

St Pauls Nursery School and Children's Centre Newsletter



June 2019



Head teacher Update

We seem to be heading rather quickly to the end of our school year—yikes! Hopefully we will be blessed with more sun than rain over the next few weeks so we can really make the most of our outdoor area in the summer. It's been quite a year at St Pauls, with so much to celebrate. Most significantly I think, is that we have grown a much enlarged Family Support Team as part of taking on the new role as the Central Bristol Children's Centre Hub, working right across central Bristol with nearly 7000 families! A huge thankyou needs to go out to Michaela and our Children's Centre team leaders Jenny and Debbie, who have welcomed, supported, learnt from and developed a much bigger and dynamic team to deliver our family support services over a much wider area.....

And what a brilliant team they are already!! I am full of admiration and respect for them.

We have also opened our new rooms over at the Family Hub, welcoming children, families and EYs Practitioners to our new training room, family room and Creche. We have also relocated our baby room and enlarged our provision for 2 year olds! We recognise that some of these changes might have felt a bit confusing to you, and have seemed a little bit 'bumpy', at times, but please rest assured we are refocusing on the priority—getting it right for you and your children every single day.

There is plenty more to share with you:

Future of Nursery Schools

As some of you may have seen on the news, Maintained Nursery Schools are facing threat of closure, nationally. We have been waiting for a funding review now for 3 years and it continues to be delayed, or we are given short term temporary reprieves. Our most recent funding is now only guaranteed until summer 2020.

This is a political 'hot potato' as many Nursery Schools are based in highest areas of deprivation across the country. Nursery Schools are some of the few nursery providers that employ teachers to lead on pedagogy and focus on early learning, but we also provide so much more than that. For example our Nursery School here works with at least 50 other nursery providers and schools to support quality improvement. We run training and deliver Teacher Training programmes, we work in and with teams supporting the whole family, and we support many children with very complex needs.

We have contributed to plenty of reports and papers that have been written about the hidden value of nursery schools and we work in partnership with our other Bristol Nursery Schools and the national Nursery School groups to lobby the government and share case studies of our effectiveness.

Our outstanding St Pauls Nursery School (the 3-4yr old early education provision) sits in the heart of our integrated service and has huge influence on the quality of our offer to families.

I have no doubt that should the funding vanish for our Nursery School another Early Years provider would fill the gap offering some sort of day-care provision for families and children in St Pauls. But the quality of this, the model, the focus on learning, and the staffing expertise would look very, very different.

Our request nationally is that Nursery Schools receive proper funding to enable us to continue our great work—The evidence of the difference we make and the quality of the provision we offer is compelling!

Please contact your local MP, lobby and sign the petitions, or start the conversations that can influence and help us save this exceptional provision.

Important Dates:

Nursery closed for INSET : Thursday 27th June

St Pauls Carnival : Saturday July 6th

End of Year Celebrations and Picnic are:

Tuesday 16th and Friday 19th July at 1.30pm

Please note- Family Support is available throughout the school holidays.

St Pauls Carnival on Saturday July 6th

Its that time of year again and we have been working with the organisers to try and make sure the route and procession is a bit easier for us this year! Last year I think we can all agree, there was just too much waiting around, too much noise and too much heat!

So the plans this year (with a very quick turn around) are:

COSTUME MAKING

- This will be happening in the POD from now on!
- We need as many parents helping as possible please, to make LOADS of matching simple costumes for children and families (We will have a simple model for you to follow!)
- Specific booked session to pop along and work with the children in nursery school are on : **Friday 28th June, Monday 1st , Friday 5th July**

ON THE DAY

We will gather in the nursery garden at **9.30am on Saturday 6th July** to get dressed up together, then proceed to Circomedia in Portland Square, where we will join the front of the procession which is due to start at 11.30am



PLEASE KEEP A LOOK OUT FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CARNIVAL

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY JOINING IN THE PROCESSION WITH US TO
CELEBRATE DIVERSITY IN THE COMMUNITY**



Watch outwheel barrows about!

The Nursery team have been reviewing the learning opportunities outside and are adding additional open ended resources to the space. We are also establishing new systems for storage to better enable independent access for the children, encouraging them to take greater care and responsibility for the outdoor space.

Let's help each other by encouraging the children to tidy up for themselves a bit better!!!



Creative Partnerships

This year has seen us working with some great partners in our nursery.

It has involved trips to the Old Vic and We are the Curious, and our Family Support Team getting to know a whole host of other partners with whom they can work to better support our local families—Winston's Wish, Bristol Refugee Rights, Barton Hill Settlement to name just a few.

For next year we are teaming us with a group called **SOUND WAVES**, who are funded through the Arts Council to support the workforce to better engage young children through music. 2 Musicians will be working with our Early Years 2 Team at some point next year.

We will also be working with an artist and **Bristol University** in a research project around the Baby Box Programme, which has been developed in Finland...more information to follow on this one.

It is these new connections and our engagement in research that helps to keep our service up to date. The teams are constantly on the lookout for new learning to inform and develop our provision at St Pauls.



Calling all Gardening Enthusiasts

We are desperately looking for some parents, grandparents etc who would be keen on setting up and running a gardening club for us! We really need a group of volunteers, who would come into nursery on a regular basis and garden/tidy/plant up and maintain our planting areas in the garden. Our days are so busy with the children that staff don't often have the time to put the TLC into our garden that it so desperately needs!

If anyone fancies taking on the challenge we would love to hear from you! Please email or let your key person know.

SUN SAFETY

Please remember to keep your child covered up in the sunshine. They will need a hat and cover up at nursery, and some sun cream applied in the morning before they come. Thankyou

THANKYOU ALL FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT and for sharing your remarkable children with us.

We wish you a happy summertime and look forward to joining you as we celebrate Carnival and the end of our school year together

Please join me in also thanking all of our incredible staff team. Whatever challenges come our way and however more they are asked to do, with less—they ALWAYS come up with solutions and keep the children's needs and individuality at the heart of what they do. They, alongside you and your children, make St Pauls Nursery School and Children's Centre a very special place to be to be.