COURT HOUSE DAY NURSERY
NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2026

NEED TO KNOW

Nursery Manager | Katie Townsend
Deputy Manager | Chloë Parry

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

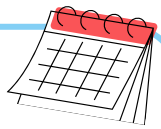
All nursery policies are available for you to read on our website. To access them, you will need to login – please contact Katie for details.

You can view our 4-week menu online by clicking here.

Our cycle of Winter Menus starts on 2nd November.

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

DATES



Monday 2nd November
Winter menu starts

Friday 11th December
Christmas Jumper Day

Wednesday 16th December
Christmas Dinner Day

Friday 18th December
Christmas Stay and Play - 3pm-5pm



WELCOME FROM KATIE



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a very busy few months, the staff and children have enjoyed the great weather we have had and getting outside as much as possible. We are now fast approaching the colder months and looking forward to observing all the changes that are coming.

As a team we have some great training coming up that focuses on disadvantaged and vulnerable children. Ofsted believe that if we get it right for those children, we will get it right for all children. Every setting has been given some 'inclusive early years funding' by the Department of Education which is to help providers adopt setting-wide inclusive practices, enabling early intervention for children where needed. We will be having whole team training with Cheryl Warren, who is an early years SEND consultant. Cheryl will come to nursery for a day in February to observe, support, model and coach the team around neuroinclusive practice. She will focus on environments, transitions, engagement and behaviour strategies. As well as this face-to-face training, the team will complete some online modules to support our learning which we will do together in our staff meetings. We will continue to close at 5:30pm on the last Thursday of each month to support our continuous training so please ensure to collect on time so we can get a prompt start. Thank you all for your continued support as always.

Grace's maternity leave will start at the end of November, Ruby's will start in mid January and Chloë P will start hers in mid March. What a lot of babies to look forward to meeting!

We will keep you posted on who will be taking on Baby Room Manager and Deputy roles. We are also currently recruiting and will update you once we have found the right people to add to our team.

Maisie has joined the baby room team; she has loved her time in the pre-school room, however, it's time for her to take on a new challenge and experience a different age group. She is very excited to get to know all your little ones in this room! We are also going to see Aideen move to the pre-school room to take on Ruby's key children, you will be seeing her more often in the preschool room, over the coming months to make this transition smoother for both pre-school and the twos room.

We will be closing at 3pm on Thursday 24th December – please ensure you let us know if you plan to be in on that day, so we can plan and staff accordingly. We will not be taking any additional bookings for this date. If you plan to be off please send us an email as soon as possible, so we can get you marked off and meal packages credited. We ask that if you are booked in on Thursday 24th, you collect promptly as the nursery will close at 3pm. Handovers will need to be completed before this time, to allow our staff to get home to their own families for the festive period. We will be reopening on Monday 4th January 2027.

We look forward to sharing all the fun moments from now until then!

katie



Update from Saffia Bullock, Managing Director

WINTER 2026

Autumn is always a busy time – but fun – as we reorganise and focus on training and preparing for the academic year ahead.

In September I attended an early years conference in Cornwall and met some really exciting speakers and am delighted to have been able to secure an inspirational speaker called Alice Sharp to lead some training with our staff team next year. This will be on Thursday 4 March 2027 and we will be closing early at 5pm to ensure that all staff have time to get to the training venue and be ready to enjoy it. Please put this date in your calendars now and speak to staff about using that hour, if you have it booked, on another day.

Thank you so much for planning ahead with us and supporting with this – it's really valuable for staff to be able to have training with well-known early years speakers and we don't like to have to ask them to stay too late in the evening, hence the early close. Do please ensure you have picked up by 5pm so that the staff can leave promptly.

I hope you and your children enjoy all the fantastic activities that we have planned for November and December.

Saffia

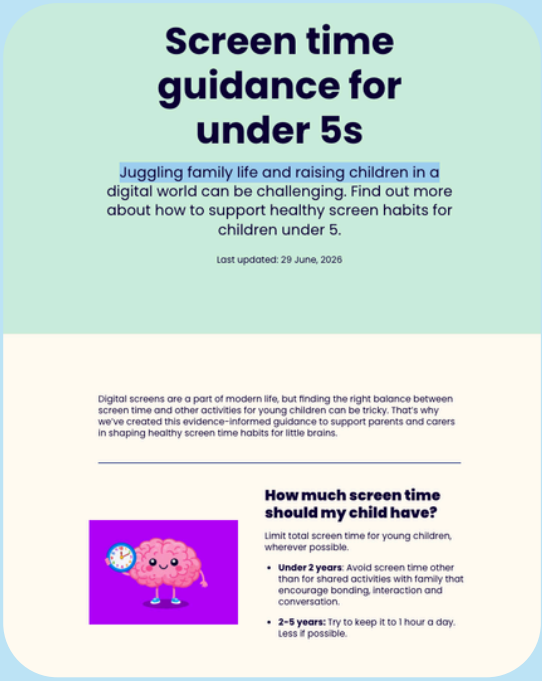
Congratulations to Louise, Heather and Sarah, our wonderful nursery cooks, who have all achieved 5* in their food hygiene inspections this year. Our home-cooked meals and eating together is such a key part of our curriculum, and we know from parent feedback how much the meals are appreciated by you too – so thank you to our wonderful team.



There has been a lot of discussion about safe screen use for children of all ages.

There is helpful information for parents and families here at this link:

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



We have also been recommended the website :

https://internetmatters.org

Please see the guide attached with this newsletter.



BABY ROOM

WINTER 2026

It's autumn and we are so excited for this time of year, seeing all the transitional events leading up to Christmas!



We have been so busy celebrating many events over summer that we have only just gotten to our autumnal activities as it has been full of learning fun.

We have started off the fun with plenty of water play – adjusting this for lots of different learning outcomes. As we took a trip to the aquarium, it was only right we brought this learning from outside of nursery inwards, and had aquatic play with plenty of sea animals and nets, going fishing to learn about animal variations. The children loved this as we took it into the garden. The children spent time scooping which was great for developing control with their gross and fine motor muscle development. This also supported development of the palmer grasp with the way we hold the nets to scoop.



We have transferred some of these skills into our dentistry, learning to promote good oral hygiene and did this in many ways since having the wonderful team from Bupa Keynsham in to tell us all about keeping our teeth clean. The children started off exploring some books about teeth as well as our role play dentist set. The babies love role playing with baby dolls currently and so it didn't take them long to see that these two could be integrated – which supported the transporting schema. With this, we also practised cleaning teeth with toothbrushes. The children experimented with movement as they rubbed away the white board pen from their wipe off teeth images. This then moved back to role play as the children incorporated these in their personal hygiene routines for their role play babies.



With all that themed fun, we have now started to touch on all things autumn by designing our own pumpkins and leaves. We have used a variety of mark making tools to become our own little artists – we are going to have some fine motor muscle masters by winter with all that practice! This has also supported us in exploring shape, space, and measure and amending meanings to our marks through expressive arts and design through plenty of discussion (EYFS).



As we have been so busy with themed play, we have also tried to look at learning styles within the children – focusing on the EYFS Characteristics of Effective Learning. The way we have done this is through creating zones of play within the room, encouraging children to have areas that focus on these different learning styles, whilst also engaging them in quality play and supporting transitions, such as setting up and tidying as part of our 'in the moment' planning. This has been a great way to see how all the children have learned and has encouraged their independence to make choices when approaching resources. We are looking forward to seeing how we can implement more learning zones for the children and their learning styles with more autumnal and winter themes as we spend more time bringing the outdoors in.

TWO'S ROOM

WINTER 2026

After a very hot summer this year, we have now finally made it to autumn! Over the summer, the Twos have particularly enjoyed lots of ice and water play to help us keep cool, spending lots of time exploring the outdoors while the sun has been shining.

Over the last month or so, the children have started to notice lots of changes in the environment around them. The adults have enjoyed talking to the children about autumn and some of the changes they might begin to see, such as it getting darker in the mornings and evenings and the weather becoming cooler. The children have particularly noticed the leaves beginning to fall from the big trees opposite our garden and have loved watching them blow into the garden. This has created lots of lovely opportunities for conversations and exploring the changing seasons together.

We have also enjoyed taking part in a range of autumn activities as well as celebrating 'Recycling Week'. The children have had lots of opportunities to explore different materials and resources through their play, encouraging them to investigate different textures and discover new ways of using and exploring the resources available to them.

Since our school leavers have moved on, this has given some of our Twos a great opportunity to spend some time visiting preschool. These visits allow the children to have a longer and more gradual transition, giving them plenty of time to become familiar with the preschool environment, routines and adults before it is time for them to move up. We have already seen how beneficial this has been for children who have recently transitioned into preschool. They have had time to join in with some of the pre-school group times and explore the different resources this room has to offer. These are all organised with the children at the heart of our decision making. If you have any questions regarding your child's transition or visits to preschool, please feel free to speak to a member of the Twos team or contact us via email.

We would also like to give a warm welcome to Hollie, who has recently joined us in the Two's room. Some of you may have already met Hollie during morning drop-offs. She has been a lovely addition to our team, and the children have already really enjoyed getting to know her and having her join in with their play and experiences.

We are looking forward to another busy few months in the Two's room, with lots more learning, exploring and having fun together!







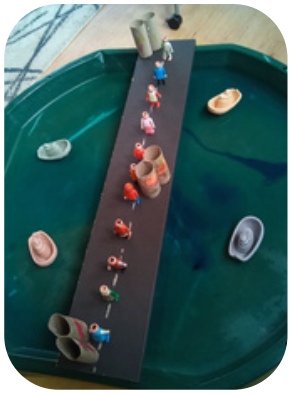


PRESCHOOL

WINTER 2026



Now that summer is over, preschool have been settling into the changes that have happened over these past few weeks. In August we said goodbye to the school leavers of 2026 as they head off for their next chapter, and have now welcomed the next group of children joining us for the busy year ahead. We are asking for parents to send in some family photos to add to our shelf, especially for the newer children that have just joined us, as this supports them to settle and it also links to our BCC curriculum "to treasure and celebrate family life in all its diversity". The Pre-schoolers have been noticing the changes happening outside with the leaves falling off the trees and the change in weather. We recently went on a nature walk to find different leaves and conkers, however, we could not find any conkers at the park and instead came back with a lovely bag of different sticks and autumn coloured leaves and the odd rock that they had found during our outing.



Recently we had a visit from the Bupa dental practice in Keynsham to teach the pre-schoolers the importance of dental hygiene and to give them tips on how to keep their teeth clean and healthy by using activities that they could engage and interact with. Dental hygiene very important and we encourage the pre-schoolers to look after their teeth regularly, we would love to hear feedback from parents on how your child's dental hygiene is at home so we can find the best way to support you and make brushing teeth an enjoyable experience for the pre-schoolers.

Now its coming to the end of the year, we have lots of upcoming events happening and as a room we have been really focusing on the ones that the pre-schoolers would engage with the most and can learn valuable lessons from, such as, 'Recycling Week', where we taught them the importance of recycling with different activities and we even went on a walk to our local charity shop to donate any old or missing property that's been in the lost property box for a while.



In September it was 'Talk like a Pirate Day' and as the pre-schoolers already have such a big interest around pirates we decided as a room to celebrate it for the whole week by setting up different activities such as making pirate hats and coming up with different pirate names. Tracey set up a fun treasure hunt with different clues and they had to work together to find the golden coins within the preschool room, whilst Ruby made some pirate playdough that had gold coins mixed in with it to support with their fine motor skills.

During the summer we grew some big figs and some of the children tried them during one of our meal times. We also picked a courgette from the garden in the preschool and Sarah used it in one our meals for lunch. The children did really well looking after the flowers and vegetables before the extreme heat which encouraged more mini beast into the environment which preschool loved to see.



Lastly, we have recently introduced a now and next board in preschool to support the children that are settling or have SEN needs and to reassure them with what's coming up next. Preschool have enjoyed using this and are now beginning to ask if they can help find the visuals for the next transition.

Preschool have shown a big interest in stories, songs, and rhymes so we have been using the story sacks and the singing masks more frequently.

As we enter autumn we are looking forward to all the new learning experiences we are about to enjoy.

RECIPE

WINTER 2026



Vanilla Cheesecake

Serves 12

Ingredients

- 250g digestive biscuits, crushed
- 100g butter/dairy free spread
- 600g cream cheese
- 100g icing sugar
- 1tsp vanilla extract

Method

1. Melt the butter and add the digestive biscuits
2. Press this firmly into a buttered/papered tin and chill for an hour
3. Beat the cream cheese until soft and add the icing sugar and vanilla
4. Spread this over the biscuit base and chill for at least 2 hours

GEORGIA'S LONDON MARATHON STORY

WINTER 2026

Georgia is running the London Marathon next April! We caught up with her to find out how her training is going.

Q: How did you get into running?

I originally got into running as a way to improve my fitness and challenge myself. Over time, I started to enjoy it more and wanted to see how far I could push myself. I've always said I'd love to run the London Marathon one day, but I never actually thought I'd get the opportunity to do it! So when the chance came up, I knew I had to go for it. It's definitely going to be a big challenge, but I'm really excited to push myself and hopefully achieve something I've always wanted to do!

Q: Why did you choose to run for the Royal Voluntary Service?

I chose to run for the Royal Voluntary Service because of the amazing work they do supporting people in communities across the UK. They help people who may be lonely, isolated or in need of extra support, and I think the difference they make to people's lives is incredible. Knowing I'm raising money for such a worthwhile cause makes the challenge even more meaningful.

Q: How is your training going? Are you finding any particular parts of the training difficult and how do you overcome them?

Training is going well so far! It's definitely challenging at times, especially trying to fit runs around work and everyday life. I think the hardest part is staying motivated on days when I'm tired or the weather isn't great! I just try to remind myself why I'm doing it and take each run as it comes

Q: Do you have a race day strategy? Are you aiming for a particular time?

My main goal is to get across that finish line and enjoy the whole experience! Of course, it would be lovely to finish in a good time, but I'm trying not to put too much pressure on myself. I want to soak up the atmosphere, enjoy the day and hopefully cross the finish line with a big smile on my face!

Q: Are you doing any other fundraising events to boost your donations?

Yes! I've already been busy fundraising through cake sales and car boot sales to help raise money towards my £3,000 target. I'm also taking part in a Christmas Fayre in November and have a few other fundraising activities planned alongside my marathon training. I'm hoping to raise as much as possible for such a great cause and I'm really grateful for all the support I've received so far!

Q: How do you plan to celebrate after the race?

I'll definitely be celebrating with my family and friends, enjoying some well-earned food and drinks, and hopefully feeling very proud of what I've achieved! I'm sure it will be an amazing feeling to cross that finish line after all the hard work and training!

GEORGIA'S LONDON MARATHON STORY

2026

To donate to Georgia's fundraising page, please click the link below:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/georgia-slowley-3?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

