Bristol Childcare

The Court House Day Nursery

Early Summer Newsletter • May 2023

Need to know

Nursery Manager Katie Townsend
Deputy Managers Chloë Raines
Jemima Radmore

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 Katie.

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 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

Bank Holiday Closures

Monday 8th May - King's Coronation
Monday 29th May - Spring Bank Holiday

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

Welcome from Katie

Welcome to all our Court House families!

We have been lucky to have Linda from Active Kids working with our pre-school children, she will be with us once a week for the next term. Look out for photos on ParentZone!

Amelia has started her maternity leave and Maisie has taken over as Room Lead.

We have also welcomed Lucy into the pre-school team. It is her first job working with children and she is really enjoying getting to know the children in pre-school. We are excited to support her development here in the Court House team.

Debbie has moved to another career that will help support her family life, so we wish her all the best.

Ebonie has left childcare to work on other things that are important to her. We wish her all the best with her next adventure.

We have welcomed Caitlin into our baby room. She is Level 3 qualified and has lots of experience working with babies. Lots of you may have seen her around in nursery already, so please do continue to make her feel welcome. We are very happy to have her as part of our Court House team.

We are continuing to recruit for additional practitioners to join the team, along with bank staff to support the coming months of staff holidays.

Jemima has taken over as SENCo while Amelia is on maternity leave. She will be supporting the staff, children and families that may need additional support. She is also our behaviour co-ordinator that supports our staff with our 5Cs approach as well as our families.

Jemima and Chloë are Co Deputies while Amelia is on maternity leave and Georgia has taken on the role of Assistant Deputy Manager (ADM).

Continued over...

Dates for your Diary

Welcome from Katie

All the children and staff have been taking advantage of the sunny weather, they have been outside as much as they can and even have been eating lunch in the garden.

Hopefully we will be seeing the weather change soon. Please remember to apply the 8hr day sun cream to your child/ren before they come into nursery on sunny days. As per our policy, the staff will not apply sun cream to the children when they come in as this can take up a lot of time. We will, however, reapply in the afternoon where needed, when children get wet or have their face washed. Please provide clear named sun cream in your child's bag and let a member of staff know it's there. This way if the weather changes during the day, there is sun cream available for your child. If your child has any allergies or is sensitive to some brands of sun cream, please let us know. Please also put in a named hat for your child. Let's hope we start seeing the sunshine soon!

I know that those of you in pre-school have had your school places confirmed. Please do let me know when their last day with us will be, so we can add this to the system and get things ready for these leave dates. The grant full day funding ends on the 15th August 2023. We will be planning leavers things shortly so please keep an eye out for Moments on ParentZone.

Important dates for your diary:

Concept Photography will be coming in on Friday 9th June. Please keep an eye out for details closer to the time on ParentZone.

I will be taking the school leavers photo on Tuesday 20th June in the morning – please look out for the time on ParentZone. If you wish to pop by for your school leaver child to be in this photo please do let me know.

On Thursday 6th July 2023 we are having an evening cascade training for all our staff across Bristol Childcare. All three nurseries will be coming together at the Priory Day Nursery in Filton for a 6pm start time. We will be closing the nursery at 5:30pm on this day and kindly ask you to collect promptly so ensure the staff can get over to the training on time. For those of you booked in until 6pm, this half hour will be refunded if you can't use it at another time.

Lastly, and most importantly, Amelia has given birth to a baby boy, Oscar! She says 'He's arrived! Meet Oscar, born on 28th April at 23.02, weighing 7lb 5oz. We are home and all settled, we are both doing very well'.

Katie

Update from Saffia Bullock, Managing Director

Over the last few months we have been looking at different options for extra-curricular activities for the pre-school children. We are keen that the extra-curricular activities that we offer best suit the learning needs of the children and also tie in with our Curriculum. We are really excited to have booked the following sessions – some of which have already taken place and some of which are happening over the next few months. We have been focussing on activities for the pre-school children to help support their learning and development as some of them prepare to move up to school. We are also researching activities that might be suitable for the younger children but appreciate that all of the children can benefit from the extra-curricular engagement once they reach pre-school.

Story Adventures

These one-off sessions are interactive storytelling adventures which immerse children in a theme based around a book. The group leader, Rachel, tells the story then the children explore the themes through interactive activities such as dark dens, sensory props, puppets and messy play.

On 3 May the pre-school children explored 'Zog' at the Story Adventure session. This was an incredible morning and we hope you enjoyed the photos sent on ParentZone. Rachel said "The children were exceptionally well behaved and interacted so well with the story, the props and the various sensory and exploratory trays around the room! The parachute and bubbles also seemed to be well received!" As this is one of our core books the session built on the children's knowledge of the story and increased their learning, vocabulary and understanding of it, which pre-school staff will extend as they continue to enjoy this story with the children.

Active Kids

We are also really pleased to have started the term of weekly sessions with Linda from Active Kids. These sessions will help support the "understanding what it means to be healthy" aspect of our Curriculum. All the pre-school children in that day will be able to attend and there will be two groups with the same session repeated so that each group can enjoy the same provision.

Linda used to run Stretch 'n' Grow sessions across Bristol so we have worked with her before and are really looking forward to trying these new sessions with her. Linda has shared the following information:

"We run with a monthly theme repeated each week so as to develop those physical skills and also to link in with EYFS statements such as 'remembering sequences & patterns of movement,' 'remembering rules', 'singing songs'. My theme for April is 'Springing into Action'. The May theme is Toy Story. Please do look at my Facebook page. https://www.facebook.com/ActivekidsBristol"

uSports

All of the children were really engaged by the trial session with Ben from uSports so we are delighted to have booked this for the final term of the year, starting in June. Ben will be running multi-sports sessions so that the children will be able to experience a range of rugby, tennis, yoga, athletics and dance.

It's wonderful watching the children learn and grow from these sessions, and we hope you enjoy the photos we share through ParentZone and online.

Saffia

Baby Room

In Baby Room, we have been exploring the signs of spring through looking at nature and incorporating these events in our play through sensory activities and creative design. We have been on a few outings – which include the harbour, the farm and to the local park. The children loved this as we have seen their ideas come to life, bringing this back into the nursery setting. We used farm animals in oats whilst merged with the Two's – this was a great way of familiarising the Babies with the Two's room ready for some of their transitions later on in the year.

Recently we have received some lovely new home corner resources and so it has meant we have spent a lot of time role playing tea parties. We cannot wait for the summer where we will be able to water play with the tea sets outside and make mud pies to serve!

We have also been celebrating Chloë's birthday, with plenty of handmade cards, banners, balloons and cake! We have been practising our hand eye coordination (whilst of course having a bunch of fun) with throwing the balloons. Some of the children really understood the simple instructions as we threw the balloons to each other and back.

As well as this, Easter biscuit decorating was a hit! We enjoyed having a spoonful of icing with sprinkles to decorate our lovely shortbread biscuits that Sarah made for us. Some didn't quite make the cut as they went straight into the mouth...

Two's Room

We have been talking lots about our emotions, talking about how we feel and how we show our feelings. We have also talked lots about our bodies and how these are our own and to use our words if we don't like something, or to use them to say what we do like.

The Two's went on a trip to the Harbourside earlier this year when the weather was really sunny! They went on the bus which they found really exciting and walked along the harbour spotting different boats, big ones, small ones and naming the different colours they could see on the boats. The Two's then had a lovely picnic lunch of sandwiches.

Two's have been exploring painting with their bodies, standing in it, rolling in it and rubbing it all over their tummies!

As the weather has been warming up, we had a lovely time eating our meals out in the garden. We joined the Babies for a wonderful social time together.

We have been recently turning our front small room into a house role play area. We have got a role play kitchen with lots of lovely role play wooden food and the children have been really enjoying cooking meals for the grown ups! We have also got a beautiful new sofa to add to our house!

Preschool

In preschool we have been very busy. We have said goodbye to Amelia and look forward to meeting baby Oscar. We have had Lucy come to play with us in preschool and have enjoyed getting to know her.

Some of the children created a campfire in the garden, we extended this interest later in the day by providing the children with warm milk and a biscuit before home time. While sat around the campfire, we sang nursery rhymes and spoke about our day.

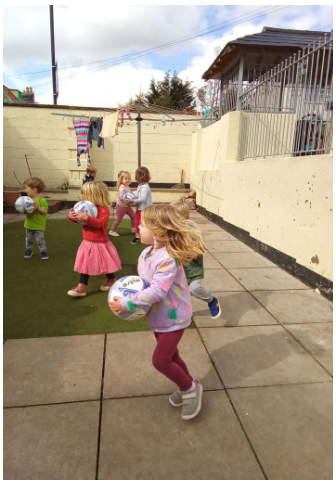
Active Kids

The children are really enjoying their new weekly sessions with Linda from Active Kids. The theme for April was 'Springing into Action'.

uSports

We had Ben from uSports come into preschool! All of the children engaged really well and loved joining in with the skills he was teaching. The children developed their gross motor and listening skills.

We are looking forward to working with Ben in the future.



Salmon Pie

To serve a family of 4

Ingredients:

1 large tin of salmon
285ml milk (extra for mashed potato)
25g butter (extra for mashed potato)
25g flour
100g cheese, grated
1kg potatoes

Method:

Boil the potatoes and mash with a little milk and butter.
Spread the salmon in the base of an ovenproof dish.
Make the cheese sauce by mixing together the milk, flour, and butter, stirring continuously.
Add the grated cheese to the sauce.
Cover the salmon with the cheese sauce.
Top with mashed potatoes and bake in the oven at 180 degrees for 20-30 minutes.

Photos from The Priory

This recipe is taken from our summer menu
which started on 1st May