

THE PRIORY DAY NURSERY NEWSLETTER



NEED TO KNOW

Nursery Manager | Justine Richardson
Deputy Manager | Emily Sumner

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.

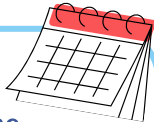
NICE TO KNOW

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](#).

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

DATES



Thursday 11th June

Next staff meeting. Nursery will close at 5.30pm. Please collect promptly at this time

Thursday 18th June

Leavers photo, 11am

Thursday 13th August

Graduation/Slideshow for preschool children, 2pm

WELCOME FROM JUSTINE

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are enjoying the garden but also being sensible in the hot weather. Just a reminder about sun cream and sunhats for the children please. (Sun cream to be applied before they come into nursery).

With the holiday season starting, if you know when your child will be absent from nursery, please give us plenty of notice so that we can reduce your bill by removing meal packages, but also making sure we can staff the nursery accordingly.

Please can I also remind you to keep to your booked hours. When you drop off early or collect late this is difficult for us to cover. Staff are on shifts for the amount of children we have in at that time. If they need to stay on to cover, there is then a 'knock on effect' i.e. having to give staff the time back.

Sadly we will be losing Verity from the twos room. Verity has decided to move to London to be near her mum, but we wish her all the luck for the future. It has been a pleasure for Verity to be part of The Priory family.

We have been busy recruiting and are delighted to welcome Amy Dawes who is Level 3 qualified and will start on 1 July. Amy will be based in the Twos room. Naima Ali is joining us on 16 June; Naima is an apprentice so will be working across the whole nursery and also at one of our other nurseries, Mornington House. We look forward to welcoming Amy and Naima and introducing them to you.

Congratulations to Victoria who has recently passed her Level 3 Apprenticeship with Aspiration Training. Victoria has worked extremely hard for this qualification and we are very pleased to have her working with us at The Priory.

Justine





Update from Saffia Bullock, Managing Director



Welcome to our summer newsletter.

It might be the same in your workplace/work sector, but in early years at the moment it feels like there is a lot of guidance and advice being released! Often this is really helpful, but it can feel a bit overwhelming trying to keep up with it all. Knowing that I feel like that, we try to be really mindful in how we pass this on to all of you. I thought including it all in one place in this newsletter might help!

For those children moving to school this year

If your child is starting school this September, over the last few weeks you will have found out which school they have been offered a place at. Starting school is an exciting milestone, but also nerve-wracking for both parents and children! To help make the transition into Reception as smooth and positive as possible a group called Starting Reception, supported by the Government, has created some resources:

[Starting Reception website](#)

[Starting Reception Guide \(PDF\)](#)




They state: Starting Reception is a free, practical online resource designed to support parents and carers in preparing their child for school. It offers simple activities, helpful advice and clear guidance on the key skills and routines that help children feel confident and ready for their first day.

Screen time

Healthy use of screens – for all of us – is a huge point of discussion at the moment. In April, the government has published screen time guidance for under 5s. You can read it here -

<https://beststartinlife.gov.uk/screen-time-under-5s/>



How much screen time should my child have?

Limit total screen time for young children, wherever possible.

- **Under 2 years:** Avoid screen time other than for shared activities with family that encourage bonding, interaction and conversation.
- **2-5 years:** Try to keep it to 1 hour a day. Less if possible.

Continued...





Update from Saffia Bullock, Managing Director



Safer Sleep

Sadly there have been some very tragic cases in two nurseries across the country in the last few years; these have been in the media recently as the staff involved were sentenced. Please be reassured that we feel very confident that we have a robust safe sleep policy and that all staff are aware of this and follow it. However, we are always evaluating and ensuring we improve and so have been following what has happened in those cases to learn from that. On top of that, the government has produced additional safer sleep guidance which is going to become part of the EYFS in September. We are using this to review and tweak our policy across all three of our teams so that everyone is involved to ensure we have the best procedures in place that we can. When the policy has been finalised we will share this with you. Please do discuss this with your nursery manager in the meantime if you would like to.

Car Seat Safety Guide

You might find this [car seat safety guide](#) useful. it's an easy-to-read flip book.



Other Updates

As part of our system of policy reviews we have recently looked at our Collection Policy. We are streamlining the process by which you let us know if someone new is collecting, which will now be by email rather than a collection form. We are currently trialling our new process; when the policy has been finalised it will be emailed to you.

The government has published plans to revise the system of support for children with SEND. The consultation closed in May; we are ensuring that we are keeping up with what is happening with this, but nothing has changed in practice at the moment.

We added a new recipe to our winter menu last year and it has proven very popular at nursery. It is a five-bean chilli that we serve with potato wedges.

We have featured it in this newsletter and hope you enjoy it as much as the children do.



Saffia





BABY ROOM



SUMMER 2026

I would like to start by saying thank you to all the parents who have brought sun cream, sunhats and water bottles into nursery for their children. It is very much appreciated.

Now the sunshine has decided to join us, on our quieter days the Baby Room have been able to have a trip to the park, the babies loved this. We are so lucky to have such a lovely park so close and we had fun on the swings, climbing frame, as well as lots of other equipment. Then on the way home we stopped in the fairy garden where the babies had a drink before we made our way back to the nursery for lunch.

We have recently had donated some single pushchairs, but we are still on the look out for more double buggies so we can have more trips to the park. If anyone has one they would like to donate, we would be very grateful.

The Baby Room has been so lucky to have a big makeover in our garden. You may have seen it in production, it is almost complete with just our sunshade to put up. We now have artificial grass and a lovely big flat open safe space for the children to run about and ride on cars.



In the playhouse we have a little book area with chairs if any of the children want to just sit quietly and chill out. We also have a wigwam which the children enjoy hiding in. It's not finished yet though, there is so much more we want to add to the garden. So if anyone has any artificial flowers, nice flags or bunting, extra balls for our ball pit, or things we can put on our walls to make the garden even better, we would be very grateful, as we will be spending as much time outside as we can so want to make it very special. Please stop and have a look if you haven't seen it yet.

We have a water tray for water play too so can we ask that children's bags are loaded with a few changes of clothes.

With the lovely weather we have been getting can I please ask that children have their sun cream on when they come to nursery, we will ask you to put cream on them before you drop off if not applied, we will then top up for the rest of the day to make sure they are protected from the sunshine. Let's hope we lots more sunshine to come.



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Sunshine has arrived at The Priory, and in Twos we are fully embracing it! We are so excited for a season full of sunshine, outdoor adventures, messy play, laughter, and lots of learning through fun. Our little ones have already been busy exploring, creating, and growing in confidence every day, and we cannot wait to share some of the lovely moments, achievements, and activities we have enjoyed together. Thank you, as always, for your continued support - we love working in partnership with our wonderful families.

Our garden has undergone some improvements in anticipation of the sunny days. The climbing frame is finally back in use after we have had our new safety matting fitted. The twos are obsessed with the climbing frame, whether building dens underneath, or figuring out new ways to climb up, they are always engaged. It is a perfect opportunity for them to take appropriate risks and challenge their physical ability.

We have created a lovely story area under the trees – our manager, Justine, was so excited she was first on the throne reading stories to the twos! We have been loving using a variety of mark-making tools in the garden such as chalks and paint. The twos love being creative and of course having the freedom to make as much mess as possible. The twos even enjoyed a cheeky ice lolly on one particularly hot day – hopefully, these few weeks have been a teaser for the rest of the summer!

We were fortunate to have a quiet morning where we were able to take the children on a trip to our local park. The learning opportunities that open up when we go on trips are incredible, from learning about road safety to sharing and social cues on the park equipment, the twos are taking it all in. Most importantly the children had so much fun, we even saw a man driving a tractor who was very kind to let the twos climb aboard and explore pressing the buttons and levers.

The staff in the twos room are always working on our professional development and how we can improve the children's experiences and build their skills while they are with us. A new initiative we have put in place is the 'Attention Bucket' (bucket time) as group activity every day. The attention bucket is a highly engaging adult-led intervention designed to capture and hold a child's attention for a period of time using a bucket filled with exciting, visually stimulating toys. The purpose of this activity is to improve focus, encourage enthusiasm and develop communication. It is beneficial to all children, not only are they developing key skills needed later on in life, but they absolutely love it. The excited screams, chanting and clapping as soon as I pick up the bucket would warm your heart! If any parents would like a more in-depth explanation or to try this at home, please ask a member of staff as the majority of us have attended attention bucket training and would be more than happy to share this with you.

Finally a lovely moment we had recently that I would like to share, was a group reading time where we used the story sack of one of our core books 'Julian is a Mermaid.' All of the twos got involved and dressed up in a selection of silks and scarves and we danced around the room whilst Verity read us the story!





PRESCHOOL



This term the children have been showing level 5 engagement in the garden by playing doctors and using each other as patients. Staff thought it would be a fun learning opportunity to teach the children about life saving techniques such as the recovery position. This brought great conversations about checking for dangers and learning the term 'ABC' which means A is for airways and what this looks like on the body, B is for breathing and signs we look out for to recognise this, C is for circulation and checking for any possible movement. Staff model the steps e.g. lifting the arm, rolling over the body, lifting the chin. The children involved in this learnt a lot of information through demonstration and asking questions, but also supporting friendships and putting trust in peers to use gentle hands to give it a go.

Lots of children have been getting involved learning about the life cycles of different living things, for example how a caterpillar grows into a butterfly from start to finish. We now have our tiny baby caterpillars to support with this. We read one of our core books 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. Staff started by asking the children what they can see at the start, someone responded by saying "eggs are stuck to a leaf", then a baby caterpillar is born, then a chrysalis emerges and hatches into a butterfly. Together we linked in the foods, days of the week and numbers to count the fruits, also this brought conversations about the children's favourite foods which was exciting and how and where they grow.

In addition, with children really enjoying maths and counting we have been exploring lots of number and alphabet puzzles which has brought great teamwork and great problem solving. To support this activity staff, sing the alphabet song with the children which brings added joy. All children are developing well with counting and recognising numbers which is fantastic. The children have been linking coloured camels together to support pattern in maths which is wonderful.

In April, we celebrated Earth Day. We provided a fun activity for the children in our water tray to support 'saving our planet and respecting the environment we live in'. Staff put rubbish e.g plastic, cardboard, crisp wrappers, in the water tray with sea animals and fishing nets to support tidying up and saving sea animals from harm and dying.





Five Bean Chilli

To serve a family of 4

Ingredients

- 1 onion
- 1 garlic clove
- Splash of oil
- 2 carrots
- 1 stick of celery
- 400g mixed beans
- 400g chopped tomatoes
- 400g peas
- 3tbsp tomato puree
- 1 tbsp smoked paprika
- 1tsp chilli powder
- Grated cheese to serve

Method

1. Finely dice the onion and garlic and sauté until soft.
2. Dice the carrots and chop the celery, add to the garlic and onions and sauté for a further five minutes.
3. Add the tomato puree and spices and cook for two minutes.
4. Add the beans, peas and chopped tomatoes and leave to simmer for 10 minutes. Sprinkle with cheese and serve with potato wedges.

SOUTH GLOS PARENTING SUPPORT



Website: <https://togetherness.co.uk/mul/south-gloucestershire/>

Use the exclusive access code: CONCORDE

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NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED JUST COME ALONG!

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Compass

DROP IN ANYTIME between 9am and 12.30pm

Need support for your family?

Drop in and chat with our friendly team

From pregnancy through to teenage years, Compass can give advice and signpost families to the right help and support available in South Glos. Drop-in sessions available weekly at local One Stop Shops:

PATCHWAY BS34 5PE **TUESDAYS**

KINGSWOOD BS15 9TR **WEDNESDAYS**

YATE BS37 4DQ **THURSDAYS**

VISIT
<https://life.southglos.gov.uk>
or scan the QR code for more information

Patchway Family Hub

Patchway Children's Centre, Epney Close, Patchway, BS34 5TF

EVERY WEDNESDAY

- 0-5yrs Stay & Play 11.30 - 12.30pm
- Portage (booking only) 10am - 11.30am
- Heath Visitors Baby Hub 1.30 - 3pm
- SGPC Drop in / Stay and Play 9.30 - 11.30am
- Barnados Breastfeeding Group 1 - 2.30pm

EVERY OTHER WEDS

- Skills Connect 1 - 3pm (1st and 3rd)

ONCE A MONTH

- 1st Weds - Relationships Matter 1:1 support 9.30 - 12.30pm
- 2nd Weds - Dads Matter 9.30am - 2pm

SOUTH GLOS PARENTING SUPPORT



<https://www.ccp.org.uk/family-support/supporting-families-with-everyday-life/supporting-families-with-everyday-life-south-gloucestershire/>

FREE Triple P and Stepping Stones Parenting Programmes



Parenting is one of the hardest jobs in the world - our free parenting courses are designed to support parents to be the best they can be

Our regular 6 week programmes will not tell you how to parent, but give you a toolbox of ideas to improve your confidence in:

The staff are amazing!
Friendly, great communication and make you feel at ease."

- Boundaries
- Routines
- Behaviour management techniques
- Looking after yourself as a parent



Our programmes are:

- Free to access
- For parents of children aged 0-12
- Run by professionals with SEN Experience
- Friendly and Non judgemental
- A chance to meet like minded people who understand your situation
- Flexible - run across the year, at different venues across South Gloucestershire, with day, evening and online options to attend

"We've seen a huge improvement in our confidence as parents. Since implementing strategies learned on the course, our family life is much calmer and happier."

For more information, get in touch via family.referrals@ccp.org.uk, or to book a place please scan the QR code



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