Bristol Childcare

The Priory Day Nursery

Late Summer Newsletter • August 2024

Need to know

Nursery Manager Justine Richardson
Deputy Manager Eloise Howells

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 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 Justine for details.

You can view our 4-week menu online at www.bristolchildcare.co.uk/meals/menus. Our cycle of Summer Menus started on 6th 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 26th August - Summer Bank Holiday

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

Welcome from Justine

Hi Everyone and welcome to all our new families that have joined us recently. I hope we have made you all feel welcome and hope you enjoy your time at the Priory.

I cannot believe how fast this year is going. I feel like we were only just enjoying the lighter nights and in no time at all it will be lights on at 4pm and we'll be thinking 'where has the time gone!'

I always think about this with the children as well. They are all growing up so fast, with some about to start school and some transitioning into the next room. All I can say is, enjoy any quality time you have with your child, you will never get that time back.

Please use our lending library in reception to look at books together at home, or ask a member of staff if you could join your child's room for lunch, Heather is an amazing cook.

These are all special moments that can be shared and you will look back and remember those quality times.

Please can I remind you to apply suncream to your child before they arrive at nursery. With 48 children each day, this is very time consuming and takes us away from doing other activities

Justine

Dates for your Diary

Monday 12th August 2.30 - 3.30pm	Graduation ceremony
Friday 16th August 1.30 - 3.30pm	Leavers' party (children only)
W/c 16th September	Cake sale All proceeds towards Cancer Research

Update from Saffia Bullock, Managing Director

Dear Parents and Carers

For many of you, this will be the last newsletter from Bristol Childcare because your children are leaving us for school. It's been great to see everyone enjoying all the different "leavers" activities over the last few weeks – and I know there are more to come. This is a time of many emotions – for everyone! Excitement but also some sadness about the goodbyes, mixed in with anxiety about change.

It is always a privilege to watch all the children learn and grow while they are with us. At this time of year the pre-school children always seem so grown up and exuberant, on the cusp of the transition to school when then they will seem so little in their new uniforms!

As a parent myself, I remember this time well and I think it's really important to recognise that this is a time of transition for you as parents too, and to acknowledge this for yourselves. You might be delighted that pre-school years are over, or you might be sad about the end of this stage. Or too busy to notice until it's all happened! However you are feeling, I would like to thank you for being part of the Bristol Childcare family, and to wish you well over these months of change.

For those of you staying with us, we've been focussing our training over the summer on child development and the information we have to support staff in helping children learn, which includes the EYFS – the Early Years Foundation Stage – written by the Department for Education, which sets out the standards and areas of learning that we must follow. We had our "cascade training" session in July which was a great success – thank you to all our Curriculum Leads who put that training together.

Please do take a look at our curriculum boards around nursery. We have what we call our "significant six" – the six areas that we help children to focus on at Bristol Childcare. These Significant Six Statements are our Curriculum Intent:

To be able to build relationships and engage with others;
To enjoy stories, songs and rhymes;
To treasure and celebrate family life in all its diversity;
To value family mealtimes;
To understand what is means to be healthy;
To develop a love of learning.

These align with our ethos: Small, Homely and Flexible

After a brief hold up on the start date by The Environment Agency and Bristol Waste, we are delighted to confirm that the nappy recycling trial will be starting from the week of 29 July. From that date, all nappies collected from Bristol Childcare nurseries by Green Bottoms will be recycled!

If you would like to read more detail about these, please ask your nursery manager for our full curriculum document; we also have a Curriculum Intent document for each room – this helps us focus on what we'd like children to learn at each age, and how we ensure that each child's learning is sequenced and helps them build on what they have learnt, ready for the next stage – be that the next room or school.

We support this through "planning in the moment" which means that we follow each child's interests and help them learn by building on what they express interest in each day. In this way, we can ensure they are fully engaged in what they are doing at nursery – and learning without knowing it!

Thank you to everyone who gave feedback in our parent questionnaire. We analysed and discussed the responses and I sent out some information to all parents and carers by email on Monday 29 July. This also had EYFS and Curriculum Intent documents attached. Please let me know if you did not receive this and we can resend.

Saffia

Babies

Recently in the baby room, we have been going on trips to the park and going for either walks in the morning or the afternoon on our quieter days. This has been lovely for the babies to explore new places and have lots of fun in the park on the equipment.

As the summer days come, the babies are loving having little paddles in the paddling pool, either filled with a little bit of water to keep them cool, or some colourful balls to play around in. We have also been giving them some ice lollies as a treat occasionally.

Apart from lunch and snack time, one of their favourite things to do is have a sing and a dance to some nursery rhymes and some Disney soundtracks! In fact, we love a dance too!

Furthermore, it is so nice to see the babies faces light up as they come into nursery and immediately want to get stuck in with our activities. The sandpit, water tray, puzzles and playdough really interest them, and they use their imagination from what has been demonstrated by practitioners to use in their own play.

Twos

Outside

We have all been loving the sunnier weather as this means we have been spending more time outside. The children really thrive when engaging in outdoor play and it gives us staff more learning opportunities to teach the children. We have seen so many good impacts in spending more time outdoors, this link below perfectly sums up the benefits children get from being outside:

https://www.eyalliance.org.uk/benefits-outdoor-play-early-years

One thing we have been learning about is plants and how they grow. We started off by planting some sunflower seeds and when they were ready Justine showed us how to plant them properly and how to care for them. The children were really engaged and listened to Justine speak about how tall they grow, one child replied "tall like me". Justine then let the children dig a hole in the ground and place their sunflowers plants in. We then spoke about the importance of watering the flowers, just like how we need to keep drinking water throughout the day.

Wildlife is a big interest outdoors for the children. We often find them searching around for different insects or bugs. We have started using the magnifying glasses so we can look in smaller areas. When we do find something, we use this as a chance to teach the children about being kind to the animals. The most popular bug is the snail. The children will take it in turns to pass it around and when doing this they will repeat words that the adults have been saying such as "be careful" and "it's only small".

Room change around

As you have probably seen, we have had a little move around within the room recently. We reviewed the room and found that some areas needed tweaking and this has really benefitted the children. They are more engaged with their play and are exploring new areas that they wouldn't have done before. As part of the room change, we are creating a family photo tree on one of our wall boards. We as a team feel that this will give a more homely feel for the children, and it supports one of our curriculum intent statements "To treasure and celebrate family life in all its diversity". Please could you bring in some family photos from home for your child so we can add them to our board.

Sleeping

We have had a few conversations with parents about sleep time at home being difficult. We understand that it can be frustrating when bedtime routines don't go to plan, so I have attached a good link from the NHS to help with this.

https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/baby/health/sleep-and-young-children/

If you would like to discuss anything further, please feel free to speak to your child's key person. We have also recently updated our sleeping policy with regards to sleep limits. In this it states "We will respect the wishes of any parent who does not want their child to sleep. However, if we feel the child needs some sleep or more sleep than requested by parents, we will discuss with them". Again, any queries with sleep limits please speak to your child's key person and we can come up with something together that bests suits the child's needs.

Preschool

I can't believe I am writing this already, but it is nearly that time to say goodbye to some of our friends and wish them the best of luck at school.

This is a sad time for us as we have made the most wonderful memories and shared some beautiful times together and it is never easy to say goodbye, but it is a time to celebrate and remember all the good times together!
I cannot write about memories without mentioning the wedding of the year as I am reflecting back. This all came from the children initiating this by being Mummy and Daddy and wanting to get married. Of course, I had to follow this through and orchestrate a preschool wedding, including everything and everyone. The children loved every moment of this and were truly captivated and immersed in the play. The children chose the roles they would like to play and each and every one stepped up to the role and came together to capture this beautiful moment and be truly present.

We had a vicar, bridesmaids, bride, groom, flower girls and boys, wedding guests, church music, bouquets of flowers and everything and more. We didn't just stop at one wedding but many, many weddings over the course of the week…who needs a royal wedding when we can have a preschool wedding!
This really does sum up our time together in preschool, filled with laughter, imagination, creativity, teamwork and of course above all full of love.

There are many wonderful memories and personal moments the children have achieved and which we have celebrated every single day. They have flourished in their own individual and personal ways and we often sit back and reflect on the journey they have all been on. From confidence building to problem solving, to engineering and being mathematicians. To developing empathy, kindness, passion, drive and having the biggest heart and not leaving anyone behind…what can I say: Team Preschool!!!

Good luck to all of our school leavers and welcome to all of our new friends ready to start on their own adventure with us.

Bristol Childcare Recipe

Lemon chicken with pesto

To serve a family of 4

Ingredients:

4 chicken breasts
400g linguine

For the pesto:

Bunch of fresh basil (approx. 100g)
2 garlic cloves
1 lemon - zest and juice
50g grated parmesan
50ml olive oil

Method:

Blend all the pesto ingredients in a food processor.
Chop the chicken into bitesize pieces and marinate in the pesto.
Cook the linguine.
Stiry fry the marinated chicken, then add to the linguine.

Can you review us?...

Would you be able to leave us a review on Day Nurseries website? It really helps new parents to choose.

https://www.daynurseries.co.uk/review-submit/6543218400

Social Media

To keep up to date on all our activities, please follow us:

https://www.facebook.com/bristolchildcareltd

https://www.instagram.com/bristolchildcare/?hl=en

Training for parents

We have been asked to share this with all our families by the South Gloucestershire Early Years team.

https://inourplace.co.uk/south-gloucestershire/

Free online courses for all parents, carers, grandparents and teens

Nurturing emotional health and wellbeing from bump to 19+ years

South Gloucestershire Council, in partnership with the Solihull Approach, offer free access to online courses expertly designed for parents, carers, grandparents and teens living in the region.

Sign up to understand your child's feelings, as well as your own, as you go through life as a family. Learn to understand the changes in your child's development and how to support them, whilst also strengthening your relationship.

MURMURATION COMMUNITY THERAPY

New SEND Parent Carer Nurture Groups

Starting Tuesday 24th September 2024
Initial Zoom 1 to 1 plus 8 in person sessions.
Nurture Group are intimate circles of SEND parents to find belonging and support, build resilience and learn ways to stay well on the challenging path.

Upper Horfield - Tuesday - 10.30am - 12 noon (1st October)
Upper Horfield Children's Centre, 34 Sheridan Rd, Horfield, BS7 0PU
To book Horfield click here

Oldbury Court - Tuesday - 13.00-2.30pm (1st October)
Oldbury Court Children's Centre, Frenchay Rd, Downend, Bristol BS16 2QS
To book Oldbury Court click here

Places are free, we welcome donations.

FOR MORE INFO AND TO BOOK VISIT
MURMURATIONCOMMUNITYTHERAPY.COM
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