CASHMORE EARLY YEARS CENTRE

Newsletter November 2026







WINTER OUTDOOR LEARNING

With the days getting shorter and weather getting colder it can be a challenge to get outdoors, but it's a perfect time to wrap up warm and get out and about with your child. See below link for ideas:

27 things to spot on an autumn or winter sensory walk with your child - BBC Tiny Happy People

At nursery we believe it is important to spend as much time outside as possible as:

- 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.

Hippo and Giraffe Groups (2-year-olds)

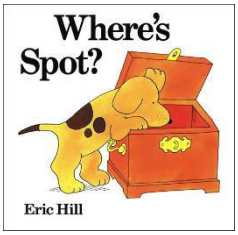
Children in Hippo and Giraffe groups have been enjoying a range of exciting activities linked to seasonal celebrations, creativity and healthy living.

As Halloween approached, the children had great fun exploring pumpkins using their senses. They investigated the pumpkins by touching, feeling and examining them closely before using a variety of tools to scoop out the insides. This hands-on experience encouraged curiosity, problem-solving and fine motor development as children practised using different tools safely and effectively.

The room was soon filled with colourful fireworks creations as children used chalks to make marks on black sugar paper and experimented with paint printing. Using cardboard tubes cut into slits, they created spectacular firework patterns in a range of bright colours. These activities supported children's creativity, mark-making skills and confidence in expressing their ideas through art.

To celebrate Diwali, children explored the tradition of rangoli patterns using chalks and coloured rice. They carefully created their own colourful designs and enjoyed drawing around each other's hands before decorating them with intricate patterns. Through these activities, children learned about different cultures and celebrations while developing their creativity and fine motor skills.

Children have also been taking part in the Big Brush Club, learning about the importance of keeping their teeth healthy. They have been listening to the two-minute Big Brush Song while practising tooth brushing and sharing stories about dental care (Big Brush Club Song). Reading *All About Teeth* has helped children understand healthy habits, while *Where's Spot?* has continued to support language development and a love of reading. The children have also enjoyed singing Five little ducks went swimming one day, building confidence, memory skills and early mathematical understanding through familiar songs and repetition. It has been a fantastic period of exploration, creativity and learning, with children developing new skills while enjoying a wide variety of engaging experiences.



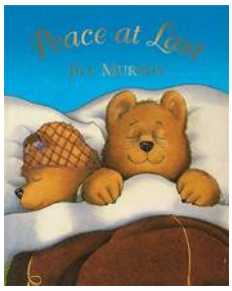
Zebra and Tiger Groups (3-year-olds)

Children in the Tiger and Zebra Groups have been enjoying a busy few weeks of hands-on learning, storytelling and creative exploration.

As part of their autumn learning, children explored pumpkins using their hands and a variety of tools to scoop out the insides. They talked about the different textures they could feel and used their mathematical skills to count the seeds they discovered. Singing *Five Little Pumpkins* helped children practise counting while joining in with familiar rhymes and actions.

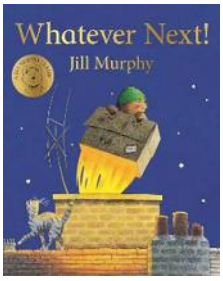
The group also explored the theme of fireworks. Children used chalk to create colourful firework pictures and learned about staying safe around fireworks. They listened carefully to different sounds and described them using words such as "bang", "pop" and "whoosh". Watching videos of real fireworks encouraged discussion about feelings, with children sharing whether fireworks make them feel excited, happy or worried. Singing Five Fat Sausages added another opportunity to develop counting skills through music and rhyme.

Children learned about Diwali through non-fiction books, videos and creative activities. They discovered how people celebrate the festival and listened to the story of Diwali. Using chalk and coloured rice, children created their own rangoli patterns and explored mark-making in different ways. They also designed beautiful henna-inspired patterns on paper and used clay to make their own diva pots, developing their creativity and fine motor skills.



Story time has inspired plenty of learning too. After reading *Peace at Last*, children listened carefully to a range of sounds, used props to retell the story and answered questions about what happened next and how the problem was solved. These activities supported language development, memory and sequencing skills. Children also enjoyed creating their own sounds to bring the story to life.

As part of their learning about candles, children discussed fire safety and took turns blowing out real candles under close supervision. They explored LED candles, learning how to operate the switches, and shared experiences of where they have seen candles, including birthdays and weddings. Conversations also focused on other things that burn and the importance of staying safe around heat and fire.



The story *Whatever Next!* (by the same author) sparked children's imaginations as they made rockets from junk modelling materials and recalled the story through their drawings. They enjoyed pretending to be Baby Bear by sitting inside cardboard rockets and talking about journeys into space. Discussions about what they see in the dark and their favourite picnic foods encouraged children to share ideas, build confidence and develop their communication skills.

These exciting experiences have supported children's curiosity, creativity, language and early mathematical skills while encouraging them to explore the world around them through play.

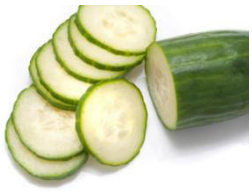
Prompt pick up

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.




Nursery clothes

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

We would be very grateful for donations of children's socks as we have run out of spare pairs. Thank you.

Parking

Please **DO NOT BLOCK THE ROAD OR OTHER VEHICLES IN** (even for a short period of time) when dropping off/picking up.

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 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.

Sometimes it is hard to decide whether to keep your child off school. Please find attached flyer from UKHSA which gives advice on 'Should I keep my child off school?'.

Other useful websites include:

Is my child too ill for school? - NHS

A guide to keeping kids healthy this school year for parents and carers – UK Health Security Agency

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/

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 2024). Look out for tours at your local primary schools. They are a useful way to see what life is like at school and to ask questions to find out if it could be the right school for your child. The online application system is now open (www.bristol.gov.uk/schooladmissions). 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

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.

Clothing 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 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 very helpful if you could **support your child to practice putting on their coat** and putting **hats and gloves** into the sleeve of their coat when they take them off to prevent them being lost. Whether your child is starting school this September or in the years ahead, you can start to practise these skills together now. Building these habits early supports their development and helps them settle into school with confidence. For advice, click on the link Preparing for school - Best Start in Life







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.

Reception library

In Reception and outside the entrance to the 3s room **we have books which you can borrow** and return when you have read them with your child. 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. Please come to choose a book!




Advance notice – changes to Free School Meal holiday vouchers (from December 2026)

The council currently provides free school meal (FSM) supermarket vouchers during school holiday periods to families in receipt of benefit related free school meals (FSM). This is now coming to an end. **The final FSM supermarket voucher issue will take place for the December 2026 school holidays**.

Please note that this does not impact your child's standard meals; regular FSM provision during term time remains fully available for all eligible children.

Why is this change happening?

This adjustment follows the UK Government's decision to end the Household Support Fund, which previously financed supermarket holiday vouchers through local authorities. The replacement fund, the Crisis and Resilience Fund, operates under different national criteria and cannot be used to run widespread holiday voucher schemes.

We understand this news may be concerning during a time of ongoing financial pressure for families.

What alternative support is available?

To ensure children continue to receive support during school holiday periods, the following options remain available:

Cost of Living https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/people-and-communities/cost-of-living-support

Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF) Your Holiday Hub Bristol - Your Holiday Hub Bristol

If you have questions about your ongoing term-time eligibility or need guidance on how to access local support funds, please visit the local council's family support hub Bristol Family Hubs.

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.

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.

INSET Days

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

Christmas



Towards the end of term, we will be celebrating the Christian festival of Christmas. We will be hosting two Christmas parties, on **Tuesday 8 December (morning) and Thursday 10 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!

Wellspring Family Hub

The Wellspring Family Centre has a new timetable for the Autumn term, and following the recent changes from Bristol Family Hubs, all parents and carers will need to register and then book their place before they can come to any Family Centre sessions.

Please follow **this link** to register, and you'll then be able to book sessions.

Barton Hill Families Drop-in 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

Wellspring Settlement

Important Dates

Christmas party 1 - **Tuesday 8 December AM**

Menu change – **festive roast dinner** – **Wednesday 9 December**

Christmas party 2 – **Thursday 10 December PM**

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 can be accessed HERE

St Philip's Marsh Nursery School/Cashmore Early Years Centre 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 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



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 2026-December 2026, you may be eligible for 30-hours free childcare (this can be used from January 2027). For this you will need an eligibility code. You can use this for the following nursery sessions:

- Monday-Friday 9:00am-3:30pm

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 2027). 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

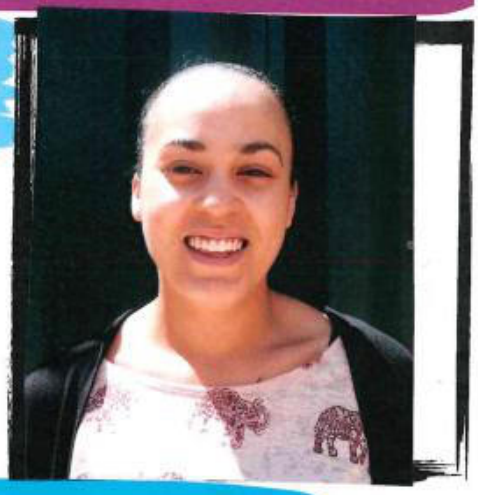
Please do not use Arbor for nursery sessions. Arbor is used for paying for meals and communication from the school to parents.

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

KEEPING BRISTOL SAFE

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

CAPO
Children Affected by Parental Offending

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.

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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.

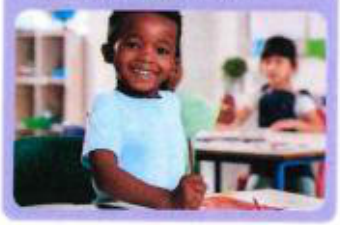


Learning to talk

Find out more on our NHS health website.



School readiness



SCAN ME

Bristol Family Hubs

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









