# THE PRIORY DAY NURSERY
# NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2026

## 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

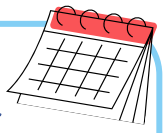
All nursery policies are available for you to read on our website. To access them, you will need to login – please contact Justine for details.

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

Our cycle of Winter Menus will start on 2nd November.

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

## DATES



**Thursday 10th December**
Christmas Jumper Day

**Tuesday 15th December**
Christmas Party (All Children)

**Wednesday 16th December**
2s children singing Christmas carols at a local care home

**Thursday 17th December**
Christmas Nativity (Preschool Only)

**Tuesday 22nd December**
Christmas Lunch



## WELCOME FROM JUSTINE



Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, what a wonderful summer we have had this year.

It was great for the children to be able to have breakfast in the garden first thing and play outside until it became so hot that we just had to eat ice lollies and play with lots of water to cool off.

Our garden party was a great success this year with lots of families getting to meet each other with plenty of food and drink for everyone. I hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.



Please welcome Sami to the Priory family. Sami has been working in the twos room and from the beginning of November she will be working in pre-school alongside Muna, Victoria and Lois. Becky will be moving into twos room, for her own professional development.

Our winter menu will start on Monday 2nd November. All four weeks will be on the Bristol Childcare website.



We would also like to share our favourite nursery pudding with you. It is vanilla cheesecake (we sometimes also have lemon cheesecake). This is the staff and children's favourite. You will find the recipe at the end of this newsletter.

From Monday 9th to Thursday 12th November we will be having a cake sale. This is an opportunity for you all to donate cakes as well as buying them. To make the end of the week fun, on Friday 13th November we are having pyjama day. Please pay £1 and all proceeds will go to Children in Need.

*Justine*



# 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

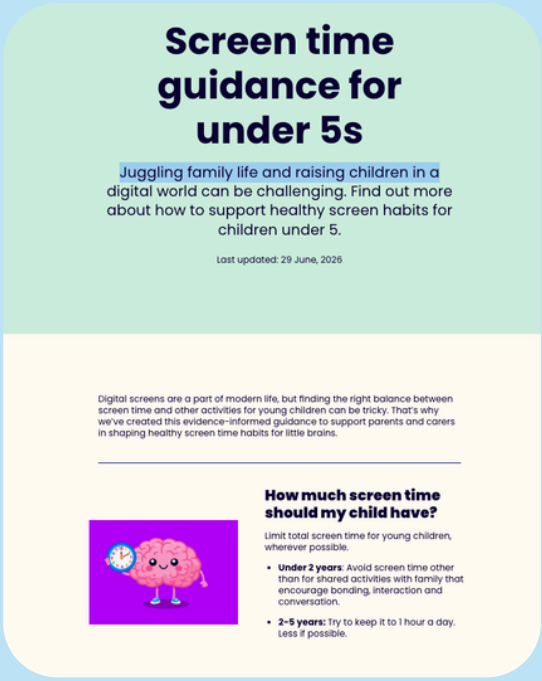
Congratulations to Louise, Heather and Sarah, our wonderful nursery cooks, who have all achieved 5* in their food hygiene inspections this year. Our home-cooked meals and eating together is such a key part of our curriculum, and we know from parent feedback how much the meals are appreciated by you too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




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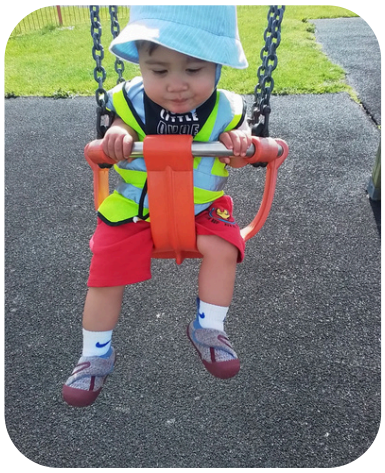
# BABY ROOM

WINTER 2026

Firstly, we would like to welcome all the new children and families that have joined us since our previous newsletter. However, we have sadly lost some families as they have gradually transitioned into the next room.



What a summer we've had! As the weather has been very hot, we have been making the most of being outside early, having fruit before coming inside. We have also been having lots of water play both inside and out to help keep the children cool alongside lots of time in our nappies. The children have loved getting soaked with water by pouring water over themselves, splashing the water and even getting inside the water tray itself! We would like to thank everyone who brought sun cream and sunhats to keep here through the summer. These would of now have been put back into your bags to take home due to no longer being needed.



During the summer we had some trips to the local park and fairy garden. The children loved exploring all the different equipment that the park has to offer.

We have also been donated some new bikes for our garden that all of babies have loved being able to move around on!

Towards the end of summer, we had a garden party. It was lovely to see our baby room families interacting, chatting and getting to know each other, especially the families who have only just joined us.

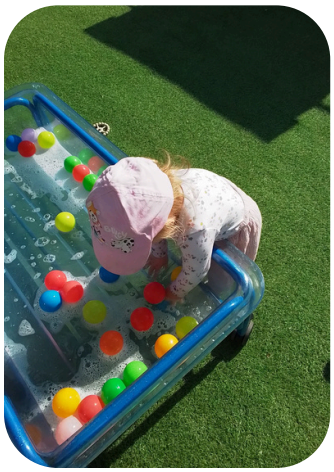
Lastly, we would like to remind parents that as the weather gets wetter and colder, please could we have plenty of clothes in your child's bag (not just one set of spare clothes). Also as we move into autumn and winter weather, please ensure that your children are wearing appropriate clothing, for example: socks, trousers, vest or t-shirt and jumper. If you haven't already, please could we have a waterproof suit and wellies for your child to keep at nursery, as we want to make sure we still enjoy going outside as much as possible.













# TWOS ROOM

WINTER 2026

There have been some changes in our Twos Room recently, with a few familiar members of staff moving on to new adventures. While we are sad to say goodbye, we are very excited to welcome Becky to our team!

We had such a lovely time at our summer parent picnic! It was so nice to see lots of you come along and spend time together outside of our usual nursery day. We really enjoyed chatting with families, getting to know you all a little more and watching the children enjoy themselves with their grownups. It was such a lovely atmosphere, and we really value these opportunities to build positive relationships with our families. Thank you to everyone who joined us; we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did!

The Twos got creative with something a little different: recycling! We collected a variety of everyday items such as cereal boxes, cardboard boxes, jar lids, paper cups and foil caps, giving the children the opportunity to turn things that might otherwise be thrown away into something completely new. We began by getting our boxes ready for their transformation. The children enjoyed painting them in lots of bright colours, exploring the paint with brushes and getting stuck into the creative process. We added more colour and texture as the children decorated their boxes with tissue paper and glitter. The children used jar lids to create wheels, turning their boxes into fantastic cars. Paper cups were added to create monster trucks, while little foil caps became lights and other exciting details. It was wonderful to see the children making their own choices about what their creations should look like and watching their ideas develop. As well as being lots of fun, this activity provided plenty of learning and development opportunities. Painting, sticking and manipulating the different materials helped to strengthen the children's fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination, while choosing colours and deciding where to place different objects encouraged independence, creativity and decision-making. The children also explored simple ideas about how objects can be changed and reused, developing their curiosity and problem-solving skills. If you have any clean, safe recycled items at home, we would love your donations. Things such as cardboard boxes, cereal boxes, tubes, bottle or jar lids, paper cups and other interesting bits and pieces can help us create many more exciting activities like this. Thank you for helping us keep the creativity going!

The twos have recently been showing interest in doctors and nurses. They have been enjoying dressing up in their medical outfits and using our doctors kits to pretend to check on their friends, teddy bears and dolls. It has been wonderful to see their imaginations come to life as they explore this familiar role through fun and imaginative play.

As we say goodbye to summer and welcome the beautiful colours and cooler days of autumn, please remember to send your child in with weather-appropriate clothing. We love getting outdoors whatever the weather, so wellies, waterproofs and wetsuits are essential for those wet and muddy days. Please also make sure your child has plenty of spare clothes, as our outdoor adventures can sometimes get a little messy.














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# PRESCHOOL

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In September, with 20 children having left for school this year, our pre-school was quiet on some days, so we took short, spontaneous trips to local places like the library, the fairy garden, and Elm Park.

Children naturally develop spatial awareness, and we see it in action every day. Whether they're jumping from a tree stump or carefully making their way across balancing beams, they're often more independent than we expect. With a little encouragement and reassurance, they're ready to explore. Obstacle courses and outings offer exciting ways to build their understanding of space.

Additionally, we placed a cardboard box outside, which the children loved climbing into. Although the box was narrow, they managed to crawl in and out and lie inside it.

Children also create mental maps of familiar places and figure out how to get from one place to another. To explore this growing skill, we asked whether they could recognise the nursery. Every child pointed to the building 200 yards away, and one confidently explained, "After the traffic light, it's the preschool."

On our trips, the children's mapping skills really stood out. They spotted familiar details all around them, including the leisure centre swimming pool. A couple of children said, "That's where we come to learn how to swim," while one child recognised her dentist's building.

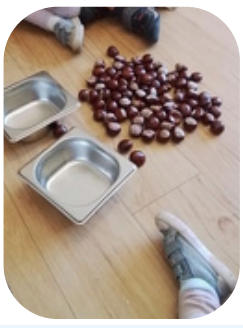
As Lois and Muna have been on the Early Years Maths programme (Maths Champion), we have been introducing them to mathematical language, such as counting, subitising, cardinality (how many in a group of objects), shapes and patterns, spatial awareness, mapping and comparison. The amount of maths language we have been noticing is unbelievable. For example, at snack time, we cut the snacks into different shapes, as we always have. When pouring their milk, we suggest that they do not "overflow the cups", and the children independently take half, explain how much they have poured into their cups and ask for more if needed.

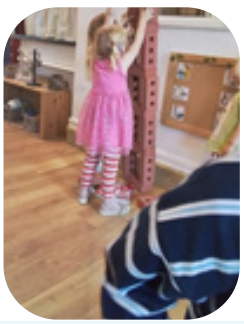
We count the conkers we collected from the fairy garden together, play addition and subtraction games, or sing while challenging the children to subitise, which some of them are impressively good at. Additionally, I encouraged a couple of children to help me set up for lunch. As we had 10 children that day, I challenged them to place five chairs at each table, which they did independently. Then we realised that we were having a friend to settle from 2s. I mentioned the child and how many we were having for lunch. Both preschoolers replied, "11." Then one went over to get a chair and added it to the table she was setting up. She then said there would be six children and one grown-up at this table while placing the placemats and then grabbed another chair for the grown-up. The learning outcomes of setting up the table were subitising, cardinality and comparison: knowing how many children and adults would be at each table.

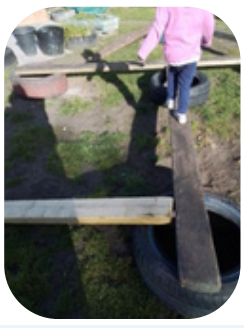
Exploring one of our mathematical resources: we now have foam bricks, which the children have been loving. They were racing to see who could build the tallest tower, trying to stretch as high as they could to make it all the way up to the window.

We have been changing our new home corner with fresh resources. Since we changed the area from a pizza restaurant to a tea party, we have been hearing extended language from the children, such as one saying, "I am making mummy's favourite coffee".

Written by Muna.





# 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