



ST PHILIP'S MARSH NURSERY SCHOOL

Newsletter January 2026

Happy New Year!
Welcome back to the new term



Elm Class

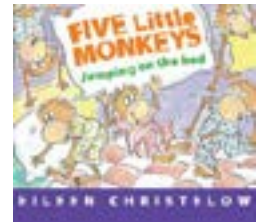
This term we have welcomed some new friends into Elm Class. They are settling in well and learning the daily routine from their peers.

Our song of the term is [Five little monkeys jumping on the bed](#) which is great for practicing counting with 1:1 correspondence up to 5 and predicting what happens when we take one away. We are also reading the story and acting it out using props.

The children have a keen interest in ramps and have been building them using wooden blocks, racing one or more cars down and seeing the difference if the ramps are high or low ("whee!"). This has then extended to creating small structures, like garages for their cars from Duplo. They are also developing their gross motor skills by building structures using large blocks and enclosing themselves in or building towers and taking turns at jumping off.

We are also making marks using our fingers in flour or exploring making marks with paint.

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 (see <https://bigbrushclub.co.uk/> for more information).



Beech Class

Children have explored the ice outside. They have used spades from the sandpit to break the ice. They had to really persevere as the ice in the tuff tray was very thick.

When it's been raining, they have been collecting water in their buckets. This is a fabulous opportunity to use lots of mathematical language e.g. full, empty, big, small etc.

Children have been using the bricks a lot. They have been using the big bricks to make a road to balance along. Smaller bricks have been used to build towers. Some are even making structures and enclosures. Explaining what they are making as they have added their bricks.

Children have enjoyed acting out the stories from our helicopter stories book. Children are starting to tell us their stories which we are then acting out.

We have a few children learning to use the toilet, so we have been reading the book: *Poo poo bum bum wee wee*.

We have been using our song box with nursery rhyme characters in. The children take it in turns to choose one and we then sing the song.



We are delighted to welcome Carolyn to Beech Class as a Key Person.

Oak Class

In Oak Class the children were full of excitement as they shared all the fun things they did over the holidays, including some of them telling us about the fireworks they saw over New Year.

During key group time, the children have been very busy rescuing animals frozen in ice, designing their own hats and scarves, and enjoying imaginative play with small Arctic animals and 'snow'. As a class, we have continued with our Helicopter Stories. The children are now beginning to create and tell their own stories and act them out with their peers. Their stories are wonderfully imaginative, and their acting skills have been truly impressive!

In our key groups, we have been reading *Whatever Next* by Jill Murphy and talking about what it might be like to fly to the moon. The children especially enjoy using the props — particularly when they get to choose whether to be sprayed with water when it rains in the story!



Finn will be back soon. She is currently taking time off with her partner to take care of their new baby and we wish them all the best.

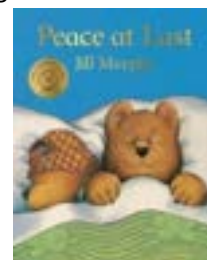
Fir Class

In Fir Class we have been enjoying talking about what we got up to over the Christmas holidays. Santa had certainly been busy and lots of children spending time seeing their families.

The freezing weather gave us lots of explorative opportunities, including finding ice around the garden where water had frozen, smashing the ice with wooden hammers and playing with small world Arctic animals.

Our core book is currently *Peace at Last* and is great for sound recognition and talking about the different sounds we can hear in the environment.

Some children in Fir Class have been interested in recognising numerals around the classroom and attempting to write the numerals themselves. A great activity is to do this walking along a street with house numbers and car registrations. Lots of our children have also been interested in den building with sheets and large bulldog clips. This is a great way to encourage teamwork, compromise and imaginative play.



LITERACY - SOUND-TALKING

Developing children's ability to attentively listen to sounds around them, such as the sounds of their toys and to sounds in spoken language, is one of the starting points to developing children's awareness of sounds and letters. This will eventually enable them to become confident readers and writers. At home you could try the following activity to support your child with this.

Find real objects around your home that have three *sounds* and practice 'sound talk'. First, just let them listen, then see if they will join in, for example, saying:

'I spy a p-e-g – peg.'

'I spy a c-u-p – cup.'

'Where's your other s-o-ck – sock?'

'Simon says – touch your ch-i-n - chin.'

'Simon says – pick up your b-a-g – bag'.

NUMERACY - TIME

Encouraging children to notice order, predicting what comes next and recalling what they have done earlier will help them to become increasingly aware of time. Talk to your children about activities in natural contexts, for example: how long until bedtime, how long cakes need to be in the oven, how many sleeps until a child's birthday.

Lunar New Year

Soon we will be celebrating Lunar/Chinese New Year – this year it is the 'Year of the Horse'. It is always an exciting celebration for the children and an opportunity to learn about a different culture and language. We will be tasting food, and the children will also be learning different ways of expressing themselves through music and dance. You can find out more about Lunar New Year by visiting [Chinese and Lunar New Year 2026 - CBeebies -](#)

[BBC](#). You can also find local celebrations at [Lunar New Year Celebration - Year of the Horse | Bristol Museums](#) and [Lunar \(Chinese\) New Year 2026, Bristol - Wai Yee Hong Chinese Supermarket! 偉義行：中國超市](#)



Travelling Light

We are lucky to be joined every week by Rebecca from the [Travelling Light Theatre Company](#). She is working with Beki to develop the children's communication and language skills in creative ways. Every week, Rebecca brings interesting fabrics and items that the children use to make up stories and games together. They have a lot of fun together!



World Book Day

World Book Day is 5 March 2026 and we are celebrating it on **Wednesday 4 March**. Your child is invited to dress up in pyjamas, bring a teddy, their favourite book and £1 donation. To find out where your donation goes, click on the link <https://www.worldbookday.com/>.

Please remember that children will still be playing outside so ensure that they have warm clothes to put over/under their pyjamas.

Arbor management system

We will be changing our parent payment/communication system from ParentPay to Arbor by the end of March. You will receive information on how to log on to the new system shortly.

Winter raffle

Thank you to the parents/carers who supported our winter raffle. We raised the fantastic amount of **£253** for school funds which will be spent on children's activities in the future.

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, breadsticks, low salt crackers)** 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.

Also, if you are having a clear out, we would be extremely grateful for any donations of:

Craft resources: **tissue paper, coloured lollipop sticks, sugar paper, paint.**

Toys: **old mobile phones** (with batteries and SIM cards removed), **old house phones, toy cars** (that are not recognisable to the child as being 'theirs'), **sensory toys, small soft balls, bean bags.**

Open-ended resources: **pinecones, thin sticks, tubes, funnels.**

Other items: **children's gloves, old towels.**

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.

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



School Library

The school library in the Reception area is always open. Please use it! The best way you can help your children learn to read is by enjoying reading books with them in a relaxed and comfortable way.



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.**

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

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

INSET Day (School closed) – 13 February

Half term holiday (school CLOSED) – **16-20 February (inclusive)**

Wednesday 4 March – celebration of Word Book Day

INSET Day (School closed) – 2 April

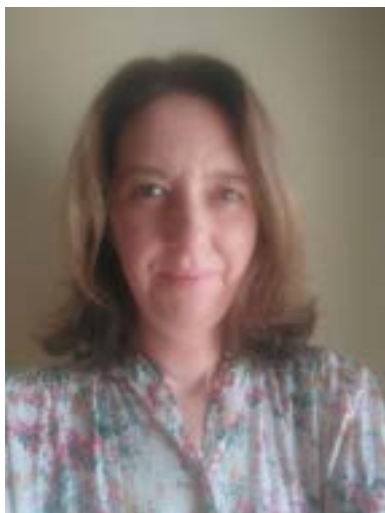
Easter holiday (school CLOSED) – **3 to 17 April (inclusive)**

INSET Day (School closed) – 1 June

At St Philip's Marsh Nursery School/Cashmore Early Years Centre we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. This is our safeguarding team.



Charlotte Carter
Headteacher
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Clare Morton
Deputy Headteacher
Deputy Safeguarding Lead



Sharon Cutler
School Business Manager
Deputy Safeguarding Lead



Emmeline James
Inclusion Lead
Deputy Safeguarding Lead



Heidi Taylor
Governor
Named Safeguarding Governor

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 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



Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

St Anne's Park Children's Centre / Family Hub BS4 4BJ	Parents Plus ADHD Programme 10am - 12.30pm Start date TBC Breastfeeding Peer Support 11am - 12noon	Childminders 9.30am - 11am Twins and Multiples 10am - 11.30am 3 rd Tues of each month Hello Baby 2pm - 4pm Please book via www.eventbrite.co.uk Welcome to the World 1pm - 3pm 10th March - 1 st April	Baby Hub 10am - 11.30am Postnatal Rockabye 1pm - 2.15pm Starts 22 nd Jan To book please email Samantha.Cooper36@nhs.net	Nurturing Programme 9.45am - 11.45am 19 th January - 26 th March Roma Young Parents 10am - 12.30pm Baby Hub 1pm - 3.30pm
St Paul's Children's Centre / Family Hub BS2 9ZF			Romanian Roma Drop in 9.30am - 11.30am	
Bannerman Road Children's Centre / Family Hub BS5 0RL	ESOL 9.30am - 11.30am Creche is provided Newborn Hearing (invite only) 10.30 - 11.30am Twice a month New Parents 1.30pm - 3pm	Health & Social Care Level 1 9.30am - 2.30pm 24th Feb - 12 th May Childminders 9.30am - 11.30am Learn & Play Together - Toddler (PEEP) 1pm - 2.15pm	Baby Hub 1pm - 2.30pm	Welcome to the World 9.55am - 11.55am 12 th April - 1 st May
Barton Hill Family Hub BS5 0AX	Local Parents 10am - 11.30am Postnatal Exercise 1pm - 2pm Referral (with GP) Lawrence Hill Parents to be Rockabye 8pm-9pm Starts 23 rd Feb To book please email Samantha.Cooper36@nhs.net	Learn & Play Together - Baby (PEEP) 11.30am - 12.30pm Hello Baby 1.30pm - 3.30pm Please book via www.eventbrite.co.uk	Stay and Play 10am - 11.30am Food Club Wellspring Settlement 12.50pm - 2.30pm SEND & You 12.50pm - 2pm Monthly Drop in Postnatal Rockabye 12.40pm - 2pm Starts 21 st Jan To book please email Samantha.Cooper36@nhs.net	Strengthening Families Strengthening Communities Bookable Creche 9.55am - 12.15pm Starts 19 th Jan 1-1 Specialist Infant Feeding (referral only) Baby Hub (Infant Feeding support available) 1pm - 3.30pm Last entry at 2.55pm
Oldbury Court Children's Centre / Family Hub BS16 2QS	Dad/Male Carer PEEP (Outdoor weather dependent) 10am - 11.55am Children's Scrapstore 3.30pm - 5pm Murmuration Nurture Group 7.50pm - 9pm, Starting 26 th Jan Please book via www.eventbrite.co.uk	Childminders 9.30am - 11am Toddler Incredible Years 12.45pm - 2.45pm	Baby Hub 9.30am - 11am SEND Rainbows 9am - 11am New Parents 1.30pm - 3pm	Welcome to the World 10am - 12noon 18th Jan - 12th Feb Twins and Multiples 10am - 11.30am First Friday of each month Hello Baby 2pm - 4pm Please book via www.eventbrite.co.uk
St Werburghs Children's Centre / Family Hub BS2 9UX	ESOL Conversation 2pm - 3pm To book please email Agnieszka.Audysyn@bristol.gov.uk	Childminders 9.30am - 11.30am SEND Rainbows 1pm - 3pm	Postnatal Rockabye 10am - 11.55am Starts 21 st Jan To book please email Samantha.Cooper36@nhs.net Parenting Puzzle 9am - 11am Starts 26 th Feb	Learn & Play Together - Baby (PEEP) 10am - 11.55am Welcome to the World 26 th Feb - 26 th Mar 3pm - 6pm Hello Baby 10am - 12noon Please book via www.eventbrite.co.uk
Community	Stay and Play Faith Space Redcliffe Methodist Church, BS1 6PB 9.30am - 11am	Stay and Play St Peter's Church, BS4 4NZ 9.30am - 11.30am Virtual Parenting Puzzle 4pm-5pm 20th Jan-10 th Feb	Baby Hub Meadowside Community Centre, BS5 7HF 9.30am - 11am Baby Hub Redland Quakers Meeting Hall, BS6 6NE 10am - 11.30am	Incredible Years Easton Community Centre, BS5 9ZF 10am - 12.15pm 18th Jan - 27 th March

Group

Details

Antenatal Hello Baby	4 week course to help you prepare for the arrival of your new baby. The course will help you prepare for the birth experience and the early days
Baby Hub	Meet other local parents and gain information and advice about all aspects of your child's development with the support from a local health visiting team and Family Hub team
Learn & Play Together (PEEP)	A group for parents, babies and children to learn together through playing, listening, talking, singing and sharing books
Childminders	A space where childminders can connect, share experiences, and receive support, and a network for collaboration
Breastfeeding Peer Support	Meet new people and discuss your breastfeeding experiences - positives and struggles with support from trained practitioners
Infant Feeding Group (Referral Only)	1-2-1 support for mums, including expectant mums, offering information about all aspects of breast, formula, or mixed feeding
Stay & Play	A stay and play group for families with children aged 0-5 years
Circle of Security	9 week programme for parents/carers of a child aged between 0-5 years, offering relationship tools and providing a new way of understanding children's needs
Parenting Puzzle	4-week programme for parents/carers of a child between 0-5 years, sharing parenting strategies that support positive behaviour and emotional wellbeing. Delivered in person and virtually (condensed version of The Nurture programme)
Toddler Incredible Years	12-week programme for parents/carers of a child aged between 1-3 years, strengthening child wellbeing and promoting social/emotional learning
The Nurture Programme	10-week programme for parents/carers of a child aged 2-6 years, sharing parenting strategies that support positive behaviour and emotional wellbeing
Welcome to the World	5-week programme for parents-to-be. From 22 weeks of pregnancy onwards. Preparing for parenthood, focusing on building strong emotional health for parent and baby
Community Adult Learning	English - to help improve your reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. Maths - a fun and supportive class, with an emphasis on overcoming Maths anxiety. For adults over 19
ESOL Conversation	Drop in group to build confidence and chat with others
Mums in Mind	A peer support group for mums with children aged 0-2 years who feel like things are getting on top of them
Rainbow Group	A stay and play group for pre-school children who have additional needs, and/or disability
Rockabye	A group to support you and nourish your relationship with your baby through sharing experiences with other parents, singing and sensory play. For mums with babies from 0-7 months old
Young Parents & Roma Young Parents	A stay and play group for parents aged under 23 with children aged 0-5 years. For families to explore & play in a safe, supportive space and access advice
Twins and Multiples	Monthly group to meet other parents/carers with their twins/multiples and enjoy fun activities for children 0-5 years

FOOD club

New
Times



Wednesdays, 12.30 to 2.00pm

Café space, Settlement Site, Ducie Road

Join our Food Club to purchase a box of tasty food every week for just £3.50, saving up to £11.50!

Box contents vary every week, but contain a variety of fresh fruit and veg, fridge, freezer and store cupboard items. Halal (حلال), vegan and vegetarian options available.

To join you must live or work within approximately 15 minutes of the club.

For more information contact Katie on 0117 304 1400, 07708 628590 or email katie.griffiths@wsb.org.uk

JUST £1 PER
YEAR TO
JOIN!



www.wellspringsettlement.org.uk info@wsb.org.uk

Settlement Site, 43 Ducie Road, BS5 0AX - 0117 955 6971

Wellspring Site, Beam Street, BS5 9QY - 0117 304 1400

A company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales (05031499) and a registered charity (1100139)

In partnership with FareShare South West



strengthening families strengthening communities



Every Thursday from 15th January 2026 for 11 sessions, excluding school holidays. Last session on 2nd April.

9.15am to 12.15pm, Settlement Site, Ducie Road, BS5 0AX

A free, inclusive course to help parents and carers raise happy, confident children, from babies to teens

**FREE CRECHE SPACES AVAILABLE,
BOOK NOW!**

"I have had a good experience on this programme, it is very good to help myself and my children"

Parents: self-refer by scanning the QR code:



For more information or to book, call Sally or Laura on 0117 3041400 extension 155

Professionals: find a referral form at
<https://form.jotform.com/222903517095355>



www.wellspringsettlement.org.uk info@wsb.org.uk

Settlement Site, 43 Ducie Road, BS5 0AX - 0117 3041400

Wellspring Site, Beam Street, BS5 9QY - 0117 304 1400

A company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales (05031499) and a registered charity (1102129)



Free online & in person support sessions

Sensory Wellbeing for SEND Families

Online

Tuesday 3rd Feb
7:00PM-8:30PM



Peer Support

Fishponds Old Library
Thursday 5th Feb
9:00AM-11:00AM

Inns Court, BS4
Thursday 5th Feb
10:30AM-12:30PM

Greenway Centre, BS10
Thursday 12th Feb
9:15AM-10:30AM

Let's Talk About Health Visiting & School Nursing

Online

Thursday 5th Feb
7:00PM-9:00PM



Your Neurodiverse Child and Sleep

Online

Tuesday 10th Feb
7:00PM-8:00PM



Scan here for details on
these sessions and more



<https://linkbristolparentcarers.org.uk/gethelp>

Peer Support Complex Health Needs

Greenway Centre, BS10
Thursday 12th Feb
11:00AM-12:30PM



Gaming and SEND

Online

Thursday 12th Feb
6:30PM-8:00PM



Peer Support

Online

Tuesday 24th Feb
7:00PM-8:00PM



Developing Your Child's Language Skills

St Anne's House, BS4

Thursday 26th Feb
10:00AM-1:00PM



Free online & in person support sessions

Daryeelka dareenka
qoyskaa SEND

Online

Taladoo-3rd Feb
7:00PM-8:30PM



Tageerada asagaa

Fishponds Old Library
Khamiis-5th Feb
9:00AM-11:00AM

Inns Court, BS4
Khamiis-5th Feb
10:30AM-12:30PM

Greenway Centre, BS10
Khamiis- 12th Feb
9:15AM-10:30AM

Aan kaa wada hadalnoo
cafimadka iyo kalkalinta
skoolka
Online

Khamiis- 5th Feb
7:00PM-9:00PM



Ilmaha Neurodiverse
iyo Hurdada
Online

Taladoo-10th Feb
7:00PM-8:00PM



Halkan scan gree si aad u
hesho faahfaahinta
kulamadan iyo kuwo kale



<https://linkbristolparentcarers.org.uk/gethelp>

Tageerada asagaa
Baahiyo cafimaad oo
adag

Greenway Centre, BS10
Khamiis-12th Feb
11:00AM-12:30PM



Ciyaaraha kombiyuutarka
iyo SEND
Online

Khamiis- 12th Feb
6:30PM-8:00PM



Tageerada asagaa
Online

Taladoo- 24th Feb
7:00PM-8:00PM



Horumarinta Aqontaa
Luqadaa Ilmahga
St Anne's House, BS4
Khamiis- 26th Feb
10:00AM-1:00PM



Dobre samopoczucie
sensoryczne rodzin ze
specjalnymi potrzebami
edukacyjnymi

W sieci

Wtorek 3 lutego
19:00-20:30



Wsparcie rówieśnicze

Fishponds Old Library
Czwartek 5 lutego
9:00-11:00

Inns Court, BS4
Czwartek 5 lutego
10:30 - 12:30

Greenway Centre,
BS10 Czwartek 12
lutego
9:15-10:30

Porozmawiajmy o
pielęgniarstwie
środowiskowym i
szkolnym

W sieci

Czwartek 5 lutego
19:00-21:00



Twoje neuroodmienne
dziecko i sen

W sieci

Wtorek 10 lutego
19:00-20:00



Zeskanuj tutaj, aby
uzyskać szczegółowe
informacje na temat
tych sesji i nie tylko



<https://linkbristolparentcarers.org.uk/gethelp>

Wsparcie rówieśnicze
Złożone potrzeby
zdrowotne

Greenway Centre, BS10
Czwartek 12 lutego
11:00-12:30



Gry i SEND

W sieci

Czwartek 12 lutego
18:30-20:00



Wsparcie rówieśnicze

W sieci

Wtorek 24 lutego
19:00-20:00



Rozwijanie umiejętności
językowych Twojego
dziecka

St Annes House, BS4
Czwartek 26 lutego
10:00-13:00





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