



ST PHILIP'S MARSH NURSERY SCHOOL

Newsletter September 2026



Welcome to all our new children and families and welcome back to our returners. We hope you enjoyed your summer holidays. The children are settling in well, making new friends, getting to know their key person and exploring their new environment.

We also appreciate your support during this time of induction. This has been carefully planned and thought out so that it is in the best interests of all children. Over the course of the next few weeks, we will be settling in many new children to the school. It is important that the children feel safe and secure, and that staff can build relationships with individual children and families. The purpose of children coming gradually is so that children can have more individualised attention and that the transition is handled sensitively. You visiting with your child is an important part of this process as children will settle more quickly when they see you interacting within the environment.

Staff and governor changes

We would like to welcome Amal who will be working across the school in various roles.

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.

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.



School meals

School meals must be paid for IN ADVANCE via Arbor. The school cannot keep arrears, and it may lead to meals being stopped.

The eligibility criteria for free school meals has now changed. If you receive an element of Universal Credit, you may well be entitled to free school meals. If you think you may be entitled, please ask at Reception.



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 Library

The school library in the foyer is 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. There are book bags available and these can be purchased from Reception for £2.10.

We are missing books from our library; therefore, please could you check at home if you borrowed books last year and forgot to return them.



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.



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.**

Please also do not let anyone into the school (i.e. hold the door open for someone). It is paramount that staff always know who is on the school premises.

Application for primary school

Please remember that the **deadline for applying for a Reception Class place for your child is 15 January 2027** (if your child was born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023). 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.

School Uniform

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

Sweatshirts	£11.00
Polo shirts	£7.10



Allergies

Please remember some children have allergies, we therefore request that you **do not include nuts or nut products** (such as Nutella or shop's own brand chocolate hazelnut spread) in your child's lunch box.



Surplus food from Marks & Spencer/FareShare

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

Big Brush Club

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.**



The Children's Kitchen

We continue to work with Claudia from The Children's Kitchen (<https://www.thechildrenskitchen.co.uk/>), a city-wide project which focuses on encouraging children to explore, cook, grow and eat fresh food. In the near future, she will be making healthy dishes with the children e.g. vegetable couscous.



Yoga

We look forward to welcoming Linda from Active Kids back to run weekly yoga sessions with the children. Yoga for young children can help to promote their physical strength as they learn to use their muscles in new ways. Different poses challenge different muscle groups and help each child to become aware of their body and the way it functions.

INSET Days

The School will be closed on the following days for staff training: **4 January, 25 March, 7 June.**

Important Dates

Half term holiday – School **CLOSED** – **Monday 26 to Friday 30 October (inclusive)**

Christmas holidays – School **CLOSED** – **Monday 21 December to Friday 1 January (inclusive)**

INSET day – **Monday 4 January** (School **CLOSED**)

Return to School – **Tuesday 5 January**

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

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

Packed Lunches

If your child is bringing a packed lunch to nursery school, please remember the following points:



- **Clearly label your child's packed lunch box with their name and key group on the outside of the box.**
- Remember that many pre-packaged items are adult portion sizes.
 - A child portion size is the size of their fist. A child may only need a half a sandwich - made from one slice of bread. A bag of crisps is an adult portion.
 - Beware hidden sugar. The NHS advice is children should have less than 19g a day for children aged 4 to 6 years old (5 sugar cubes or 5 teaspoons. A single miniature pot of yoghurt may have up 3-4 teaspoons of sugar.
 - Sweets and chocolate are not permitted because they contain unhealthy amounts of sugar.
 - Always include some fruit or fresh vegetables but remember that **small tomatoes and grapes** are a very common cause of choking in children and should be **cut in half lengthways**.
- Please do NOT include a drink in your packed lunch (including cartons of juice). The school provides water for all children (freely available all day). Current dental advice is that children aged under 5 should not drink anything except water from a bottle. Fruit juices or squashes are highly acidic and high in sugar and so cause serious damage to young teeth.
- Please remember some children have allergies, we therefore request that you **do not include nuts or nut products**, such as Nutella, in your child's lunch box.
- Please do not include cans or glass bottles/jars/containers in your child's lunch box.

If you have any queries about packed lunches or any issues relating to food at school or at home, please talk to your child's key person and they will be very happy to help you or introduce you to another team member who can help.

Thank you for your help.

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

Dear Headteacher,

I am getting in touch personally, as Children's Commissioner, to ask for your help in making sure the children and young people at St Philips Marsh Nursery School and Barton Hill Childrens Centre/Cashmore Early Years Centre have the opportunity to take part in my national survey, *The Big Future*.

So far, I have heard from 1 children at your school. With hundreds of thousands of children and young people already taking part across England, I would like to make sure as many of your pupils as possible have the opportunity to add their voices.

The Big Future is asking children and young people about their lives, their experiences and their hopes for the future. I will be using what they tell me to build a national picture of what matters to children today and to ensure their views are heard by Government.

The survey takes just a few minutes to complete and can be accessed here:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>

I would be particularly grateful if you could help me reach pupils by:

- **sharing the survey directly with pupils** through your school or college email system;
- **sharing it with parents and carers** so families can encourage children to take part; and
- **giving pupils time during the school day** – for example, in form or tutor time, an assembly or a lesson to complete the survey.

We know that setting aside a few minutes during the school day can make a significant difference to participation. To make this as straightforward as possible, we have prepared a slide pack, introductory video and FAQs, all available on [my website](#).

Every school has a different community, and every child has a different experience. That is why it is so important that the picture we build reflects children from **every part of England, including your pupils**.

I would be very grateful for your support in giving them the chance to be heard.

Yours sincerely,

Dame Rachel de Souza
Children's Commissioner for England