

Cashmore Early Years Centre

Newsletter June 2026



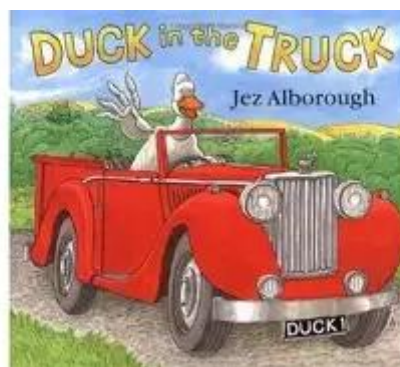
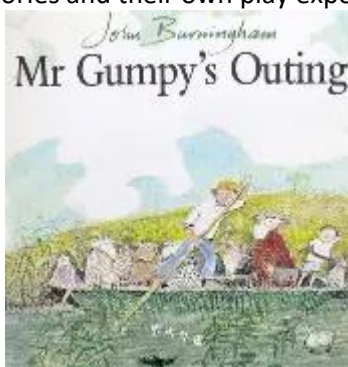
Wow! We are now in the final term of the year. This is a particularly busy time for the nursery, with older children visiting their new primary schools and their new teachers coming to visit us. After some well needed rain, our lovely garden is in full bloom, and the children are particularly enjoying this recent spell of the warm weather (with lots of water play to cool off!). Here is a brief round-up of news from our groups:



Hippo and Giraffe Groups (2-year-olds)

This term the children have been enjoying lots of water play experiences, building confidence, coordination and curiosity through hands-on exploration. We have been using pipettes and small bottles to practise filling and emptying. Squeezing pipettes helps to develop fine motor skills, strengthening the small muscles in their hands that are important for early writing and drawing. Rubber ducks, frogs, and sponges have encouraged imaginative play and sparked conversations about floating and sinking in water.

During group time we have been singing 5 Little Ducks and using gutters and rubber ducks to bring the song to life. Each child has taken a turn to pour water down the gutter, watching the ducks slide down. This has supported early counting skills, turn taking, and coordination, while also building confidence to join in with familiar songs. At story time the children have been getting to know ['Mr Gumpy's Outing'](#) by John Burningham and ['Duck in the Truck'](#) by Jez Alborough. These water-based stories have included different farm animals and their sounds. The children have been encouraged to join in with repeated phrases, recognising characters, and making connections between the stories and their own play experiences.



It has been a joyful term of exploration, with water play providing many opportunities for children to develop communication, physical skills, and a growing understanding of the world around them! For photos, go to our website: [Water play photos](#)

Zebra and Tiger Groups (3-year-olds)

These groups had an exciting trip to visit Windmill Hill City Farm this term! Our adventure started with a short walk to Lawrence Hill train station, followed by a train journey to Bedminster station and a walk through a park to the farm.

All children showed huge interest in the experience of travelling by train. We heard the big sounds coming from the engines, waved at the train driver, met the ticket inspector and used all our strength to climb up and down the big steps of the train. While waiting, we sang lots of train songs!

At the farm, the children explored a wide range of animals and plants. They showed curiosity and care as they stroked the soft sheep and listened closely to the loud geese. Spotting the piglets created a real sense of excitement and wonder. These experiences encouraged the children to ask questions, make observations, and deepen their understanding of living things.



The day also included time to sit together and enjoy packed lunches, as well as play in the gravel pit, which supported children's physical development and cooperative play. We came back tired and very happy. A big thank you to all the parent and carer volunteers who supported the trip. Without them, we would not have been able to go! For more photos, go to our website: [Trip photos](#)

COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE

Did you know? Language and communication skills are the key to future success for children. Children learn the structures and patterns of their home language first - and key useful words. This process begins at home and continues at the nursery school. We support this learning by using language that is simple, clear, relevant and easy to understand and building on this with small steps. At times when it is important for children to understand and respond safely or appropriately, we must make sure we gain their attention fully and use only key pieces of information. At other more playful times we can use language more creatively, still one step at a time, but introducing new ideas or words and playing with the way language can be built or used.

INSET Days

The school will be closed on the following days for staff training: **3 and 4 September 2026, 4 January, 25 March, 7 June 2027**

Teddy Bears' Picnic

We would like to welcome all children **and their parents/carers** to celebrate the end of the school year with us at our annual teddy bears' picnic. This will be held during the school day on **Wednesday 15th July**. This is a very informal celebration, but is a chance to eat, chat and play together to celebrate the children's successes this year! If your child does not normally come to school on a Wednesday, please speak to your Key Person – we would love you to join us with your child in either the morning or the afternoon! Look out soon for the posters with further information.

Concept Photography

You are reminded that if you would like to place an order for photographs, the deadline to order online for free delivery to nursery was 19 June. Orders can still be placed after 19 June, however you will have to pay for postage.

Best Start in Life

[Best Start in Life](#) is a UK Government website with advice and support for your child's development - from pregnancy to childcare, right through to starting school. Click on the link above to find out more.



Supporting children as they get ready for Reception

Starting school is an exciting milestone for children and their families. To help make the transition into Reception as smooth and positive as possible, we would like to share a set of free, practical resources for parents and carers from the 'Starting Reception' website.

'Starting Reception' is designed to support families in preparing children for school through simple activities, helpful advice and clear guidance on the key skills and routines that help children feel confident and ready for their first day.

The website covers everyday aspects of school readiness, from independence and communication to managing routines at home.

In addition to the main Starting Reception guide, there are also dedicated resources to support potty training and children's toothbrushing. Being able to use the toilet independently and developing healthy daily routines, such as brushing teeth, are important parts of getting ready for school and can help children feel more comfortable and confident when they start Reception.

Parents and carers can explore the resources online or download the guides using the links below:

Starting Reception website: <https://www.startingreception.co.uk/>

Potty Training Guide website: <https://startingreception.co.uk/potty-training/>

Children's Toothbrushing Guide website: <https://startingreception.co.uk/toothbrushing/>

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.



Your child's bag

Please put enough **nappies and wipes** for the session (if they are in nappies) 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.**

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.

Summer safety

When the sun shines it is important to take some precautions to keep your child healthy and safe. Please make sure your child's **shoulders are covered** (e.g. by wearing a T shirt instead of a strappy top or vest), provide a **sun hat** (labelled with your child's name) and apply **sun cream before your child comes to school**. There are sun creams available that give protection all day and this would be preferable. It is very challenging for staff to safely apply sun cream to every child due to the number of children attending the setting and due to the allergy needs of the children. Applying long-lasting sun cream at home ensures your child is safely protected and allows staff to focus on your child's learning and wellbeing. Staff will of course support children to wear sun hats, wear long-sleeved clothing when needed, drink water and provide shady areas to play etc.

The children spend a lot of time outside: climbing, riding bikes and scooters, playing ball games, gardening and running around. **Open-toed sandals and flip flops are not suitable footwear for nursery and can be dangerous.** Please be mindful of this when choosing your child's summer shoes.



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.

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.

We have also been informed by our catering supplier (<https://www.aspens-services.co.uk/>) that from 1 September 2026, **the price of a meal will increase to £2.70.**

Price increase

From September 2026, the price of a half-day session will increase to **£27.00.**

Car seat safety

Please remember, **using a car seat can save your child's life in an accident.** The law says you must make sure that any children in the vehicle you're driving is in the [correct car seat](#) for their height or weight until they reach 135 centimetres tall or their 12th birthday, whichever is first.

Two things are true for every family:

- Using a car seat is always safer than not using one, even on the shortest journey.
- A car seat that fits your car offers better protection than one that doesn't.

For further information [Car seat safety: How to keep your child safe in the car](#)



Staff and Governor changes

Sadly, we say goodbye to Naznin Serali who has been with us for 7 years. We send her our thanks and very best wishes for the future.

Big Brush Club - FREE Parent and Carer Oral Health Webinar

Big Brush Club is hosting a free online oral health webinar for parents and carers of children aged 0–11 years.

The session will cover:

- The causes of tooth decay
- Diet choices for good oral health
- Effective toothbrushing techniques
- The importance of fluoride toothpaste
- Practical strategies for supporting toothbrushing, including for children with additional needs (SEN)



Date: **Saturday 4th July 2026**

Time: **10.00am**

This is a fantastic opportunity for families to receive evidence based oral health advice from qualified dental professionals.

Please use the link below to register for the webinar:

[**Big Brush Club Free Oral Health Improvement Webinar for Parents and Carers of Children aged 0-11 – Saturday 4th July 2026 at 10am**](#)

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 nursery and are the link between the nursery 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 in Reception.

Important Dates

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

Summer holiday (School CLOSED) – **23 July - 31 August (inclusive)**

INSET day (School CLOSED) – **3 and 4 September**

Return to school – **Monday 7 September**



15th June 2026

Dear Parent or Carer,

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) today issued a press release tragically confirming the death of two children from complications of measles in England (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/latest-measles-figures-published-as-two-deaths-confirmed-in-2026>). This is a stark reminder of the importance of vaccination to prevent children getting measles.

Around 15% of children in Bristol are currently unvaccinated. We have only seen a very small number of cases so far this year in the city and thankfully no deaths. We are however encouraging all families to check that children have received two doses of the MMR (or MMRV) vaccine, appropriate for their age. Taking action now will help protect our children and communities and prevent the risk of any spread over the summer months.

Measles is a virus that spreads very easily. Babies, young children, and those with weakened immune systems are at higher risk of complications.

The MMR/MMRV vaccine is safe, effective, and free on the NHS. It protects against measles, mumps, and rubella. MMRV also protects against chickenpox. Vaccination remains the best protection.

It's important for parents to take up the offer of vaccination for their children when offered at 1 year of age with the second dose at 18 months. If children or young adults have missed these vaccinations in the past, it's important to take up the vaccine now from GPs, particularly in light of the recent cases.

Check your child's Red Book to see if they've received MMR vaccinations as scheduled or check with your GP surgery if you're unsure. Most healthy adults will have developed some immunity to measles but can still receive two doses of the vaccine from their GP too.

If a child develops symptoms, they should stay at home and contact their GP or NHS 111 before attending any setting.

Symptoms of measles include:

- High fever
- Sore, red, watery eyes

- Coughing
- Aching and feeling generally unwell
- A blotchy rash, which usually appears after the initial symptoms. The rash looks brown or red on white skin. It may be harder to see on brown and black skin.

For more information about measles, please see the NHS website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/>

For advice on the signs and symptoms of measles and guidance on how to protect your child, please see the UKHSA blog: <https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2026/03/05/what-are-the-symptoms-of-measles-and-how-can-i-best-protect-my-child/>

For more information about the MMR or MMRV vaccine and to check eligibility and the vaccination schedule, please see the NHS website:

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

Yours faithfully,



Julie Northcott
Deputy Director Public Health



Vik Verma
Director Education and Schools

Your Holiday HUB Bristol

Hundreds of
holiday activities
are available
in Bristol

*Eligibility criteria apply



Sports



Day trips



Cookery

Performing
arts

Crafts

yourholidayhubbristol.co.uk



Funded by
UK Government



Department
for Education



HAF funded by DfE – supported by Bristol City Council, BAND, Feeding Bristol, Bristol Play and Youth Alliance



FAMILY HUB
REGISTRATION
PLEASE SIGN UP
HERE



STARTING RECEPTION WITH SEND: WHAT TO EXPECT AND HOW TO PREPARE

WITH BRISTOL PARENT CARERS
AND BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL
PORTAGE AND INCLUSION TEAM

Tuesday 7th July
7pm-8pm
Online



Book here! or
www.linkbristolparentcarers.org.uk/gethelp

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>.



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



Book Share Tips



Reading develops your brain and provides a window into the world around you. There are so many ways that we can help our children learn to read and enjoy books.

Home language - the brilliance of bilingualism! Reading and talking about books in your home language helps your child's language development.

“Words are all around us – pointing out road signs, bus numbers and places, food labels.”

Words are all around us - pointing out road signs, bus numbers and places, food labels. Talk about what the words say.

Making time to read - maybe share a story or book at bedtime.

Turn off the TV - Put the phones away and look at books - it's much easier to concentrate with fewer distractions.

Looking at the pictures together and talking about what you notice helps a child to make sense of the story.

Show your child how to **look after books**: which way up, turning the pages, looking at the pictures, pointing to the words as you read them.

Favourite books - children often have a favourite book or story and will often want to read it over and over again. Children love repetition and this helps them to understand and remember the language they hear.

Children love to 'pretend' to read. Encourage them to read you stories and give them attention.

Talk about the places, characters in stories as this will help to increase your child's understanding.

Most of all... relax and enjoy finding out about new things or going to another world with your child through stories.

Further information and ideas for exploring books with your child, book-based games and book recommendations please see website links below.

Booktrust

[Supporting Parents, Carers and Families | BookTrust](#)

National Literacy Trust

[Parents and families | National Literacy Trust](#)

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 sunscreen**

