MORNINGTON HOUSE DAY NURSERY
NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2026

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.

NICE TO KNOW

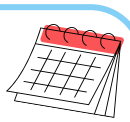
All nursery policies are available for you to read on our website. To access them, you will need to login – please contact Diane for details.

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

Our cycle of Winter Menus starts on 2nd November.

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

DATES



Tuesday 1st December
Start collecting for Julian Trust Night Shelter

Wednesday 16th December
Christmas lunch - staff and children

Thursday 17th December, 2.30pm
Christmas parties - children



WELCOME FROM DIANE



Welcome to our winter newsletter!

The long, extremely hot summer seems like a distant memory! We said our goodbyes to the Preschool children who have moved onto primary school and then almost immediately it's time to think about next September. In this newsletter is a flyer for those parents who need to apply for a place for their child to start school in 2027. It's always a great idea to have a look around schools as they can vary so much in their approach to learning, how they apply the early years curriculum, and their unique ethos and different schools suit different families.

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; reduce reliance on individual child-based funding applications; enable early intervention for children with special education needs. We have decided to use this funding so that the whole team has 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, SEND provision and general guidance and strategies. She will focus on environments, transitions, engagement, behaviour strategies and supports in place and any interventions – all with a deep dive into implementation and impact. Prior to this and afterwards, the team will complete some online modules to support our learning.

I'm so happy to tell you all that Rhianna and her partner have been able to bring their baby home, she's put on lots of weight and is doing really well.

We're now looking forward to 'leaning into winter'. Part of this is to organise our Christmas dates, please see below for those. We always collect for the Julian Trust Night Shelter throughout December, and then Louise and I deliver all the donations to them the week before Christmas. I will send out their shopping list nearer the time so that we can give them things that they really need and know they can use. Thank you in advance for helping us support this vital charity.

Diane



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

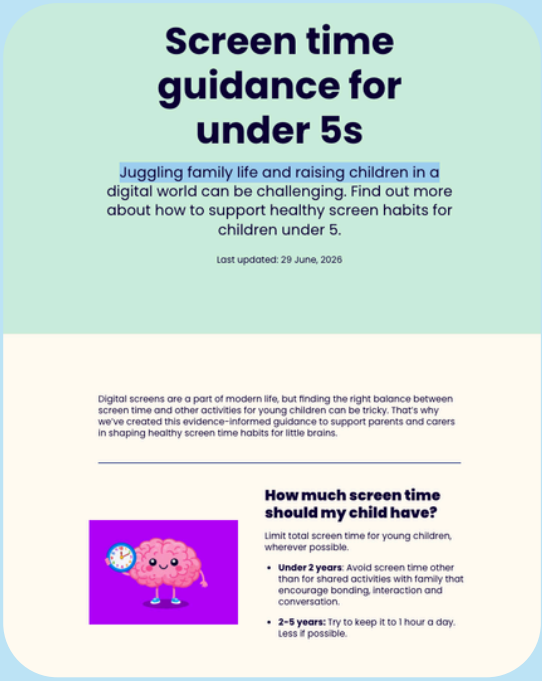
Congratulations to Louise, Heather and Sarah, our wonderful nursery cooks, who have all achieved 5* in their food hygiene inspections this year. Our home-cooked meals and eating together is such a key part of our curriculum, and we know from parent feedback how much the meals are appreciated by you too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

In the baby room we have welcomed quite a few new babies who are really settling in now. The other children have been really welcoming and have shown lots of interest in their new friends.

As always, we have been spending lots of time in our baby room garden and the children have really been noticing the sounds around them such as police cars and birds.

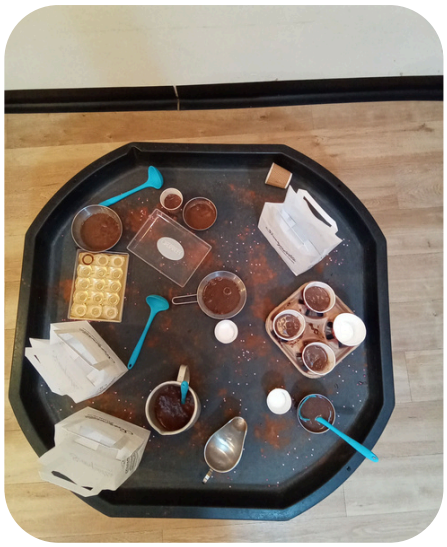
A recent interest in the baby room is mark making. The babies have been exploring making marks by using lots of different materials from whiteboard markers, crayons and paint.

When it was National Dog Day, we decided to do some mark making using paint and toy dogs. We have also used apples to make some printing pictures and iced and decorated some biscuits. These activities are great for early literacy and fine motor skills development.













TWO'S ROOM

WINTER 2026








In the twos, we have been focussing on learning through sensory play. We have taken an interest in how different resources feel, sound and smell.

Since we have had to say goodbye to a few of our friends who have moved up to Preschool, we now have opportunities to explore the nursery surrounding area such as the park and the Downs. On our outings we have collected leaves, sticks and conkers to use for trays and mark making.

With the approach of autumn, we have been talking about different seasons, the weather that comes with it and celebrations such as Halloween and bonfire night. We've also been doing some cooking, when Louise was on holiday the children in 2s stepped up and made shortbread for everyone's afternoon snack. We also made our own pizzas which were absolutely delicious!



PRESCHOOL

WINTER 2026

The children in preschool loved learning about the lifecycle of a butterfly, through the real experience of watching the caterpillars change. Five butterflies emerged and we released them into the garden.

We have enjoyed yoga sessions recently and some children have been successfully recreating intermediate yoga moves. We have been talking about how to use our breathing to calm down. We will be learning about more ways to use our breath to soothe ourselves.

We played with ice in lots of fun ways, making apple slushies, colouring ice cubes for drawing in the tray and finding ways to free the animals who were 'trapped' in the ice.

There was lots of interest in the Bristol balloon fiesta. We assembled balloons like a puzzle, working out which shapes went in the right places.

Sports day was late this year, due to the extreme summer weather. We focussed on cheering each other and camaraderie between winners and losers. Every child had a chance to excel in an event.

We loved learning songs in foreign languages. These included 'Shosholoza' which is an African song and 'Fliegerlied' which is a German song with actions, taught to us by one of our dads.

A recent highlight has been the visit from two female police officers. They talked to us about their roles, they brought in hats and high viz for us to try on. There was lots of discussion about 'baddies' which has been a theme of the children's roleplay recently so this visit really enriched their play.

We had some new play equipment for the garden which is very popular. The boxes have been of great interest too! The children used them to make a town and explored pattern through the different types of roof tiles and shape with the skyscraper.










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

PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES

WINTER 2026

If your child is due to start school in September 2027, you need to apply for a place by visiting this website:

www.bristol.gov.uk/schooladmissions

