



Cashmore Early Years Centre

Newsletter November 2025



WINTER OUTDOOR LEARNING

- Children are interested in nature, plant life and minibeasts and they learn to be respectful and curious about living things.
- Children have sensory experiences with rain, wind, ice and learn about what to wear to keep warm.
- Fresh air and space are good for your body and your mind.

Did you know?

Colds and flu are caused by viruses, not cold weather.

The children have enjoyed planting in our garden with Claudia from 'The Children's Kitchen'. They learned about the process of digging, planting, and watering as well as enjoyed the sensory experience of getting muddy and smelling the garlic bulbs. Because the children did such an amazing job with the planting, our garlic bulbs have already shot up and are thriving! You may notice them in the planters in the main garden when you are dropping or collecting your child.

The children at Cashmore also had an exciting opportunity to participate in a cooking session with 'The Children's Kitchen' on Wednesday afternoon. We used safety knives to chop up yummy vegetables for our pizzas and salad. Each child made their own pizza by spreading tomato sauce, sprinkling cheese, and placing on toppings of their choice. Once they were cooked the children brought home their pizza and salad to share with their families.

This term we have been learning about Bonfire Night and Diwali. All groups used clay to create Diya pots and then decorated them with paint. We learned about being safe with candles and got the chance to blow them out at group time. We decorated hand templates with different Mehndi designs. We read non-fiction books about fireworks and Diwali. We used paint and chalk to create firework pictures. We used coloured rice and chalk to recreate rangoli patterns, using different shapes, lines, and colours.

Hippo and Giraffe Groups (2-year-olds)

Books-

Owl Babies ([Owl Babies](#)) – We have been focusing on talking about emotions and how parents/carers leaving can make us feel sad using this story. We are learning to give attention to a narrative and recognise how characters are feeling during parts of the story.



Dear Zoo – We have been taking turns opening the flaps of this story, learning the names of animals, and using key words like 'open' and 'where'.

Songs-

Talkin' Tunes – These series of songs help us to learn to make choices and take turns in a group. Children use different props like bubbles, hats, babies, and feathers to complete actions whilst singing. This is a great way of building our attention and agency.

5 Little Ducks ([Five Little Ducks - CBeebies](#)) – We have been learning the lyrics to this song and focusing on knowing our numbers in order from 0-5. Some of us are even starting to count the objects or use finger counting for this song.

Hippo and Giraffe group have been exploring our toothbrushes in preparation for brushing our teeth. We have read non-fiction books about dental hygiene and are talking about the importance of brushing our teeth. We are starting our teeth cleaning sessions during the day to teach us how to clean our teeth properly - toothpaste and individual toothbrushes are provided by nursery. If you have not yet signed the consent form for this, please ask a member of the 2's team.

Zebra and Tiger Groups (3-year-olds)

Books-

We have been focusing on repeated refrains in our stories.

We're Going on a Bear Hunt – “We can't go over it, we can't go under it, we have to go through it!” [We're Going on a Bear Hunt](#)

Peace at Last – “I can't stand this!

Goldilocks – “It was just right.”

This includes joining in with words and actions to retell the story in our own ways. We have used small world resources, drawings, and acting to remember the key events in the stories.

Songs-

We have been practicing counting with 1:1 correspondence up to 5 and thinking about 'one more' and 'one less' using number songs. We have particularly liked singing 5 Little Ducks ([Five Little Ducks - CBeebies](#)) with the finger puppets and 5 Speckled Frogs with our jumping frogs.



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.

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 local residents and there will not be enough room for emergency vehicles to get down the road.

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 online application system is now open (www.bristol.gov.uk/schooladmissions) – see poster attached below. If you require any help with this, please ask.



Family photo boards



We have a family photo display of the children in our setting to help with their sense of belonging and community. Please could you give us some photos of your child with their family which you are happy to have displayed in school (no more than 3). If you do not have access to a printer, you are very welcome to email photos to us at clare.morton@bristol-schools.uk



Clothes and wellies

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** 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.



Nursery clothes

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

Toilet training

If your child is toilet training, please put **wet wipes in their bag** and lots of **spare clothes** (including **socks**).

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.



Drinks

Please **do not** bring in a water bottle for your child. The school provides cow's milk at snack times during the morning and afternoon session and fresh water is freely available throughout the day.

INSET Days

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

Sickness

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 and colds. If your child is unwell keep them at home and telephone the School on 0117 3534295 to report the absence. **If your child has a high temperature this means they are unwell. Please keep them at home until their temperature is normal.** A normal temperature is 36.4°C but this can vary.

We can only give prescribed medication at school that has a pharmacist sticker on the bottle or box prescribed to your child – we cannot give any medicines that you have bought over the counter.

The NHS have a useful website answering parents' questions 'Is my child too ill for school?'

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

[A parent's guide to keeping kids healthy this school year – UK Health Security Agency](#)

[In addition, please find attached to this newsletter the UKHSA advice flyer 'Should I keep my child off school?'](#)

Cases of measles are rising across England, and there are a small number of measles cases in Bristol and the surrounding area, please see information

[What to do if you think your child has measles and when to keep them off school – The Education Hub](#)

The children's flu vaccine helps protect against flu. It's offered to children aged 2 to 3 years, school-aged children (Reception to Year 11) and children with certain long-term health conditions.

<https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/child-flu-vaccine/>

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.

Closure due to bad weather

We always try 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 Centre, it will be announced on local radio stations (Radio Bristol 95.5FM) and published on the Local Authority website and Centre's website (<https://cashmoreearlyyearscentre.co.uk/>) and Facebook page. We will also send an email to you via ParentPay.



INSET Days

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

Best Start in Life



The Government has launched a new website for the [Best Start in Life](#) parent hub which is full of great advice '*from pregnancy to childcare right through to starting school, get advice and support for your child's development*'. Click on the link above or scan the QR code in the poster below.

Christmas



Towards the end of term, we will be celebrating the Christian festival of Christmas. We will be hosting two Christmas parties, on **Tuesday 9 December (morning)** and **Thursday 11 December (afternoon)**. If your child does not normally attend one of these sessions, they can attend one party. Please let your child's key person know which one you would like them to attend. More details to follow in the December newsletter!

NHS Supervised Tooth Brushing Programme

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.**



Wellspring Family Hub

Barton Hill Families Drop-in: **Mondays 10.00-11.30am** (singing, storytelling, fun activities).

Stay & Play: **Wednesdays 10.00-11.30am** (fun and stimulating stay and play sessions for families in the local area. There'll be singing, storytelling and lots of other fun activities for children aged 0-5 years and their parents/carers).

All sessions are held at the Family Centre, Wellspring Settlement, Ducie Road, Bristol, BS5 0AX



Important Dates

Every Wednesday 10.00-11.30am (term time only) – coffee morning at Wellspring Settlement with member of Cashmore staff

Christmas party – **Tuesday 9 December, morning only**

Christmas party – **Thursday 11 December, afternoon only**

Menu change – festive roast dinner – **Wednesday 10 December**

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](#)

How to apply for help with childcare for working parents

If your child is:

- 2 years old, you can get 30 hours per week of free childcare
- 3 to 4 years old, you can get 30 hours per week of free childcare

(You will not be eligible if your child does not usually live with you).

30-hours free childcare using eligibility code

If your child is 3 years between September 2025-December 2025, you may be eligible for 30-hours free childcare (this can be used from January 2026). For this you will need an eligibility code. You can use this for the following nursery sessions:

- Monday-Friday 9:00am-3:30pm; or
- 3 days 7:45am-5:45pm.

30-hours free childcare using eligibility code

If your child is 2 and you are currently paying, you may be eligible for 30-hours free childcare (this can be used from January 2026). For this you will need an eligibility code. You can use this for the following nursery sessions:

- 5 x morning sessions
- 5 x afternoon sessions
- 2½ days (e.g. Monday all day, Tuesday all day, Wednesday morning)

To check if you are eligible, please visit www.beststartinlife.gov.uk

If you are eligible, you will be provided with an eligibility code. Please give the code and the National Insurance number it is registered with to office staff as soon as possible. Due to school holidays, please give this information to us by **Friday 11 December** to ensure the nursery can submit the code to Bristol City Council for the start of the new term.

To continue receiving the government support, you will need to reconfirm your details every three months on your gov.uk account.

Tax-free childcare

You may also be entitled to tax-free childcare which will help towards paying for nursery fees. For more information and to check eligibility, please visit www.beststartinlife.gov.uk

Paying for nursery sessions

If you receive an invoice for nursery sessions, you can pay by:

- Tax-free childcare (please give your code to office staff by email)
- BACS payment (the bank details are at the bottom of the invoice and your reference number will be **1002** and the six numbers starting with 2 on the top of your invoice)
- Cheque made payable to Bristol City Council Schools General
- Cash

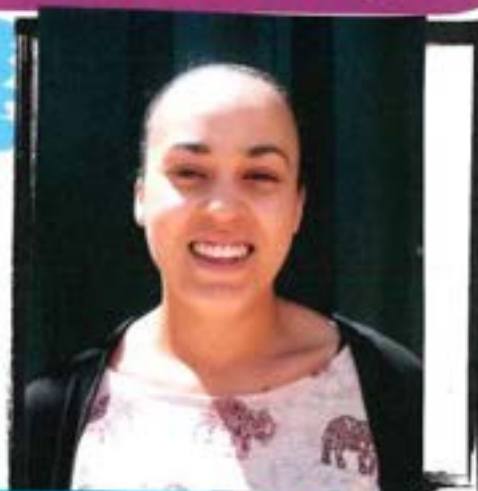
Please do not use ParentPay for nursery sessions. ParentPay is used for paying for meals and communication from the school to parents.

CAPO

**Children
Affected by
Parental
Offending**

Your CAPO Champion is:

Cressida



In every community there are families affected by having a family member in prison or the criminal justice system. We provide a welcoming space for children and families affected by offending and imprisonment.

For confidential, non-judgemental support contact:

0117 3534295 / cashmore@bristol-schools.uk

or email: CAPO@everyfamily.org.uk

everyFAMILY



CAPO
Children Affected by
Parental Offending

Parents & Carers



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



**Wednesdays
10.00 – 11.30am**

Join Tracey and
the Cashmore
team!



UK Health
Security
Agency

NHS

Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.

BEST START IN LIFE

Childcare & Early Years Education support



Free breakfast clubs and wraparound childcare



Childcare support checker

Check what support you could get.



Week-by-week guide to pregnancy

Find out more on our [NHS health website](#).



Breastfeeding support

Find out more on our [NHS health website](#).



Introducing solid foods

Find out more on our [NHS health website](#).



Baby and toddler teeth care

Find out more on our [NHS health website](#).



Learning to talk

Find out more on our [NHS health website](#).



School readiness



SCAN ME



Here To Help

Families with children 0-19

Join our WhatsApp Community!
Find out what events and resources are in
East Central Bristol!

- ✓ No personal information needed except your WhatsApp phone number.
- ✓ Your phone number will not be visible to other members.
- ✓ Only admin of the WhatsApp Community can share content.

**Run by East
Central Bristol
Family Hub
Navigator**

Scan the QR code to receive
up-to-date activities in your
community!



OR CONTACT:

Yvonne

☎ **07393802844**

✉ **yvonne.young@bristol.gov.uk**



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