council for the start of the new term.

To continue receiving the government support, you will need to reconfirm your details every three months on your gov.uk account.

Tax-free childcare

You may also be entitled to tax-free childcare which will help towards paying for nursery fees. For more information and to check eligibility, please visit www.beststartinlife.gov.uk

Paying for nursery sessions

If you receive an invoice for nursery sessions, you can pay by:

- Tax-free childcare (please give your code to office staff by email)
- BACS payment (the bank details are at the bottom of the invoice and your reference number will be **1002** and the six numbers starting with 2 on the top of your invoice)
- Cheque made payable to Bristol City Council Schools General
- Cash

Please do not use ParentPay for nursery sessions. ParentPay is used for paying for meals and communication from the school to parents.

CAPO

**Children
Affected by
Parental
Offending**

Your CAPO Champion is:

Cressida



In every community there are families affected by having a family member in prison or the criminal justice system. We provide a welcoming space for children and families affected by offending and imprisonment.

For confidential, non-judgemental support contact:

0117 353 4295 / cashmore@bristol-schools.uk

or email: CAPO@everyfamily.org.uk

everyFAMILY



CAPO
Children Affected by
Parental Offending



UK Health
Security
Agency



Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.

BEST START IN LIFE

Childcare & Early Years Education support



Free breakfast clubs and wraparound childcare



Childcare support checker

Check what support you could get.



Week-by-week guide to pregnancy

Find out more on our [NHS health website](#).



Breastfeeding support

Find out more on our [NHS health website](#).



Introducing solid foods

Find out more on our [NHS health website](#).



Baby and toddler teeth care

Find out more on our [NHS health website](#).



Learning to talk

Find out more on our [NHS health website](#).



School readiness



SCAN ME



Here To Help

Families with children 0-19

Join our WhatsApp Community!
Find out what events and resources are in
East Central Bristol!

- ✓ No personal information needed except your WhatsApp phone number.
- ✓ Your phone number will not be visible to other members.
- ✓ Only admin of the WhatsApp Community can share content.

**Run by East
Central Bristol
Family Hub
Navigator**

Scan the QR code to receive
up-to-date activities in your
community!



OR CONTACT:

Yvonne

☎ **07393802844**

✉ **yvonne.young@bristol.gov.uk**



Winter Clothing



Now the weather has changed, please remember to provide appropriate outdoor clothing for your child as we experience lots of learning when we go outside in all types of weather.

Also, please don't forget to label your child's clothes.

Thank you

Rainy Day



Wellington boots



Waterproof Coat & Trousers

Wintery day



Coat



Hat



Gloves



Scarf



Layers of clothes