

# COURT HOUSE DAY NURSERY NEWSLETTER



## 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 by clicking [here](#).

Our cycle of Winter Menus started on 3rd November.

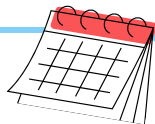
You can contact Managing Director Saffia Bullock at any time via e-mail: [saffia.bullock@bristolchildcare.co.uk](mailto:saffia.bullock@bristolchildcare.co.uk)

## DATES

**Friday 12th December 2025**

Christmas Stay and Play  
2.30pm - 5pm

Look out for more news about this nearer the time.



## WELCOME FROM KATIE

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are at that time of year again where we are saying goodbye to the warm summer sun and welcoming in all the changes of the seasons and having our school leavers go off on their next adventure.

The team have been working hard to change the rooms around, improve resources and experiences for the children. Staff will be sending out Moments to ParentZone for support with family photos etc, so please do keep an eye out for these.

We would like to welcome Grace into the team; you may have seen her about and saw the introduction post we sent out on ParentZone. We will also be welcoming Jemima back in December, where she will be working with Chloë and the team in the baby room, Georgia will continue to be the Twos room lead. We will sadly be saying goodbye to Juliette at the end of January 2026, she will be going off on a new adventure with her partner travelling to New Zealand. We will keep you posted on the recruitment process as this happens, as we want to be sure that we find the right person to join our team.

Before we know it, we will be thinking about the countdown to Christmas. We will be focusing on family traditions, so please feel free to share these with the staff in your room through ParentZone so we can talk about all the different ways we celebrate.

We will be closing at 3pm on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December and returning in the new year as normal on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2026. We ask that you let us know if you plan to be away around this time so that we can plan accordingly. Please do send over an email to us using the subject line as Christmas 2025 and we can get this updated. We will not be booking in any additional hours on these days.

We will be holding a Christmas stay and play on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025 from 2:30-5pm. We will send out more details shortly and if it is your child's day to attend nursery, we will ask for a family member to attend and be with them during the stay and play. If you are not available, then we will allocate a staff member to be with your child that afternoon. If it is not your day to attend but would like to come along to the stay and play with your child, we will shortly be asking you to let us know so we can add you to the list of people attending and Sarah can plan accordingly. We will not be booking in additional hours for this day. Please look out for a ParentZone moment regarding this shortly.



We look forward to sharing all the lovely learning experiences the team has planned over the next few months.



*katie*



**The Court House Day Nursery**  
270 Wells Rd, Knowle, Bristol, BS4 2PU  
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 [bristolchildcare](#)  
 [bristolchildcareltd](#)  
[bristolchildcare.co.uk](http://bristolchildcare.co.uk)



# Update from Saffia Bullock, Managing Director



Welcome to our new look newsletter! Thank you to Jess and Nicky at Head Office for creating this fantastic design.

As always, time is flying by with lots going on across Bristol Childcare. I would like to give a particular welcome to all our new families, I hope you are all settling in well. Thank you so much to those of you who shared feedback in our settling in questionnaires – this is really appreciated as it helps us reflect and learn where we can improve, but also to celebrate where what we are doing is working well for families.

Over the last few months I have been working with the group Unplugged Early Years. The group introduces themselves as follows:

*Unplugged Early Years is a grassroots movement dedicated to nurturing real-world connections in childhood by raising awareness of the hidden impact of screen time on children. We believe that the early years are a sacred window of growth and attachment, best supported through play, presence, and human connection. Grounded in developmental science and a deep respect for the child's natural pace, we offer compassionate guidance to parents, carers, and early years settings. Our focus is not fear - but informed, conscious choice. Through community, education, and advocacy, we're helping families reclaim slow, simple childhoods rooted in story, conversation, outdoor play, and loving relationships.*

*Together, we're creating a culture that protects the wellbeing of our children and generations to come.*

What has been really positive talking to them is the focus on supporting us all to make tiny changes that mean we can keep up with all the tech we have to use in life these days, without impacting on our children – eg leaving your phone in another room during meal times, bath times, bedtimes. It's not about shaming parents, but asking all of us to reflect on our screen use and see what we are role modelling to our children.

They are helping us to think about this with a pledge and are sharing resources to support us all learn about the impact of technology on younger children and what they are missing out on if our focus is on screens.

## PARENTZONE COMMS

Hopefully you will have all received the email sent out at the beginning of October with a PDF of a document showing how you can use the Communications tab on ParentZone. If not, you can find a link to the document on our website on the ParentZone Help page. We hope you find this useful.



## THE BEST START IN LIFE



The Best Start in Life website has replaced the Childcare Choices website as the main source of information for early education and childcare support - offering a broader range of resources for families, including eligibility for childcare offers, information about free breakfast clubs and Best Start Family Hubs in their area, and support on pregnancy through to starting school and beyond.

<https://www.beststartinlife.gov.uk/>

We have also been sent information about videos created by the Royal Foundation for the Centre for Early Childhood. You can find the videos, called The Explainer Series, at this [link](#) – they are about subjects like how we grow a healthy brain and navigating feelings – please let us know if you find these helpful.

I look forward to seeing some of you at our Christmas celebrations!

Saffia

How has summer come to an end already and autumn is upon us? We have had such a fun filled summer and have welcomed autumn with open arms, as we have had so much sunshine that the cooler weather has come at a perfect time.

This summer we have looked closely at one of our core books – *The Colour Monster*. The children have been responsive in discussing their emotions at circle time as well as spontaneously discussing colour and so what better way to explore this than to go through colour matching with our emotions. Chloë painted some colour monster rocks and hid these in some recycled shredded paper and so we spent the morning promoting discovery by finding the colour monsters and making links to the book. Some of the children’s parents have told us their children are interested in colours and so this was great for making links and extending home learning. As well as this, we extended this further with colour matching pompoms to our colour monsters and setting out trays with focus on different colours. This was great for language acquisition as we spent a lot of time labelling our findings and making links.

As well as an element of discovery, we have been getting arty with lots of mark making. We have used an array of mark making tools to create masterpieces with intent of expressing arts and design and making links to our other activities involving colour and shapes. The children really enjoyed this as it was set out with the children to explore freely – allowing them to touch the paint with their hands or choose to use a paintbrush. It was lovely seeing the children’s ideas come to life and they were proud of their progress as well as the end result.

As summer has come to an end, we have been spending time on outings to collect leaves, conkers, and sticks to explore in our tuff tray. We also took a trip to the library to see if we could get any autumnal themed books for our play. The children enjoyed this and it was lovely to be cosied up reading books together. We have enjoyed touching on the autumnal play and cannot wait to explore it further as we get deep into the autumn and head into winter!



We have had a busy few months and made the most of the lovely sunshine this summer. We have really enjoyed our trips on the bus to the centre of Bristol to look at the boats along the harbour and our walks to the local parks. We have also shown a lot of interest in princesses by dressing up and requesting princess play within the room.

Recently we walked to Redcatch Park to find some conkers to add to our autumnal tray, we then put them in the tuff tray to make an autumn scene where the children could explore different textures such as the conkers, leaves and the woodland animals. We have also enjoyed taking part in arts and craft activities to add to our autumnal display. Tracey set up a mark making activity and provided us with the pen dabbers to create them and we also used glue sticks to stick tissue paper on the tree to represent the leaves falling from the tree.

We also really enjoyed our 'Talk like a Pirate Day' and loved exploring in the pirate tuff tray set up by Georgia. The children used the magnifying glasses to find treasure whilst singing along to the song book *Portside Pirates*. The 2's then made pirate bandanas and loved dancing along to some pirate music. We also got some boxes and made our very own pirate ships! After all the children showed they were ready to jump aboard our pirate ship and join the twos pirate crew, we decided to have our very own pirate naming ceremony where all the children were given their very own and unique pirate names on a pirate themed sticker. We then had a couple of different activities set out where the children could make their own flag and maps to go aboard their ships. The children had a fun day and were really engaged when learning about pirates through stories and songs.

Christmas will be upon us before you know it so we have started to get prepared for our December stay and play by creating decorations to put in our room which you will be able to see when you attend the stay and play.





# PRESCHOOL



Preschool have been very busy over these past months and have had lots of fun. As September is a month of changes we have been busy transforming the room to create a more exciting environment for the children to engage and learn. Amber has been busy with the children make lots of signs and artwork for our cloak room, birthday board and creative areas. We have also introduced a 'Family Wall' where the children have their family's pictures in frames on the shelf near the home corner. The children have absolutely loved having their pictures taking pride of place on the shelf with their loved ones. It has sparked conversations with the children about who they live with and their experiences with their families; this links to one of our core stories *The Great Big Book of Families*. If your child in Preschool does not yet have their photo of them and their family, please feel free to send them in with the children or via email. We are also kindly asking that if you have any free or unused photo frames, please could you bring these in so that we can use them for our family wall. We have a small collection of them up and displayed already and would love to add you all to this.



We have also been taking many trips to the library at Broadwalk Shopping Centre, where we now have our own library card. The children have loved going to the library and looking for books that are related to the theme of the week. For example recently it was 'Talk like a Pirate Day' so Preschool took a walk to the library and found lots of pirate themed books that we read at group times. We look forward to having more trips to the library to find more interesting books.

Over these next couple of months leading up to Christmas we will be thinking about ideas for our stay and play and talking a lot about what we do with our families over the Christmas period. If you have any family Christmas traditions, please let the Preschool team know as we would love to talk about this with the children and their friends in Preschool.





New for  
2025

## Five Bean Chilli

To serve a family of 4

### Ingredients

- 1 onion, finely diced
- 1 garlic clove
- 1 carrot, diced
- 1 stick of celery
- 400g mixed beans
- 1 tbsp tomato puree
- 400g chopped tomatoes
- 1 tsp smoked paprika
- 1 tsp chilli powder
- 200g peas
- 100g grated cheese
- 300g potatoes

### Method

1. Fry the onions and garlic in a little oil until soft, then add the carrots and celery. Sauté for another five minutes.
2. Add the tomato puree and spices and cook for 2 minutes.
3. Add the beans, peas and chopped tomatoes and leave to simmer for 10 minutes.
4. Serve with potato wedges and top with grated cheese.

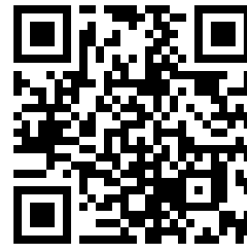
# PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES 2026-2027



If your child was born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 and 31 August 2022, you will need to apply for a school place by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

Find out more here: [www.bristol.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

**DEADLINE**



## A guide for **parents and carers** on applying for a **primary school** place for the school year **2026-2027**

If your child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 you will need to apply for a school place by 15 January 2026



TRADING WITH SCHOOLS

BRISTOL LEARNING CITY



[www.bristol.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

## 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](http://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 2026.

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



## 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 2026.

Apply online [www.bristol.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/schooladmissions)



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# BRISTOL PARENTING GROUPS



## Bristol Parenting Groups

- Are you pregnant or a parent of a 0 - 8 year old?
- Would you like to add ideas and skills to your parenting toolbox?
- Would you like to develop more confidence in your parenting?
- Would you like to understand your child better?

**Free groups for adults run by Bristol Children's Centres**

Scan here to find out more and register your interest!

Your parenting toolbox:

- Listening
- Play
- Praise
- Nurture
- Empathy
- Connection

For more information please call: **07721 311 497**  
or email: **pssso@bristol.gov.uk**

Once you have registered your interest via:  
**[www.bit.ly/BristolParentingGroups](http://www.bit.ly/BristolParentingGroups)** we will be in touch to find the best group option for you.



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