

# MORNINGTON HOUSE DAY NURSERY NEWSLETTER



## NEED TO KNOW

**Nursery Manager** | Diane James  
**Co-Deputy Managers** | Sally King  
Megan Woolnough

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.



## WELCOME FROM DIANE

Welcome to our winter newsletter!

We said fond farewells to the Preschool children who have left to join their new primary schools. We have seen and heard from lots of them, they are settling in well and enjoying their new experiences. It has been lovely to hear that we helped prepare them well by supporting their independence and growing resilience.

All rooms have welcomed new children, lots of new babies have joined us for the first time, some children have moved up to the Twos room and others into Preschool. We hope that our gentle settling-in process over a period of time has meant that this has been as smooth a transition as possible for all the children (and parents too!)

We have some exciting news - Tia and her long-term partner, Badr got married! Megan and Jo were bridesmaids and Jo's little son was a page boy. They followed their wedding with a long trip to Morocco to visit family. We wish them many congratulations and every happiness in their future together.

I can hardly believe that we've had to plan our Christmas dates! Please add them to your diaries. We will also be doing our usual collection for the Julian Trust Night Shelter throughout December and I will share more information about this nearer the time.

Please note that we close at 3pm on Christmas Eve and re-open at 7.30am on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January. If your child won't be attending nursery on either of these days, please let us know so that I can plan for staff annual leave.

*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 Diane 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



**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December - 2.30pm**  
Christmas parties - children and staff

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December - 4pm**  
Christmas Carol Singalong - all welcome

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December - 12pm**  
Christmas Lunch - children and staff

Nursery will close at 3pm on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December and reopen on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2026.



**Mornington House Day Nursery**  
Mornington Road, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 2UU  
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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

The babies have been exploring the changing of the seasons. They have been really interested in the falling leaves, the squirrels in the garden and their new outerwear. To respond to their interests and expand their learning we created an autumn tuff tray including pine cones, sticks, logs and lots of fallen leaves of all shapes and sizes. We have also been encouraging them to independently get their coats from their peg and to put their own hats on.



The baby room also went on a little outing to Clifton Down train station. They had their morning snack there and enjoyed watching the trains coming and going.





The children have had lots of fun playing with the pipettes and spray bottles that had water and food colouring in to create some lovely autumn colour pictures. They demonstrated great perseverance and fine motor skills trying to get the bottles to spray and keeping the water in the tray.

The children are very interested in art and creative activities such as dino painting, apple printing and autumn tree painting using their fingerprints. We have also been practising our fine motor skills using scissors to cut up scrap paper and to cut out their own artwork.

They have also enjoyed making their own pizzas for afternoon snack. They used knives to spread the tomato paste, and weighed out the cheese before grating it.



We have loved being in the garden all summer. Lots of the children have learned how to use the balance bikes safely. We've also been using our climbing frame and learning how to wait patiently for the person in front to go down the slide first.



# PRESCHOOL



The preschool children have been enjoying exploring the playdough and extending that learning into clay. They have made bowls and fossils and have learned the names of different fossils and ammonites.

They've also been learning about the seasons and have been exploring the crispy leaves and making potions. They've also learned how to do leaf rubbings.

They love role-play and a recent interest has been playing 'cats' and pretending to have a cat sanctuary. There has been a lot of miaowing in preschool!

We had a good sort out and tidy up in the mud kitchen and the children have been really enjoying playing there, making cakes and pies and yummy dinners!

They have been dancing and singing, using musical instruments and ribbons. Sally brought in her guitar and the children learned how to use a pick and had a go at strumming. We learnt about how the Capo makes sounds higher and lower, about vibrations by touching the body of the guitar whilst strumming. It was very relaxing for everyone.

As you know, we had a few storms and the children have been very interested to learn about what causes thunderstorms and lightning. That led into discussions about 'where does rain come from?' and learning all about that too.





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.

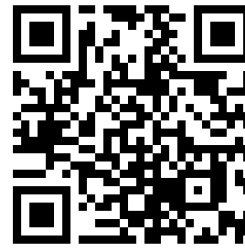
# PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES 2026-2027



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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