Bristol Childcare

The Priory Day Nursery

Late Summer Newsletter • August 2021

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

Summer Monday 30 August

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

Welcome from Justine

Welcome to our Late Summer Newsletter.

So it's that time of year again where we sadly say goodbye to all our school leavers.

Many of you have been with us for a long time but now it is time to 'fly the nest' and start a new experience.

The Priory team wish you all the luck in the world!!

Sadly we will be unable to present the slide-show to you but hopefully there will some type of celebration near the end of August.

News

Congratulations to Lauren in Preschool who is having a baby at the end of November. We wish her all the luck and look forward to meeting the bundle of joy!!

Sadly we are losing Erin in the twos room. As some of you may know Erin has had a tough year and feels it's time to experience something new. We wish her lots of luck for the future.

Justine

Free Early Education Entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds

All parents/carers of children who were born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018 have been sent an email from adobe sign requesting you complete the EYR1 form for your child so that we can claim their funding for the Autumn Term (September to December 2021).

If you haven't already done so, please can we have these completed by 31st August. You will automatically receive a PDF version of your completed form once you have 'finished' it.

The funding calendar and a letter outlining the 30-hours extended funding has been sent this year by email.

Once we have received your completed form, we request that you bring in your child's passport/birth certificate to nursery so that we can record seeing the original document.

Please contact yvette.fensom@bristolchildcare.co.uk if you have any queries.

Update from Saffia Bullock, Managing Director

Hello to all our new children, parents and carers! We are delighted that you have joined the Bristol Childcare family and hope you are settling in well.

It's also the time of year when we have to say goodbye to our pre-school children as they leave for school. It's a time of mixed emotions – it's so exciting to see the pre-school children so grown up and enthusiastic about their next stage, but it's also sad to say goodbye to children who staff have known so well, sometimes for many years. I would like to wish all of you and your children well in the next stages of your educational journey, and would like to thank you for your support over the last difficult years. I hope you take away fond memories of the nursery years!

Goodbye Jackie

In July we also said another goodbye - to Jackie Shaw who retired after an early years career spanning nearly 50 years.

Jackie has only been working for Bristol Childcare since 2018, firstly as a Senior Support Practitioner and then as Nursery Manager of The Court House in Knowle. However, during that time she has had a huge impact on our children, families and team through her gentle, caring and knowledgeable support. We are grateful to have shared the last few years of her career with her.

During her last week at The Court House Jackie was interviewed by Radio Bristol about her career. Lots of nursery parents shared their memories of Jackie and their thanks for all the support and kindness she has shown them and their children.

Jackie is a much-loved member of the Bristol Childcare family and she will be missed. But we'd all like to thank her for her years of hard work and dedication to the Bristol Early Years community. It's been an honour to work with Jackie and learn from some of her wisdom. We wish her a wonderful retirement enjoying time with her grandchildren.

Congratulations to Yvette

I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate Yvette Fensom, a member of our Head Office team, who took part in the South West Coast To Coast Walk from Minehead to Dawlish in July. Despite very wet weather conditions Yvette walked 68km in a time of just under 20 hours!

Yvette was walking to raise money for Young Lives vs Cancer. Well done to Yvette for this incredible achievement.

Update from Saffia continued

Coronavirus Update

On Monday 16 August we "stepped" into another phase of England's response to the coronavirus pandemic. From that date, the only people required to isolate are:

- Those who test positive with a PCR test;
- Those who have symptoms and are awaiting the results of a PCR test; and
- Those who are in close contact with someone who tests positive, are not double vaccinated and are over the age of 18 years.

We have created an Outbreak Management Plan that we will use should a member of staff or child test positive as there could still be impacts on staff and staffing. Your nursery manager will update you as required. We plan to review our Safe Working Procedures in early September once we have been able to see the impact of these changes. Thank you for your continued cooperation in working with us and supporting us to do all we can to stop coronavirus spreading within our nurseries.

I hope that you all enjoy the last few days of August, and wish those of you leaving for school a calm, happy and exciting start to September.

Saffia

Nursery News

This year we are celebrating that it's 50 years since we opened our first nursery, Mornington House in Clifton. You can find out more on our website.

To commemorate this achievement we are putting up plaques at each nursery entrance; don't they look great!

Sadly, over the last month or so we have said goodbye to Melissa Wickham and Charlotte Alner, both who have worked for BCC for over 10 years, Melissa for over 15 years! Both have decided to move to term time only settings so they can be with their children in the school holidays. We wish Charlotte and Melissa all the best in their new roles.

We are delighted that Paul Richardson has joined the team as the Supplies and Maintenance Assistant. You may see Paul around the nurseries delivering, working on the gardens or fixing thing. Paul is very creative and has already made a fantastic den for Mornington House Baby room garden. He is married to Justine, Manager at The Priory and is pleased to now have joined the team himself. Paul says "I am enjoying my new position at Bristol Childcare. The role allows me to perform tasks that help keep the children safe. I also have opportunity to make play things that help children's development. The job has variety and full of challenges."

Babies News

Lets get splashing!!!

With all the glorious weather we've been having, we have made the most of the sunshine outside. The babies have loved getting involved with messy play. We have been providing large sheets of material and the children and have been using a number of resources to create marks, the favourite being our hands!

Water play has been a big hit too, the babies have been using lots of different containers to transport the water around the garden, they love helping out with the hose, making sure the plants are staying hydrated too. We have just replanted new sunflowers so will look forward to watching these grow!

Twos News

The children in Two's room have loved exploring and learning about the bees. We discovered in our garden we have a bee hive hidden in the wood of our pond, the children will sit and watch as big and small bees fly in and out of the gap in the wood.

To follow the children's interest we decided to create our own bees and hive using a variety of different items from our junk modelling box. It was lovely to see how engaged the children became in these activities and to see the interest of bees carry on throughout the month!

Wow what a year it's been!! I want to start by saying how proud I am of our pre-preschoolers and how they have coped and adapted to the new nursery norm.

They have showed great resilience throughout and have never complained, always coming in with a smile on their faces and continuing to make us laugh, so thank you pre-school!

We have all been enjoying the beautiful hot weather that we have had recently and spending as much time as possible in the garden but on days that it has been too hot, we cooled ourselves down with an indoor paddling pool!

We have been learning so much about the world from discovering a bumble bees' nest in the garden, to finding a baby frog in a tyre and even rescuing a hedgehog from the car park.

We want to say a big, good luck and goodbye to all of our children going to big school to start their exciting new journey but also, we can't wait to see what next year brings with the children staying with us.

The Two's room had an amazing trip to the farm and park. We got on the bus and headed to the farm where we saw lots of animals and especially liked seeing the goat as they jumped up to say hi to us. We also got to feed the chickens which was very exciting.

Isaac brought his monkey into nursery to see if Justine could sew his special labels on.

The monkey also had a hole in his back which needed sewing up.

Together Isaac and Justine made his monkey look as good as new!

Two's and babies have been lucky enough to go out of the nursery and visit the local park recently. We took a lovely stroll over and sat and ate our snack. We then had a big run around, chasing after Justine's dog Hunter. We also visited the fairy garden where we found lots of little treasures. The children loved being out and exploring the environment.

Do you have problems getting your child's hair cut?

In September we would like to offer this service to nursery parents. If you would your child's hair cut, a hairdresser will be available at nursery the first Monday of every month, 9-12, beginning 4th October. Please let a member of staff know. Payment will go directly to the hairdresser, prices will be:

Fringe trim: £2.50
Fringe trim with wispy bits around face and ears: £5
Clipper cut all over: £5
Spray cut: £7.50
Spray/Clipper cut: £7.50