

THE PRIORY DAY NURSERY NEWSLETTER



NEED TO KNOW

Nursery Manager | Justine Richardson
Acting 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 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 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

WELCOME FROM JUSTINE

Dear Parents and Carers,

Over the summer months we were sad to see the School Leavers go to 'pastures new' and start their new adventure to 'big' school. We have had a few visits from the children in their smart uniform feeling very proud that they are now too big for nursery. We would like to welcome all new families to the nursery. I hope you enjoy your time here and feel very welcomed.

As you all know Kerry has relocated and started her new role as a Manager in London. From what I have heard she is really enjoying it and has settled in well, enjoying the London life! We have exciting news; we have recruited Emily Sumner and she will join us as Deputy Manager and SENCO on 1 December. We are really looking forward to welcoming Emily to our team. Thank you to Amelia Dann from our nursery The Court House who has been supporting cover these roles since Kerry left. Amelia will remain with us at The Priory during December to help Emily settle in to her new role.

Lastly, we would like to congratulate Muna on her marriage to Mahdi in early October. They enjoyed their ceremony in Manchester with family and friends.



SHARE A SKILL



We are always interested in learning new skills. Do you have a skill that you would like to share with us? If so, please do get in touch.

JOIN YOUR CHILD FOR LUNCH



We are very proud of our home cooked meals at our nurseries. If you would like to join us for lunch, let us know and we can arrange a time for you to come in.

CAKE SALE



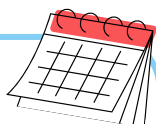
Thank you to everyone who made or bought cakes. Our cake sale raised £87.33.

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS



Please note that we will be closing at 3pm on Wednesday 24th December and will reopen on Friday 2nd January. To help with our staffing, please let us know if your child will be attending on that Friday.

DATES



Thursday 11th December
Christmas Jumper Day

Thursday 18th December - 2-3.30pm
Christmas Crafts - all children and families

Friday 19th December
Christmas lunch - children and staff

Tuesday 23rd December - 2 - 4pm
Christmas party - all children



Justine



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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 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.

We have also been sent information about videos created by the Royal Foundation for the Centre for Early Childhood.

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/>

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.

Congratulations to Justine and the team who did an amazing job at our pilot Ofsted inspection. I was so grateful to everyone for their positivity about taking part. The day was hard work but well worth it as it will help us understand the changing procedures and prepare for our next inspection. We do not get a report as part of the pilot but we reached “expected standard” in all areas and strong for inclusion so we were very happy with this. Thank you to all those who gave feedback, it was much appreciated.

Saffia



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How lucky have we been this summer with the beautiful weather we had, allowing us to get outside and get lots of fresh air and Vitamin D. Baby room has had so much fun in the garden playing in the sand and plenty of water play every day keeping them nice and cool.

Now the weather is getting colder we will continue to get outside and get as much fresh air as we can, so can I ask that all children come prepared with outdoor clothing as well as suitable shoes as it can get very muddy and we don't want to ruin their lovely clothes and shoes.

If we can't get out due to the weather then we will bring outside indoors with water and sand play so plenty changes of clothes in their bags as we may get messy indoors too with activities.

At the beginning of the summer we introduced the children to heuristic play. This is a type of play that involves everyday items that we have around the home. We give the children the opportunity to have free play without adult interaction which allows them to explore different textures and use their imagination to flow freely, listening to calming music in the background while we watch and observe.

Baby room has said goodbye to some of the older babies who have reached an age where they are ready to move into the 2's room. It has been lovely to see them grow and develop to this stage and to see them settling so nicely in the next room.

We have also said hello to new children who have joined us over the last few months and are all settling in so nicely.

Thankyou to all the parents who have brought nappies in with the change of funding rules. Please don't forget to keep your child's supply topped up.

Lastly, with the cold weather returning, can I ask that children come in suitably dressed with jumpers and socks; we also welcome slippers as outdoor shoes are taken off in the room.



We had the most amazing summer here in the two's room. We enjoyed the beautiful weather and spent all our time in the garden. We were very lucky to be able to take the children on a few trips throughout the summer.

One of our favourites was when we attempted the Gromit trail in the Bristol city centre. We started off getting the bus into town and our first stop was at 'We the Curious'. Here we picked up our trail map and planned the route we were going to take. We talked about the importance of maps and navigation as it helps us find the right way and prevents us from getting lost. We walked lots and lots and saw lots of different things such as the cathedral, the harbour side and a few buskers playing music in the street (of course we stopped for a little dance!). On our trail we managed to find 6 Gromits!! The children were so excited to find each one, but our favourite was definitely Oceania! We had a picnic lunch and made sure to find lots of shady spots for pit stops as it was very hot! On our way back to the bus stop we even saw a 7th Gromit sailing past us on the bow of a boat! We then finished the day with a well-deserved ice-lolly!

Now we are well and truly into autumn, we are making the most of the not so great weather by getting involved in lots of creative indoor activities. We received this massive box so of course we had to create our own bus/airplane/train/rocket! First, we used some pens to decorate it and then I used a knife to cut out some windows, I explained to the twos only I could use the knife as it was very sharp, and they had to stand back and keep their hands away. They waited very patiently and watched me with a few 'are you done yet'. Once we were finished, it was time to get on board and head off for an adventure!





PRESCHOOL



We have had so much fun throughout summer spending lots of time in the garden enjoying the sunshine, planting vegetables such as tomatoes and peppers. We have been embracing lots of water play and creating car washes with sponges and brushes, buckets and lots of bubbly soap. Together in preschool we have been getting creative with coloured chalks, making pictures of the sunshine, writing our names and making a hopscotch to develop our balancing and hand eye co-ordination. We have been exploring all things bugs and nature within our digging area, finding woodlice, ants, beetles, spiders, snails and having open conversations about the features of them and the environments they like to live in, butterflies and birds and how they move, using magnifying glasses to explore them more closely.



Also, the children have loved the sand pit, creating wonderful sandcastles and tasty food creations using pots and pans, sieves, cups and spades. Together with staff we have had conversations about keeping hydrated in the heat, the importance of wearing sun hats and applying sun cream to our skin. The children have enjoyed lots of picnics on blankets and getting excited about the freedom of space and nature. Throughout this time, we have said goodbye to many of our closest friends that have flown the nest and outgrown preschool onto their next adventure of primary school. Everyone, friends and staff wished them and their families the best of luck and have given them confidence in their next step.

During September we have welcomed some brand new children into preschool, and this has been exciting for our current children. Everyone has settled well, and their confidence is gradually building. This is a great opportunity for children to take ownership and support new friends. In addition, we have been exploring Halloween and giving children the choice of dressing up during Halloween week. This created spooky role play and encouraged bigger imagination. We enjoyed Halloween crafts using spooky spiders, pumpkins, ghosts, witches' hats and providing cutters within the playdough area. Children have been getting involved with staff making playdough using Halloween colours e.g. orange, green, purple and black, which has involved turn taking, conversations using mathematical language, supporting patience but also conversations about their Halloween experiences from home and how they celebrate.

We have been exploring books about this seasonal time of year, looking at leaves and having discussions about how the colours change from green to orange, brown and red, how the weather gets colder, and the evenings get darker earlier in the day, and why we need to wear our coats and keep warm. In addition we will be exploring Christmas and all the enjoyment it brings with putting up our annual Christmas tree and the children getting involved with decorating. We plan to make festive biscuits, create Christmas tree decorations, and work together to make festive playdough. We will have lots of discussions about how we celebrate Christmas with family, and friends and all things Father Christmas brings, so please share your family seasonal celebrations with us.



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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.

SUPPORT FOR PARENTS PROVIDED BY SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCIL



South Glos LIFE

South Glos LIFE: Local Information for Everyone. A source of information, advice and guidance for people living in South Gloucestershire, built by us with local partner organisations.



Children and families

Our children and young people and families section gives you information on services and support available locally for children, young people and families.



SEND Local Offer

Your source of information on help, services and support for families and children age 0-25 with special educational needs and disabilities.



Adults

Care and support, guidance and information for anyone over the age of 18, including helping people to be as independent as possible.



Search for services

Use keywords to find local organisations and services as well as community groups, events and activities in your area.



Information and guidance

Search for local support and guidance.

SOUTH GLOS LIFE

South Gloucestershire Council provides a range of support for families.

There is a new website - South Glos Life - where all of this info is collated:

<https://life.southglos.gov.uk/kb5/southglos/directory/home.page>



PARENTING COURSES

There are also free online parenting courses to help parents better understand their child's feelings and behaviour.

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



Online learning: free courses and resources for all South Gloucestershire families. Plus, specialist emotional and mental health learning for teenagers.

Nurturing emotional health and wellbeing from antenatal throughout childhood and adolescence. South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership, in partnership with the Solihull Approach, offers free access to inourplace evidence-based online courses expertly designed by NHS professionals.

Sign up to better understand your child's feelings and behaviour and raise them to be emotionally aware, sociable and confident. Courses are tailored for all stages of a child's development to help all family members through reflective, supportive learning without judgment.

How to sign up:

Residents can access these courses for free by entering the South Gloucestershire Access Code:

CONCORDE

at inourplace.co.uk.

inourplace



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