



Cashmore Early Years Centre

Newsletter May 2025

Wow! We are now in Term 5, with just one more term to go in this school year. This is a particularly busy time for nursery, with a new group of younger children joining us for the first time and older children starting to think about moving on to primary school. Our lovely garden is waking up from its winter snooze and the children are enjoying noticing the signs of Spring all around us. Here is a brief round-up of news from our groups:



Hippo and Giraffe Groups (2-year-olds)

Spring has brought lots of Easter-themed experiences. The children thoroughly enjoyed creating chocolate Easter nests, an activity that strengthened their hand muscles and refined their motor skills. They crushed shredded wheat cereal and carefully transferred melted chocolate, practising precision and control.

Our story times featured the delightful book *We're Going on an Egg Hunt*, illustrated by Laura Hughes. Children became familiar with the repeated phrases throughout the story, building their language skills and confidence. They noticed and talked about the detailed illustrations on each page. They learned new words such as bunnies, chicks, and lambs.



Zebra and Tiger Groups (3-year-olds)

Zebra and Tiger groups joined in a special egg hunt that combined literacy, mathematics, and cooperative play. Children wrote messages and created drawings to place inside colour-coded plastic eggs - one colour for each group. They then practised problem-solving skills as they hid their eggs around the garden and went on a hunt to find the eggs hidden by the other group! This activity gave children counting practice and the opportunity to compare numbers as they tracked how many eggs they discovered.

Children have also been making purposeful marks as they coloured pictures, demonstrating increasing control and intention in their work. They have collaged, using glue and the thoughtful selection of materials, allowing children to make independent choices about their creations.

These seasonal activities have provided rich opportunities for children to develop across many areas of learning, from physical and communication skills to mathematical thinking and creative expression.

OUTDOOR LEARNING

Did you know?

The national curriculum for the Early Years makes it clear that children must have access to an outside play area. Our garden is an important place for children to learn through play. Research has shown that **outdoor learning is important for children's development of communication skills, social skills, confidence, motivation, and physical skills.** These are all essential to help children to learn more specific skills like reading, writing and maths. **The children often use maths and mark-making (early writing) in their play in the garden. They also play out the stories that we read – they remember and invent new stories and work together.** Children explore social skills and develop fine finger strength and control when “cooking” together in the mud kitchen. They also explore water play, paint and craft materials. They help to tidy, sweep and clean and look after the plants.

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 need 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 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, bread sticks) for your child to share at snack time in the morning and afternoon. 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.**

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

On our website 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/>



Preparing to move to Primary school

Many children will be moving to Reception class at their new primary school in September. This is a big moment in family life! Over the next few months, nursery staff will gently help your child to understand this change, for example by reading books about school life, providing opportunities to dress up in school uniform and looking at photos of the many schools our children will be attending.

At this time of year there are some important deadlines, so please make sure you are prepared:

- **Accept your child's school place** without delay or follow the instructions in the local authority offer letter/email if you do not wish to accept the offer.
- Let your child's key person/office staff know which school you have accepted.
- **Check your email inbox regularly.** Your child's new school will contact you to invite you to events such as Welcome Evenings, Stay and Play sessions and to explain induction arrangements.
- Be aware that schools will have special induction arrangements to help your child settle in September. Your child will **probably not start school full time straight away, so you may need to make childcare arrangements** for the first few weeks of September.
- Nursery staff will share information with your child's new school and their new teacher may visit them at nursery. The Bristol Universal Transfer Record is a document used to support a smooth transition for all children from their early years setting into reception class. It summarises your child's interests and strengths and includes an assessment to ensure that your child's reception teacher has the information they need. Please speak to your child's Key Person if you have any questions about how we share information.
- For some children, additional conversations to support transition are beneficial and these will take place in partnership with you, as appropriate.

For more information on how to help your child get ready for reception, and for information on supporting children with additional needs, scan the QR code on the poster below or visit <https://startingreception.co.uk>

Returning in September

For those children returning to us in September, please let the office know if you wish to change your sessions.

Get 30 hours of childcare now!

From this September, 15 hours childcare for working families with children under 3 will expand to 30 hours, meaning eligible working families can now apply for 30 hours of childcare from the term after their child turns 9 months until they reach school age <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/30-hours-childcare-support/working-families>

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 need to change children after toileting accidents or from water play. **PLEASE WRITE YOUR CHILD'S NAME IN ALL CLOTHES.**

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

Family display board

Each key group area has a family display board. **Please bring in a photo of your child with their family** or people, pets or toys that are special to them. The children often talk to each other about these photos and take pride in showing us their special people. If it is easier, you can email a copy of the photo to clare.morton@bristol-schools.uk

Pick-up

Please remember that the morning session **finishes at 12.00pm** and the afternoon session **finishes at 3.30pm**. We open the gate **10 minutes beforehand**, to allow time to talk with you at handover/collection. It is important that you pick up on time as if you are late, this impacts on staff breaks and pre-arranged meetings.

If you want to pick your child up before the end of the session, please pick up before 11.30am (morning session) and before 3.00 pm (afternoon session) as the last part of the session is story time or group activity 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**).

Absence/illness

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, colds and other viruses. **If your child is unwell keep them at home and phone Cashmore (0117 3534295) to report the absence.** We can only give prescribed medication at school that has a pharmacist sticker on the bottle/box with your child's name on it – we cannot give any medicines that you have bought over the counter.

Staff and Governor changes

We would like to welcome Lauren and Somaia who have been working at St Philip's Marsh Nursery School (our sister site). They will be splitting their time between the two sites.

School meals

School meals must be paid for IN ADVANCE via ParentPay. The school cannot keep arrears, and it may 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.

Library

The children recently had another trip to the Little Library for a story telling session. It's just a short walk from us and is open every Tuesday. Families are welcome to visit to read or borrow books (for more information see below).



Important Dates

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

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

Summer holidays (School CLOSED) – **23 July - 1 September (inclusive)**

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

School Photographs

Tuesday 20 (PM) and Thursday 22 May (AM)

On **Tuesday 20 (PM)** and **Thursday 22 May (AM)**, Concept Photography ([Concept Photography LTD - Home - Specialists in under 5 photography](#)) will be taking individual photographs of all children in the school and family photographs with siblings, if requested. If you would like a photograph of your child with their brother or sister, you will need to stay with them. This service will be available from **3.30-4.00pm on Tuesday and 8.45-9.15 am on Thursday.**

For those children that do not normally attend on a Tuesday or Thursday, you are more than welcome to bring them into school for a **'drop in' session between 10.30-11.00am on Thursday.** You will need to stay with your child. Please be aware this is not by appointment and so you may have to wait.



ERIC, The Children's Bowel and Bladder Charity



Wee and poo is
what we do!

Is your child struggling with **toilet training**,
withholding, **constipation** and **soiling**,
daytime bladder problems or **bedwetting**?

We have over 30 years' experience of
providing information and support for families
dealing with wee and poo problems.

Visit our website:

www.eric.org.uk



Starting Reception

Your child's journey to school starts at home

We understand that all children develop at their own pace, and that we're all learning from birth. When it's time to start school, some children will need more help than others.

There's lots you can do at home to build your child's confidence and independence, helping them feel emotionally and practically prepared to start school.



For more information on how to help your child get ready for reception, and for information on supporting children with additional needs, scan the QR code or visit <https://startingreception.co.uk>.

Parents & Carers



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



**Wednesdays
9.00 – 11.00am**

Join Tracey and
the Cashmore
team!

When the sun shines,



bring a **sun hat** (labelled with child's name)



ensure **shoulders are covered** (no strappy tops or vests)



wear **appropriate footwear** (no open-toed sandals or flip flops)



and **apply suncream**

