

Headteacher Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

For those of you that are new to us—WELCOME to St Pauls, and for those of you who are still with us, THANK YOU for continuing to invest in your local outstanding Early Years Provision. St Pauls is a remarkable place, and this year I am personally aiming to work much less 'out and about' as a National Leader of Education and refocus my leadership on continuing to improve our provision here, I need to be home!

As you will know St Pauls offers many services, we are a Maintained Nursery School, a daycare provider (offering paying and free early entitlement places, and breakfast/afterschool/wraparound places), the lead HUB for Central Bristol Children's Centre, and a National Teaching School! We have some of the VERY best teachers and practitioners at our setting because of this. It makes it a busy place to be...to understand...and to organise! But it also works really well - offering truly integrated services, signposting, supported transitions and providing great learning experiences!

As the market place for nurseries gets more and more competitive I know we offer something exceptional and unique, and lets not forget our fabulous outdoor play space, work with artists and other partners and all our adventures in the mini bus!

The size of our setting does though bring issues, and I know that a few of you have experienced real frustrations with some of our systems, particularly over place allocation, additional sessions, invoicing and communication in our EY2 provision.

I would like to apologise for any inconvenience this has caused over the years and add that we have now made some significant changes in order to address these problems. As these changes get embedded I hope you will all see a difference. Firstly, our Business Manager Eva Gossan and her wonderful admin team have now taken over all responsibility for place allocation, contracts, additional sessions and communication re places. All communication about daycare places will now come through her team and equally can we ask that all requests, queries and complaints go directly to this team only.

This change has released our team in EY2 to lead on what they do best—working with the children! We have also organised the team itself differently into family groups, each with a more experienced practitioner leading them—which will ensure better communication regarding children and with parents. Our Lead Nursery Teacher Robin will be supporting the team part time to influence the creative curriculum, just as Lead Teacher Rachel is supporting on it with our baby team.

This year we have some exciting partnerships in making Soundwaves working with our 2-3yr olds, We are the Curious and The Old Vic, with our Nursery School, and we hope to be working with Bristol University and an artist in our baby room to explore the child's voice in relation to safe spaces, if the bid is successful. Watch out for more info.

We are also starting to think more about FOOD - food quality, food education, food culture, and food in the community. This will involve gardening, connecting with local groups, cooking with families and trying to improve our school meals. It's a big long term project, but we would be interested to know if any parents would like to be involved in leading on it. Get in touch if you do! St Pauls is also involved in tackling food poverty in Bristol and our Children's Centre will be running a food club and community fridge as part of a city wide programme.

Finally, I would like to invite you to **MEET THE HEAD meetings**, where I will be talking about our vision and values, answering any questions and sharing some of our basics!

- * **1 Meeting : Monday 18th November 5-7pm** : A Conversation about behaviour
- * **2 Meeting : Thursday 16th January 5-7pm** : A Conversation about dispositions for learning and learning power

All our newsletters will now be available on our website and you will be receiving texts to direct you there when they are ready to read, 1 hard copy will be put up for information outside the rooms.

Thank you for choosing St Pauls, and thank you for sharing your wonderful children with us. Please keep sharing your experience of our services with us, good and bad, so we can always respond and improve

Lucy

Family Support

We are well into the new academic year and our services at Central Bristol Children's Centre are wide reaching! Did you know that our family support and adult learning team now deliver groups across Barton Hill, St George, Clifton, St Pauls, St Judes and Hotwells... amongst others... we are a very busy bunch. Its great that we get to meet so many families in their local communities and we work hard to ensure that support is available at (what can be) an exciting, but also challenging time.

We have lots of stay and plays available. There is one every day somewhere in central Bristol, so all pre-schoolers and their families are welcome. We also have lots of targeted groups running up until Christmas, if you need support around parenting, speech and language, managing your finances, weaning and routines... come and find us. If we can't support you, we will find someone who can.

Please take one of our brochures with what's on and where available at the reception and keep an eye on the *St Paul's Nursery and Children's Centre* website and facebook page for any changes to our timetable.

We look forward to welcoming you to our groups.



What's on September-December 2019

Your easy guide to family support services across all of Central Bristol's Children's Centres.

The children's centres include our central hub at St. Pauls; Rosemary; The Limes; Bannerman Road; St. Philips Marsh and Barton Hill.



Important dates

DAYCARE DATES

(baby room and 2-3's room)

- * **Friday 25th October** and **Friday 29th November** 2-3's room will be closed at 1:30pm
- * INSET day - **Tuesday 26th November** (nursery will be *CLOSED* for all children)
- * Nursery will be CLOSED for Christmas break from **Tuesday 24th December** till **Wednesday 1st January** (inclusive)

If your child was born between **1st January 2017 and 31st August 2017** you need to apply for nursery space by filling in the form available at the reception. Deadline for submitting applications is 31st March 2020.

NURSERY SCHOOL DATES

- * Last day of term 1 - **Friday 25th October**
- * Term 2 starts - **Monday 4th November**
- * INSET day - **Tuesday 26th November** (nursery will be *CLOSED* for all children)
- * Last day of term 2 - **Friday 20th December** (beginning of Christmas break)
- * Term 3 starts - **Monday 6th January**
- * Final date to submit school applications - **Wednesday 15th January**

If your child was born between **1st September 2015 and 31st August 2016** you need to apply for a new reception school place to your home local authority. You can apply online for a reception place by following the link :

<https://parent.bristol.gov.uk/web/portal/pages/parents/admissions>

Or simply google : "*Bristol city council school admission*" and click on the first link.



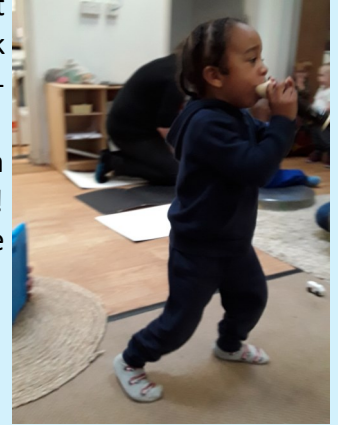
Early Years 2

In Early years 2 we have been excited by our work with **Soundwaves**. This is part of our Creative Partnerships this year, which also includes up-and-coming work with Bristol Old Vic. Roger and Eliza from Soundwaves are supporting us develop our understanding of children's musicality!

The children have been showing us how they move to music and sound, keep a pulse, explore instruments and join in brilliantly with rhythm, rhyme and song! We are learning new songs that really help children's understanding of pulse and beat.

Please take a song sheet from the display outside EY2.

There will be ongoing documentation and video as this project grows.



Nursery School



Nursery School have been welcoming new children and families. Thank you to all the parents and families for supporting the 'settling in' of their children in Term 1. Children have been getting to know their key person and key groups, growing more and more confident with their daily routine.

Our storytime has a focus on supporting children's emotional well-being. The retelling of "Owl Babies" has been helping children talk about saying goodbye to their parents

and helping them cope with the transition from home to Nursery School.

Children have been exploring their environment, both inside and outside, as well as in their own community. We have been fascinated by watching cranes be erected in the nearby building site!



And here in the garden children have been developing their risk-taking, competence and leadership skills as they show other children how to use different parts of the outside garden.

The children's learning has been full of **Building Learning Power** - Capitalising, Imitation, Perseverance, Noticing and much more!



Local Libraries Activities

Bedminster Library

Monday October 28th at 10.30am

"The Big Stink" book reading and craft with author and illustrator Lucy Freeguard. Ages 3-6. Must be accompanied by an adult. Free event. Booking essential. <https://www.ticketsonline.com/event/1685/the-big-stink---book-reading->

All year round activities for under 5s :

* **Central Library**

Rhymetime Mondays 2-2:30

Baby Bounce & Rhyme Tuesdays 10-10:30am

Rhymetime Fridays 2-2:30pm

Rhymetime Saturdays 11:30-12pm

* **St Paul's Library**

Baby Bounce & Rhyme Tuesdays 2-2:30pm

* **Junction 3 Library**

Baby Bounce & Storytime Mondays 2.15-3pm

All year round adult activities :

* **Central Library**

ESOL Conversation Club Thursdays 5.30-6.30pm (Public Meeting Room) free drop-in sessions for adult non-native English speakers.

* **Junction 3 library**

African-Caribbean Non-Fiction reading group Saturdays 3.00-4.45pm. Fortnightly.

English Conversation Club Mondays 1.45-3.15pm for adult non-native English speakers - come and practice in a friendly atmosphere.

SEASONAL POEM: Autumn Winds

Autumn winds begin to blow, Colored leaves fall fast and slow.
Whirling, twirling all around, Till at last they touch the ground.

Nursery news corner and Reminders

PARKING : Please consider how you park around the entrance to our nursery and the impact parking on double yellow lines has on pedestrians. Disregarding the road markings and parking recklessly effects the access to our building and the safety of all our users.

TOILET TRAINING: Please work with your child's key person to toilet train your child when the time is right. This year we have an increased numbers of children in nappies entering our nursery school. Despite our staffing ratios being higher than the statutory requirement, the ratio is sometimes 1:12 on occasions, lots of nappy changing interrupts the teaching and learning.

CHILDREN'S CAR SEATS : We are sorry to inform you that we WON'T be able to keep children's car seats at the reception as this is a potential health and safety hazard for our working environment. In very unusual circumstances please talk to your key person otherwise please find alternative arrangements.

WELLIES : We are constantly in need of children's wellies. If you have any spare pairs hanging around or any out grown pairs why not donate them to us instead of transforming them into boot planters.

LOST PUSHCHAIR : We are happy that the missing pushchair has been recovered. Please remember that buggies are left at your own risk, therefore if you feel nervous about leaving your pram in the shelter, please lock it.