

Need to know

Nursery Manager Katie Townsend
Deputy Manager Amelia Dann

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 Katie for details.

You can view our 4-week menu online at www.bristolchildcare.co.uk/meals/menus. Our cycle of Winter Menus started on 4th November 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

Nursery will close at 3pm on Tuesday 24th December and reopen on Thursday 2nd January 2025.

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

Welcome from Katie

Dear parents and carers.

We have all been busy over the last few months, lots of the children have been enjoying watching and talking about the changes they are seeing in the environment and getting out in the wet weather. Please ensure you send your child/children in with appropriate clothing to go into the garden whatever the weather!



We have recently bought some lovely twin baby dolls for the children in twos and will be getting twins for each room. We are asking if anyone has any premature baby or little baby sized clothes they no longer want, please do donate them to the nursery so we can dress our babies.

Staff have been busy catching up on online training and face to face safeguarding training and paediatric first aid. Some of us have attended 3 sessions of Dr Gemma Goldenberg's training on 'Understanding Babies' Brain Development' which we found interesting. She talks about 'Serve and Return', which is when a child shows a need or an interest in something (Serve), either by babbling, gesturing, crying or looking. We adults need to respond appropriately (Return) with eye contact, words or physical contact. These interactions positively stimulate the brain and build the neural connections that support development of communication and social skills. Gemma states that "early years environments should be rich in serve and return experiences for all children". She emphasises how important it is that staff are present in the moment with babies and children, not spending time on tablets recording information and taking photographs. This really ties in and supports our approach, which I always discuss with you at your parent induction meetings when you join us. If you would like any further information about this, please let me know.

Now that the days are getting darker and wetter, we have found a really great app that provides free or inexpensive activities you can do at home with your little one to keep them entertained while being stuck indoors. The app is called Easy Peasy. All you need to do is put your little one's date of birth in and it will provide a variety of activities you can do with them. These can include activities to support communication, fine motor skills, cognitive development, tidying up, bedtime and many, many more! If you try out any of these activities at home, please send in photos and let us know if you and your little one have any favourites. We hope this can provide you with some new and exciting ideas of things you can do at home on rainy days.

Continued...

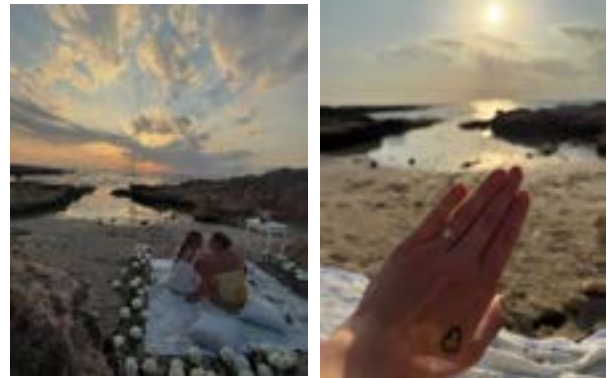
Welcome from Katie, continued

Chloë celebrated her wedding back in August, it was an amazing day and she finished it off with a trip Los Angeles.



We would also like to say congratulations to Jemima who is expecting her first little one in March 2025 – she will be going on maternity leave at the end of January and Georgia will be stepping in to cover Twos Room Lead from January while she is on maternity leave. We will keep you updated on any other staffing as we go along.

We also want to say a huge congratulations to Maisie and her partner Faye on their engagement. They went away to Cyprus for their 3 year anniversary in October, where Maisie asked the big question on the beach! We wish them all the best for the planning of their big day.



Through December we will be looking at Christmas traditions that families have, if you have anything you would like to share, please do pass this onto the teams.

We are coming up to the countdown to Christmas, so below are some dates for your diary:

Monday 4th November - Winter menu starts

Tuesday 10th December from 3pm - **Twos** – Decorate your own Christmas cookies afternoon from details to follow

Thursday 12th December from 2pm - **Pre-school** – Christmas carol singing afternoon - details to follow

Friday 13th December - **Babies** – Christmas Hot chocolate and Biscuit decoration from 3pm – details to follow

Wednesday 18th December - Christmas lunch

Friday 20th December - Christmas party day events

We will close on Tuesday 24th December at 3pm and will reopen on Thursday 2nd January 2025

Katie

Update from Saffia Bullock, Managing Director



We have been very excited this autumn to bring huge pumpkins into each nursery. The photo is of my husband, Matthew, who grows the pumpkins – this year they were all huge – sadly maybe an indication of how much rain we have had! We did enjoy sharing this moment with the children and staff and you will have seen how much they were appreciated.



At Bristol Childcare, we try and grow as much fruit and vegetables as we can. This autumn, as well as pumpkins, we have had a bumper crop of cooking apples and cabbages. It's so nice for the children and staff to enjoy the taste and health benefits of really fresh fruit and veg – even if the cooks do sometime say “not more cabbages”! This is all part of our family ethos; we try to make nursery feel as homely as possible for the children and staff. Thank you to our cooks who do such a good job of using what we grow.

PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Believe it or not, it is already time for some parents to start thinking about primary school applications. Here is some useful information provided by Bristol City Council.

A guide for **parents and carers** on applying for a **primary school** place for the school year **2025–2026**

If your child was born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021 you will need to apply for a school place by 15 January 2025

What do I need to do to apply for a school place?

- Check the guidance on applying for schools – available at www.bristol.gov.uk/schooladmissions, or by contacting School Admissions. The guidance contains details on how & when to apply, information on each school along with their admissions policy and oversubscription criteria. With the mix of different types of school from Church schools, Foundation schools, Academies, Free Schools and Community schools the admissions policy could be different for each school you put as a preference so it's important to ensure you check this carefully.
- Some schools require supplementary forms to be completed as well as the common application form. Make sure you check if this applies to the school(s) you are interested in.
- Visit the schools. All schools hold open days. Contact the school directly for further details on open days.
- Look at the school's prospectus and its website which are useful sources of information.
- You can name up to three school preferences. We advise you to name more than one school.
- Make sure you apply on-time. The deadline is 15 January 2025.

School Admissions (CH)
Bristol City Council
PO Box 3399, Bristol, BS1 9NE
www.bristol.gov.uk/schooladmissions
e school.admissions@bristol.gov.uk
t 0117 903 7694

REMEMBER THE DEADLINE
15 January 2025
APPLY ONLINE

Why apply online?

- The system helps you by checking for errors.
- There is no risk that your application will be lost in the post.
- It is quick and easy to do.
- You will get an immediate email confirming that your application has been received.
- You will receive an email notification of the outcome of your application on the same day as the offer letters are posted.
- The system is available 24 hours a day until the final submission time of midnight on 15 January 2025.

Apply online www.bristol.gov.uk/schooladmissions

TRADING WITH SCHOOLS BRISTOL LEARNING CITY
www.bristol.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Saffia

Baby Room

As we have approached autumn, we have been exploring autumnal colours and activities in the Baby Room. We have gathered an array of resources of these colours to present to the children to explore using their senses. As the children are in their Sensorimotor stage, this went down extremely well as the children were drawn to each resource and its 'purpose'. We looked closely at the textures within the tray and used all senses to extend this experience. We crunched the wrappers to create a sound to hear, we squashed the pumpkins to use our fine motor muscles to feel, and the children also had their own ideas of how to use the resources within the tray as they sipped from the teacup and pushed objects inside of the cups.

We have been looking into our themed days through the months as we celebrated national 'Roald Dahl Day' as well as 'Talk like a Pirate Day'. These have been clear favourites from the children as Juliette led an activity for play dough printing using bugs wrapped up in orange play dough to mimic the idea of 'James and the Giant Peach', a Roald Dahl classic! The children removed the insects from the dough and spoke about their findings. We added the correlating labels to each insect and then looked at the print it left behind. The children were engaged for a long period of time and adapted their own outcomes through interest - e.g some used the shape cutters, and others came with plates to pretend to make food.

For 'Talk like a Pirate Day', Georgia created a tuff tray of various resources to create a beach theme. We then dressed as pirates with the sensory scarves to make head scarves. Chloë then got the soft play equipment out and created a boat where we sang 'Portside Pirates' as we rowed back and forward - this can be found on YouTube by the creator of 'Barefoot Books' if you wish to do this at home. Chloe H supported to extend the boat as we had so many Baby passengers wanting to come aboard from all the excitement of singing - what great fun we had!

We have been out on some autumnal walks and have enjoyed collecting sticks to create our beautiful forest school inspired nature wands! Georgia supported the Babies in the garden to collect leaves to dry out to crumble up and stick on star templates. This was a great sensory experience, especially for the younger children as they used their palmar grasp to crunch the leaves. We then went to Redcatch Park for a seasonal walk and collected sticks, conkers, and leaves for our tuff tray to explore but also to finish our nature wands. The children were so pleased to see the outcome as they take pride of place hanging on our wall.

Although we will miss the summer, we are looking forward to officially welcoming autumn to do many more seasonal activities and crafts.



Two's Room

From September we have been very lucky to have Shelley come in from Talking Tots. The Twos have been having a fantastic time with Shelley every Tuesday morning. She has done lots of activities with us all focused-on listening, attention, focus, speech and language, which is what we are working on currently with our Twos. They have all been super engaged. We do activities such as an impulse control activity which they have to place the ball into their tube but only when Shelley says 'Go', rolling the big yellow ball to our peers when asked, singing songs. Their favourite was 'Old MacDonald' where they enjoyed matching the animal sound to the animal. This has been so beneficial to us and Shelley will continue to come in and carry out fun activities with us every Tuesday!



We have all been having fun exploring musical instruments! We have explored the different sounds they all make. We can play them loudly and quietly, fast and slow.

The Twos have also been singing some of our core songs while playing the instruments, our favourite to sing is 'Old MacDonald'! We love thinking of all the different animals you find on a farm and finding the animals that we were singing about in our resources!



With the season changing, we decided to have an autumn themed day. We painted a big pumpkin using paints that smelt of ginger, cinnamon and thyme. The children talked about what they could smell, one child said they smelled "spicy!"

We also used leaves for printing. We talked about the different colours of the leaves and paints and how the leaves change colour when it is autumn.



Roald Dahl Day

Happy 'Roald Dahl Day' from the Twos Room! We had a fantastic day with lots of different activities. We looked at and read parts of some of the Roald Dahl books. We created a giant peach by sticking orange tissue paper on our peach template for the book *James and The Giant Peach*.



We created some potions with food colouring and lavender for *George's Marvellous Medicine*.



We had chocolate gloop and moulds for *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. The Twos were very engaged in this and maintained a lovely focus.



Preschool

During the past few months Preschool have been super busy! We have been looking at autumn and talking about what happens during the autumn months.

The whole of Preschool went on an autumn walk to Arnos Vale Park and Perretts Park. We collected leaves, twigs, sticks and stones and took them back Preschool with us. On our autumn adventures we saw squirrels, snails and lots of other creatures and bugs in their homes. We looked at them very closely and carefully and spoke about what these animals eat and where they sleep. When we got back to Preschool we used our collected items to make an 'autumn box.' Using these items we thought of some fun and creative activities to do such as tuff trays, painting and junk modelling.

Following on with our autumn learning, Preschool have been being very creative with some autumn painting. Summer drew around each of the children's arms to create a tree trunk. The children then used finger painting to create leaves falling from the trees. Now autumn has arrived, we will be displaying these in our creative area!



Bristol Childcare Recipe

Pear and Ginger Bake

Serves 8

Ingredients:

150g unsalted butter, softened
80g soft brown sugar
290g can pitted prunes in fruit juice (175g drained weight)
300g self raising flour
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
2 tsp vanilla extract
2 heaped tsp ground ginger
2 tsp ground cinnamon
2 medium eggs
400g can pear halves in juice (230g drained weight)



Method:

Heat the oven to 190 degrees, grease and line the tin.

Beat the butter and sugar until fluffy, drain the prunes, saving the juice for later, and add them to the mixing bowl. Beat for a few minutes to break up the fruit.

Add the flour, bicarbonate of soda, vanilla, ginger, cinnamon and eggs, along with 80ml of the prune juice.

Whisk well until a smooth batter is formed, but do not overmix.

Pour the batter into the tin, level the the top and arrange the pear halves on top.

Bake on the middle shelf of the oven for 50 - 60 minutes until an inserted skewer comes out clean. (Check after 30 minutes and if top is starting to brown too quickly, make a foil hat and place over the top to stop it burning).

Once cooked, allow to cool for 5 minutes in the tin before transferring to a wire rack.



Social Media



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

