

## Need to know

Nursery Manager Diane James  
Deputy Manager Sally King

Although we charge for all hours, whether attended or not, we are able to remove meal package 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 Diane.

## 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](http://www.bristolchildcare.co.uk/meals/menus). Our cycle of Summer Menus started on 1st 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](mailto:saffia.bullock@bristolchildcare.co.uk)

## Bank Holiday Reminder

Spring Bank Holiday - 2 June  
Queen's Platinum Jubilee - 3 June  
Summer Bank Holiday - 29 August

If you have any comments or feedback, please email us at: [mornington@bristolchildcare.co.uk](mailto:mornington@bristolchildcare.co.uk)

## Welcome from Diane

Welcome to our early Summer Newsletter.

In this newsletter, I thought I'd give you some updates on our staff team. Firstly, welcome back to Rachele from maternity leave! She will be working on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays and will be based in our Baby Room. Megan is now the Assistant Room Leader in our Baby Room and Jemima is the Assistant Room Leader in Preschool – thank you to both for taking on these important roles and responsibilities.



Rhianna has successfully completed her Level 3 apprenticeship so is now a fully qualified practitioner – well done Rhianna! We are busy trying to recruit for an apprentice as we have such an experienced and established team that we are in a great position to support someone as they start out in their career in childcare.

As we are now busier and it's not possible for Sally to come out of Preschool to cover me on Fridays, I have chosen to return to working full time on a permanent basis.

There are lots of important dates below, so please make a note of them. You will see that parent meetings will be held for those children who are going to school in September. These will be for Sally and Jemima to discuss the transition documents which they will prepare to send to the new schools. For other parents, as we now have the six-monthly meetings to discuss children's progress, there is no need to have other parent meetings during June.

Diane

## Dates for your Diary





### Sharing information and Spring initiatives

Hello to all our families. It's lovely to be seeing more of you in and around our nurseries. Spring is always a really busy time, so I thought I'd make use of this newsletter to share with you some information that we have been asked to share by local authorities and the government and also to update you about some initiatives that we are able to reintroduce into nursery.

### Recycling pens

Now that parents and carers are able to come into nursery again, we are pleased to be able to re-start some of our recycling schemes.

We are going to start with the stationary recycling scheme as what we collect can be taken to Rymans in Clifton.

Please see the poster for what can be collected. A box will be in each nursery reception.

Thank you for your support for our schemes to try and reduce our impact on the environment.



Saffia



### Free communication webinar for parents

Are you concerned about your child's speech and language? I CAN, the children's communication charity, are offering free webinars providing strategies and approaches for families to try with their child. The webinars are aimed at parents of children aged 18 months to two and a half years. <https://ican.org.uk/talk-parent-webinars/>

### A new government resource to help keep children safe from sexual abuse

It's estimated that at least one in ten children in England and Wales will experience sexual abuse before they turn sixteen. That's equivalent to three in every classroom. Most children won't tell anyone at the time of their abuse. That's why it's important for everyone to know how to spot the potential signs of child sexual abuse and where to go for support if concerned. The government's new [Stop Abuse Together](https://stopabusettogether.campaign.gov.uk/) website can help you learn to spot the signs, and know when it's right to reach out for more support.



If you feel something is not right, you can call the NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 5000. No matter what's happened, there's always someone who will listen to you and take what you say seriously.

All children have a right to be safe from sexual abuse, and we all have a role to play in keeping them safe. Let's stop abuse together. <https://stopabusettogether.campaign.gov.uk/>

## BBC - Tiny Happy People

Tiny Happy People is here to help you develop your child's communication skills. Explore our simple activities and play ideas and find out about their amazing early development. "Working with a team of experts, including a dedicated language advisory group, the BBC ensures all the content on its site is rooted in evidence and is accessible to all families."



"When children start school they should be able to speak to their new friends in full sentences, ask teachers simple questions and understand what they're told to do. When they have these skills they'll feel more confident and they'll be happier.

But children starting school all across the UK today are unable to do these things.

In England, 1 in 4 children starting primary school are behind with their level of literacy development (language, communication and literacy skills), rising to more than 1 in 3 (42%) in some areas (Department for Education, 2019). The picture is similar in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland too.

Language and communication skills unlock literacy, and that's why Tiny Happy People is concentrating on the building blocks of language development.

Tiny Happy People can help you develop your child's language and communication skills, so they get the best start in life."

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people>

## Bill The Music Man

We were very fortunate that BAND (Bristol Association for Neighbourhood Daycare) offered us the opportunity of a 3 hour Music Workshop with Bill the Music Man.

The babies really enjoyed Bill's visit. They loved all the exciting new instruments he had brought for us to explore. He sang lots of our favourite songs and taught us new ones too - our favourite was 'Alice the Camel'! We all joined in with dancing whilst Bill played his guitar.

The children in Twos room loved Bill's visit too! Everyone took turns to explore the instruments he had brought in, such as the ukuleles, the bells and the shakers. Bill noticed the Wallace and Gromit display and followed this interest by playing the theme tune on his guitar. The children tapped out the beats in their names and they loved playing the instruments whilst moving around the room on the 'Singing Train'.



The Preschool children also thoroughly enjoyed themselves! Bill sang Mr Clickety Cane, which is one of our Core Songs – they love the words and actions of the games Mr Clickety Cane likes to play, such as 'wash your face with orange juice' and 'comb your hair with a toothbrush'! They also joined in enthusiastically with the Music Train around the room, whilst playing instruments. They were able to try playing Bill's guitar and other instruments such as an auto harp, table bells and ukuleles. We sang lots of songs about feelings, with different tunes and tempos to match emotions, such as happy as loud and fast and sad as quiet and slow.

# Baby Room



## Easter cakes:

The babies all helped to make some delicious easter cakes and the whole nursery helped to eat them!



## Physical development:

The babies have had lots of opportunities to move freely outside in our lovely gardens. They can climb, crawl, ride, run, slide and scoot! They explore construction toys and mark-making to encourage development of their fine motor skills.



## Reading:

It was lovely to have books from home to read at nursery to celebrate World Book Day. The babies really enjoy looking at a range of books independently and having stories read to them.

## Sensory play:

Sensory play helps strengthen babies' brain development and supports language development as they learn new vocabulary whilst they explore different textures.



## Two's Room

The 2s children helped Louise make some yummy Easter cakes. They ate one and took another home to share with their families.



The children love the 'fairy door' in their garden, it's created opportunities for lots of role play and language development.



Carla and Gemma made a Duplo construction wall which they children have enjoyed using to create their models.



The children love to take the core books in the garden to look at together or for the staff to read to them.



On St George's Day the children in the Twos room learnt all about it. They have role played with the castle and the knights and made some flags.



We have learned together how to take care of the snails, cleaning out their tank and giving them their favourite foods to eat.

Role play is great for developing communication and language skills. It also allows children to act out and make sense of real-life situations. It supports children to develop social skills as they collaborate with their peers and gives them opportunities to explore, investigate and experiment.



One of the children in our Two's room loves 'Wallace & Gromit' so to follow his interest, Carla made some playdough with the children and Gemma invited all the children to make their own characters. The children had a fun time, using their fine motor skills to manipulate the dough by squeezing, rolling and pinching to make bodies, arms and legs. They even took some of these photographs themselves!

Max brought in a mixer and a looper for the preschool children to use to explore their voices, as part of their Letters & Sounds daily activity. They each had a turn in small groups to use the microphone. Then Max did a big group and the children listened to their sounds being reversed.



Natalia (one of the preschool children's Mummy) came in to play her cello for us. She introduced us to her cello who is called Mary.

She played many familiar songs to us, such as Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, Old MacDonald Had a Farm and Frere Jacques. Some of the children could recognise the songs as Natalia started playing them.

Natalia also played us part of 'Winter' from The Four Seasons by the composer Vivaldi. We even got to have a go at playing Mary too! Thank you so much to Natalia for giving us such an amazing experience!

As part of our Spring Garden play, we have been busily changing areas on the patio and garden. We have introduced more visual numbers and created a cosy area in the playhouse for looking at books. This includes pictures of some of our Core Books to inspire conversation, including pictures of the Colour Monster on the chalk board to support children to talk about and name their feelings. We have created a bug area on the patio because the children are very interested in the woodlice and spiders.

