



Cashmore Early Years Centre

Newsletter March 2025

Well, Spring is in the air and there is a wonderful atmosphere in school at the moment. Children have loved experiencing the elements in the garden - splashing in puddles, playing in the mud and even exploring hail stones! We are delighted that the children who have moved groups are adapting very well to new their environments.

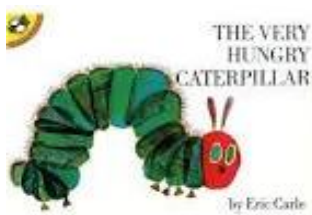


Hippo and Giraffe Groups (2-year-olds)

In group times this month, we have been building using different kinds of construction toys, in particular the small wooden blocks and magnetic Duplo. This kind of play is important because it helps the children to build strength, control and coordination in their fingers. They are also learning to use the names of the other children in their group. We have been learning about people who help us, using dolls and puppets. We also marked the start of Lent by tasting pancakes and choosing toppings. Yummy!

We have been singing *Five little men in a flying saucer* (you can sing along at home [Five little men in a flying saucer - BBC Teach](#)) and *Five Little Ducks* (you can sing along at home [Five Little Ducks - CBeebies](#)). This is a fabulous opportunity for your child to learn counting skills.

Our core book is *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.

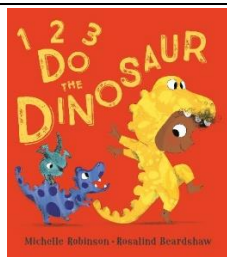
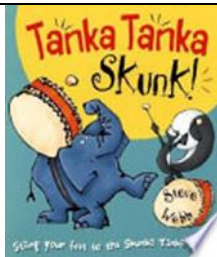


Zebra and Tiger Groups (3-year-olds)

During group times this month, we have been following the children's interest in construction, using more complex building resources such as Mobilo. We have introduced small world play to our construction, building houses and vehicles for animals and people. At the start of Lent, we had the opportunity to taste pancakes with toppings of our choice – what a nice treat!

We have been singing the counting song *5 little men in a flying saucer* (you can sing along [Five little men in a flying saucer - BBC Teach](#)) and we use cubes in a pot to represent the aliens in the song. We are learning to take away one alien at a time and notice how many are left.

Our core book is *Tanka, Tanka Skunk!* We are learning to clap the syllables of the words ("Tan-ka, tan-ka, skunk!"). We have also been reading *1, 2, 3 Do the Dinosaur* in preparation for our story session at the Wellspring Settlement (see below).



OUTDOOR PLAY

Did you know? Playing and learning outdoors improves confidence, self-esteem, social skills, communication, co-operative working, motivation, physical skills, knowledge and understanding.

Our outdoor area at Cashmore is planned so that all the things children learn inside can also be learned outside – and there are even more learning opportunities outside.



Being outside more often allows your child to develop a stronger immune system and a resistance to allergies. Studies have shown that children who are active outside have the best overall health. You do need to be properly dressed outside, so please make sure that your child has waterproof boots and a real waterproof coat.

Prompt pick up

Please remember that the morning session finishes at 12.00pm (gates open at 11.50am). Staff have lunch 12.00-12.30pm to ensure they are ready and available for all the children during the afternoon session. **The afternoon session finishes at 3.30pm (gates open at 3.20pm).** We open the gate 10 minutes beforehand to allow time to talk with you at handover/collection.

School meals

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

If your child is 3 and you are in receipt of certain benefits, you may well be entitled to free school meals. If you think you may be entitled, please ask at Reception.

Staff and Governor changes

We would like to welcome Alnour Fashir to our Governing Body as Parent Governor.

Nursery fees increase

From 1 April 2025, nursery fees will be increasing to:

Buyback £26.00 (AM Session 9:00-12:00 OR PM Session 12:30-3:30)

INSET Day

The school will be closed on **Tuesday 22 April** for staff training.

Your child's bag

Please put enough **nappies and wipes** for the session (if they are in nappies/pull-ups) and **spare clothes (including socks)** in case we have to change children after toileting accidents or from water play. **PLEASE WRITE YOUR CHILD'S NAME IN ALL CLOTHES.**

Nursery clothes

If your child comes home in **nursery clothes**, **please return** as soon as possible.

Toys brought into nursery

Please encourage your child to **KEEP TOYS AT HOME**. Toys from home are likely to get lost, broken or cause conflict. Staff are not responsible for the whereabouts of toys brought in from home.

Snack donation

Thank you to the parents who continue to donate to the children's snack time. The school provides milk, but we rely on donations from parents for snack times during the morning and afternoon sessions. The children eat **fresh fruit** (e.g. apples, bananas, oranges, pears) or **vegetables** (e.g. carrots, cucumbers). We would be grateful if you could **donate fruit weekly OR you can make a small money donation** in the tin provided in the garden/Reception at drop-off times.



Parking

Please **DO NOT BLOCK THE ROAD, DOUBLE PARK OR BLOCK OTHER VEHICLES IN** (even for a short period of time) when dropping off/picking up outside the Centre as it is causing frustration to the residents and there will not be enough room for emergency vehicles to get down the road. **We understand drop off/pick up is a busy time of day outside the Centre, but we encourage everyone to always be tolerant and respectful. Abusive behaviour is not acceptable.**

Clothes and wellies

As the weather is cold, 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** if possible. Please also put lots of **spare clothes** in their bag in case of getting wet/toileting accidents and a **coat** as the weather is changeable. Please **write your child's name in their clothes/wellies**. Wet weather gear and 'all weather' suits are also a very good way to keep children dry and can be purchased quite reasonably.



Outdoor Reflective Framework



Both of our sites (St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre) have been awarded The Outdoor Play and Learning Reflective Framework Quality Improvement Certificate! Our joint submission was coordinated by Kim (teacher at St Philip's). The validation panel looked at all the evidence submitted and sent us a detailed response, which can be found attached. Highlights from their feedback include:

- ✓ "You have a deep insight and understanding of your children, families and local community which has informed and been central throughout your reflective journey. It is evident that children are at the heart of everything you do."
- ✓ "We like the way you provide children with a range of sensory opportunities such as loose parts, music and food exploration."
- ✓ "You have highlighted the importance of understanding early childhood brain development and the physical and emotional needs of young children utilising the limitless and unique learning opportunities available outdoors".

Reception library

Please borrow a book to share with your child! We have library shelves in Reception and by the door where you drop off your child. Let your child choose a book to enjoy at home, then return it and choose another book. Reading with your child is great for their listening and attention skills, language development, brain development and a lovely bonding time for you and your child. You don't always need to read the words, it's also good to talk about the pictures.



Website update

We are in the process of updating our website so that you will be able to see regular 'news from the rooms'. You can keep up to date with our learning here:

Website: <https://cashmoreearlyyearscentre.co.uk/>
and

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/cashmoreearlyyearscentre/>

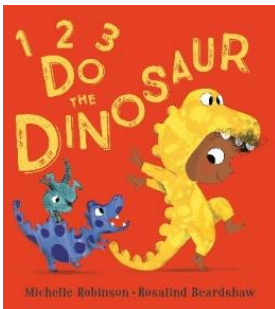


World Book Day celebration

During our recent book week, we had two visits to places in our local community. We walked to the Little Library at the Wellspring Settlement and had a story and song time with James and the team there. **The Little Library is open every Tuesday from 10.00am and anyone in the local community is welcome to go**, borrow books or stay and use their facilities.



We also had a trip to the Family Hub at the Settlement for a special story time, with a storyteller telling the story '1,2,3 Do The Dinosaur'. There was even a special, friendly, dinosaur visitor!



We recently celebrated World Book Day when the children (and even the grown-ups) wore costumes or their pyjamas to school. We raised £29 between our two sites. To find out where your donation goes, click on the link <https://www.worldbookday.com/>.

Family celebrations

We wish Ramadan Mubarak to everyone who will be observing this month and Eid Mubarak to our families celebrating next month.



Happy Easter to our families celebrating next month.



Important Dates

Every Wednesday 9.00-11.00am (term time only) – coffee morning at Wellspring Settlement with member of Cashmore staff

Easter holiday (school CLOSED) – **7-21 April (inclusive)**

22 April – INSET Day (school CLOSED)

Monday 5 May – May Day Bank Holiday – School CLOSED

Tuesday 20 May (PM) and **Thursday 22 May (AM)** – School Photographer

Half term holiday (School CLOSED) – **26-30 May (inclusive)**

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



St Philip's Marsh Nursery School
St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and
Cashmore Early Years Centre
St Philip's Marsh Nursery School
Albert Crescent
bristol
Bristol
BS2 0SU

Early Years Consultant Team
Southmead Children's Centre
Doncaster Road
Bristol
BS10 5PW

Date: 30/01/2025

Dear St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre

Congratulations, your submission has gained the Outdoor Play and Learning Reflective Framework for the year from 2025 to 2026.

The validation panel felt that your submission was an excellent example of how to use the Outdoor Reflective Framework. The journey you have captured in your submission is inspiring! You have involved the whole team together with other early years professionals. You have a deep insight and understanding of your children, families and local community which has informed and been central throughout your reflective journey. It is evident that children are at the heart of everything you do.

We value how you share your learning, embed your training and understanding; keeping the benefits to children at the core of your practice. This is especially apparent in how you created a woodwork area to provide children with unique and 'real' hands on experiences, enabling them to use tools and natural materials. It was evident in your submission that children gained a deep level of learning and progressed across many areas and dispositions; gaining self-belief, pride and knowledge. We like the way you provide children with a range of sensory opportunities such as loose parts, music and food exploration.

You clearly involved the whole team including the children, parents and volunteers in creating your growing area and updating the outdoor provision to provide ongoing opportunities for rich play and learning, sharing the benefits of exploring, growing and eating healthy foods. You have highlighted the importance of understanding early childhood brain development and the physical and emotional needs of young children utilising the limitless and unique learning opportunities available outdoors.

Your benefits for children are clear and relevant to your targets. It has been an absolute joy to look at all your evidence which enabled us to feel we were in your setting and we look forward to your updates moving forward.

We would like to thank you for being part of the Outdoor Reflective Framework pilot. Your involvement as participants has been key in ensuring this is a valuable and user-friendly reflective framework which we can share with the wider early year's community. We will send you a short survey soon to ask for your honest feedback on the process,



what went well and to find out how we can improve before we launch publicly. We look forward to receiving your updates by 2nd June 2025; we will send more information about this with the survey. Thank you again for your time and dedication to this pilot.

If you would like support with your next submission please contact **Liz Leeson**,

You are now able to use the Bristol Standard logo on your letter headings, publicity and website. We can also provide information leaflets. If you would like the logo emailed to you please contact

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Liz Leeson".

Liz Leeson
Bristol Standard Strategic Operations Leader



**OUTDOOR PLAY AND LEARNING REFLECTIVE FRAMEWORK QUALITY
IMPROVEMENT VALIDATION TEAM**

Name of Setting	St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre
Future Development Points	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Share and celebrate your submission with your families and Early Years Professionals.	
We are looking forward to receiving your next Bristol Standard for Outdoor Play & Learning Quality Improvement submission which is due:	January 2026

Parents & Carers



**Come for a coffee, play
and chat at**



**Wednesdays
9.00 – 11.00am**

Join Tracey and
the Cashmore
team!

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

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