

Need to know

Nursery Manager Justine Richardson
Deputy Manager Emma Avery

Although we charge for all hours, whether attended or not, we are able to remove lunch charges for planned absences. We need 2 weeks notice of any absence. Meals will be charged for unplanned absences like sickness as we plan our catering needs 10 days in advance.

To ensure that we are correctly staffed at all times we ask that you adhere to your booked times. If you drop off early or pick up late, our staffing may not be adequate. To deter this, we charge if you pick up late or drop off early. Please also note that nursery will close at 6pm promptly. If your current hours need changing please speak to Justine.

Nice to know

All nursery policies are available for you to read on our website. To access them, you will need to login – please contact the nursery manager for details.

You can view our 4-week menu online at www.bristolchildcare.co.uk/meals/menus. Our Cycle of Summer Menus started in May, you can find them on our website.

You can contact Managing Director Saffia Bullock at any time via e-mail: saffia.bullock@bristolchildcare.co.uk

We would like to congratulate our Data Manager Justine MC on her recent marriage. You may notice that replies from the billing@bristolchildcare.co.uk email are now signed by Justine Clifford.

Bank Holiday Reminder

Spring
Summer

Monday 31 May
Monday 30 August

If you have any comments or feedback, please email us at: priory@bristolchildcare.co.uk

Welcome from Justine

Can you believe we are going into May? What a strange year it has been! Hopefully over the coming months things will start to relax and we can enjoy family time and sunny weather.

I am so grateful to you all for the support over the pandemic. At times it hasn't been easy, but I hope you feel that we have carried on providing loving care for your child.



Let's continue to look after each other and keep smiling!

Melissa from Preschool left us at the end of April, she had been with Bristol Childcare for over 16 years. Having her own children, she has decided to join a term time only preschool. We wish her all the luck for the future.

We have a new member of staff join us at the Priory. Her name is Megan Cooksey. Megan started on Thursday 6th May as an Apprentice in the twos room.

We have updated our Safe Working Procedures which are attached to this newsletter, so please do take the time to read and familiarise yourselves with the processes which we must continue to follow in order to keep everyone as safe as we can.

Justine

Mental Health Awareness Week: 10 to 16 May

Thank you to Abby (now working at The Court House, but used to be based at Mornington House) who is organising some activities to celebrate Mental Health Week next week (10 May). On Tuesday staff will be guessing "who's who" from staff baby photos. On Wednesday they will be sharing uplifting quotes. Look out for updates on our social media pages. It's really important that we are all aware of looking after our mental health as well as our physical health, and supporting each other through fun, shared understanding and conversations.

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 26th May
10:30am

Pre-school Leavers Photo



Tuesday 22nd June

Concept Photography – portraits taken of individuals/siblings (no obligation to buy)

Thursday 22nd July
5.30pm-7.30pm

Rainbow family picnic. Bring your own picnic and enjoy the atmosphere (Depending on numbers and weather permitting)



Thursday 5th August
2.30pm

Pre-school Leaver's Slideshow



Welcome everyone to our early Summer newsletter. I hope you have been enjoying the sunshine and the opportunity to socialise outdoors.

So many fantastic things have been happening across our Bristol Childcare nurseries, I hope you enjoy seeing some of them in this newsletter.

Over the last few months we have been taking the time to review our meals and menus to ensure we are meeting the requirements of the EYFS and the Eat Better Start Better guidance, as well as ensuring that we are providing the most nutritionally balanced, seasonal meals that we can.

We have listened to feedback from parents about concerns regarding added sugar and have reviewed all our puddings. We have ensured that all our puddings are fruit or dairy based and all have nutritional value. We have looked across the 4-week cycle of menus to ensure that the puddings we provide are balanced and proportionate – portion sizes are particularly key here.

Our ethos remains that children should have a wide and balanced diet and that it's not healthy to "ban" or demonise foods. Therefore, we are not looking to achieve "sugar free" menus but have focussed on the nutritional value, seasonality and of course taste, of all the meals that we provide.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is being updated in September and will include a requirement to promote good oral health and hygiene. Therefore, our teams have been having some training with Jenni Carpenter an Oral Health Practitioner at Bristol Dental Hospital. She recommended the app [BrushDJ](#). It is designed to help improve oral hygiene; by playing two minutes of music and buzzing every 30 seconds to remind you to change sides, it even gives you a round of applause when you have finished!

Jenni also recommended the British Society of Paediatric Dentistry website. They have some really useful information including [A Practical Guide to Children's Teeth](#), which supports the latest guidance that children should see a dentist as soon as their first teeth come through and before their first birthday.

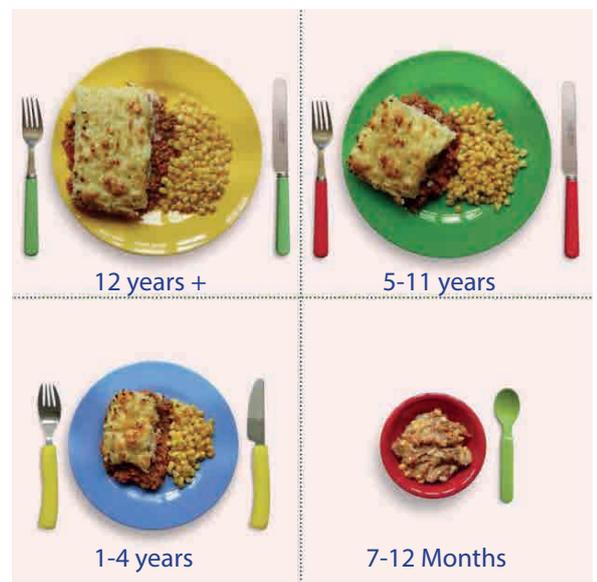
I hope this information is helpful. Do please let us know what else you would like to hear about, and don't forget that all our policies are available to read on our website - please ask your nursery manager for the log in. We very much value our partnership working with all of you; this is part of our family ethos.

This year we are particularly celebrating our family ethos as we look back over 50 years of Bristol Childcare operating day nurseries. Over the page, my mum Sue, reflects on running nurseries for all that time, and how many more nurseries there are in Bristol now than in 1971!! It's exciting to think that Mornington House was the first, and is still going strong!

Thank you all for your encouragement and support over the last difficult year, we are looking forward to celebrating our milestone with you all in different ways.

Saffia

Recommended Portion sizes by age:



The glasses of milk below all provide the same amount of energy (calories).



50 Years of Bristol Childcare

This year we are celebrating that we have been operating for 50 years!! Some of our staff have been with us for over 30 and 20 years and this is something to celebrate and wonderfully represents our family ethos.

Sue Farr, one of the founders, looks back on 50 years of running nurseries in Bristol...

In 1971 I was a senior Nursery Nurse in a Bristol day nursery in the grounds of Southmead Hospital; I was getting married to Bruce who was skilled in transforming buildings. In Bristol, young mothers were planning to return to work and the only private day nursery was closing for domestic reasons.

Once we had persuaded the Social Services (then our registering and inspecting body, undertaking the role that Ofsted now has) that Mornington House basement could provide day-care for at least 12 children, in February 1971 we opened our doors. Within two weeks we had a growing waiting list. Some parents I can remember came from the University, the BBC, the Coach and Horses pub over the road and a Park Street hairdresser. After a year, we were able to double our size to 24 children, aged 2-5 years, and we increased our staff accordingly, from just myself and a colleague; we had looked after the children, cooked fresh meals and cleaned up at the end of the day.



In 1981 we opened The Priory Day Nursery in Filton; on the first day Bristol came to a standstill in heavy snow and the first child and members of staff had to be collected in our Land Rover! Around the same time, Bristol University was struggling to open a nursery for staff and student families, so we opened it for them and ran it for two years.

The registration for babies in private day nurseries did not start until the late 1980s when we were looking to open a third nursery on the Wells Road, in Knowle. By buying two adjoining houses (in 1987), we were able to open the first private nursery with a baby room in Bristol. The Social Services, still our registering body, had little idea what it would entail so it took a little time for us all to find the correct staff ratio and area, to give the kind of care we were aiming for, while trying not to be overwhelmed by the huge numbers that were trying to register a place with us. By this time numerous nurseries were opening all over Bristol.

Saffia, aged 2



When I look back at photographs, I see that the children have never really changed; they look the same, wear the same clothes and like to play and learn from the same materials. Saffia, our daughter, who now runs Bristol Childcare, joined Mornington House in 1976 and loved it.

The nurseries have always been happy places, and have seen numerous staff come and go, some staying for many years. Every year ex-pupils return, to visit, to look for a job or to enrol their own children.



Justine Richardson who has worked for us for over 30 years

Sally King who has worked for us for over 20 years

Love being Outside!!

All the children have loved being outdoors recently making the most of the beautiful weather we have had.

We have freshened our sand pit with new sand which has encouraged the children to build sandcastles and filling and emptying containers, we have had lots of fun exploring the texture.

At times I think the children thought they were on holiday!



A few weeks ago we had a Band playing in the garden. It started with one child and within a few minutes the whole garden was immersed with music and songs.

The children chose all different items to play, saucepans to bang and tubes to blow. A variety of songs were sung at the top of their voices while marching around the garden to the beat.

In the twos garden many children have shown an interest in dolls. The play house has now been turned into a room including a cot and clothes, this has kept the children busy and they are really using their imagination to role play.

The babies have taken an interest in dressing up at the moment, trying on different hats, sunglasses, and clothing, then looking at their reflections in the mirrors. If you have any spare accessories laying around at home we would be appreciative of them.



Toot Toot our African Snail has always been a very loved member of our class. The children have been showing more of an interest in him recently and have been helping clean his tank, feed and water him. There has been lots of discussion around his appearance, size and movement... now that he has got even bigger!

Very soon will be having some new additions to our classroom...

Caterpillars! We will be learning all about the life cycle and observing the daily changes that will be happen right before our eyes!

This ties in nicely as we have recently been noticing more butterflies in our garden. The children have loved watching them fluttering around and even attempting to chase and catch them. The children have always shown such an interest in minibeasts and the natural world so we are excited to learn all about this topic.





Daffodils

The children showed an interest in our Daffodils growing in the room, so we got them down to have a closer look. We introduced words such as petals, stalk, stem, leaf, soil and we discussed what flowers need to grow. To extend their interest we then painted pictures of the daffodils focussing on their colour and appearance.



World Book Day

We brought our Owl Babies book to life! Lauren read the story and we acted it out using the story props, using Owl Mother, Sarah, Percy, Bill, big branch, small branch, and a bit of ivy. Each of us had a different Owl Baby and we repeated the words to act out the story using our characters.



The children were so engrossed and engaged in this activity they created lots and lots of paintings and kept coming back to paint even more!!





Happy New Year!!
To celebrate the year of the Ox the children created Chinese lanterns and practised using chopsticks before they all ate noodles for afternoon snack.

Ella brought her dog Reggie into the nursery garden to meet the children.
Some children were a little shy towards Reggie but once Ella explained how friendly he was they smoothed him and enjoyed his company.



A child in pre school has been growing his hair long enough for it to be cut and donated to Little Princess Trust.
Kosuke's hair will be used to make wigs for children who have lost their hair through an illness.
Well done Kosuke, what a lovely thing to do xx

Choo.....Choo

"This morning Bethan was interested in a painting activity that was out. At first Bethan watched as her friends did the painting. I began encouraging Bethan to join in by modelling painting on the box and providing her with a paint brush so she could join in. Bethan then happily took the paint brush and began joining in helping to paint the box which we turned into a train. Bethan had so much fun that she even had paint in her hair!!"

Kayleigh

