



ST PHILIP'S MARSH NURSERY SCHOOL

Newsletter December 2025

The staff and governors of St Philip's Marsh Nursery School/Cashmore Early Years Centre wish you and your family a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year.



NUMERACY AND PHONICS

You are your child's first and most important educator! Below are a couple of fun games to play with your child at home to help support their maths and literacy skills:

Number/shape spotting games - See if you can spot shapes and numbers in the environment e.g. on road signs, price tags, remote controls, computer keyboards, door numbers.

Name that tune game - Sing simple songs that your child knows well (such as *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*) using only sounds e.g. 'la, la, la' and ask your child to guess the song! See if your child would like a turn to sing, too.

Winter raffle

Thank you so much for your support in buying raffle tickets. **Tickets cost £1 each** and are available at Reception. You can pay cash or by card. Prizes include a child's balance bike, food hampers, adult gift sets (perfect for a Christmas present) and children's gift sets. Come and get your tickets! **All money raised goes towards school funds** (which is spent on children's activities). A big thank you to Heidi Taylor (our school governor) for donating/sourcing the prizes.

We will be drawing the raffle during the last week of term. Good luck!



It's Christmas!

During the last two weeks of term, we will be celebrating the Christian festival of Christmas.

Post box

There will be a large red post box in the foyer. If your child would like to send a Christmas card to their friends, we suggest that they send **one** card to their class. The post box will be emptied regularly and the cards read out and displayed in the class. This saves paper and prevents children from getting upset if they do not receive an individual card.

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**



For the parties, we would be very grateful for **donations of party food** (please see attached list). If you would prefer, you are welcome to make a money donation and food items will be bought prior to the parties.

Drop-in Stay and Play sessions

We will be hosting drop-in stay and play sessions at the end 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.

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.

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. Please let us know when you have applied.

INSET Days

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

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



Staff and governor changes

We would like to welcome Roda who will be helping the children at lunchtime.

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.



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**

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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](#)



Christmas Party Food List

We ask parents to kindly provide the Christmas party food.

Please make sure all food is shop bought, in its original packaging and contains no nuts, meat or egg products (egg in cake is allowed)

Cooked cheese and tomato pizza

Cooked vegetarian sausage rolls

Cooked vegetarian cocktail sausages

Cooked cheese and onion rolls

Savoury snacks – e.g. Pringles, Hula Hoops, crisps

Savoury biscuits – e.g. Cheddars, Ritz, cream crackers

Cucumber and carrot sticks

Cheese

Bread sticks

Fairy cakes

Biscuits - party rings, chocolate fingers

Fruit

If you would prefer, you are welcome to **make a money donation** and food items will be bought prior to the parties.



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



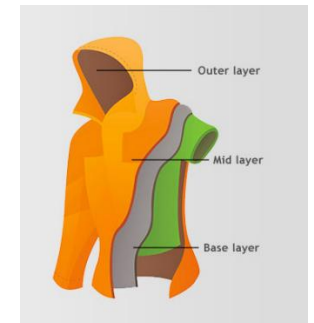
Hat



Gloves



Scarf



Layers of clothes