

St Pauls Nursery School and Children's Centre Newsletter

July 2016

Head teacher update—Lucy Driver

And so we reach the end of our Nursery School year and say goodbye to so many children and families as they head off to start Primary School. Some of the children have been with us since babies – It can feel quite a wrench for us all!

We wish them well and hope that we have helped to equip them with the resilience, self-belief and the basic skills that they will need to FLY!

We hope you will bring them back to visit us!

Staff Changes

This year we are saying goodbye to lots of staff for many different reasons and I hope you will join us in appreciating all they have done for St Pauls.

In Nursery School we are waving goodbye to Eleri (after 11 years of teaching here), Nawal, Marco and Alli, who only joined us temporarily. The new staff joining this team are teachers Dilly and Robin (who we have got all the way back to Bristol from New Zealand!) and Practitioners Hannah and Emily.

In EYs 1 and 2 we are saying goodbye to Ambreen and Atiebah. Khadra will be now working in our Creche! We welcome Faith and Cath back to the team and Marina will now be working in EYS2.

In Family Support we say goodbye to Sara, and are now joined by 2 new staff called Rachel! We have also just appointed Becky – to lead out crèche.

Recognition

We also saying goodbye to **Anne Chambers**, who has been an exceptional leader here for more than 20 years. Anne has been slowly reducing her time with us over the last few years, only working 1 day a week this year – but her influence is still incredibly powerful on the whole team.

Anne has worked for us as Deputy, Acting Head teacher, Mentor and Coach, inspiring everyone along the way. She has championed high expectations and inclusion at every level in St Pauls and is one of the key people who has driven us to have had so many successes over the years. Anne is irreplaceable and incredibly special. We can't thank her enough personally or professionally for all that she has done at St Pauls. The staff will be celebrating her achievements in September with a serious party!

Outdoor Update—The detailed outdoor plans that have been produced by a designer are now available for you to have a look at on our website. Once a company is engaged to start the work a few more little changes need to be made. The start of the work will be a little more delayed now, as the LA are investigating the site for possible further building developments.

Continued over the page

Safety: We need your HELP

As you will know our room doors are all locked during the day, but unlocked at



July 2016

Nursery term dates:
Last day of term is
Friday 23rd July.
New term starts on
Friday 2nd September.

Family support is
available throughout
the school holidays.

Inset Days:
Nursery School and
Children's Centre will
be **CLOSED** for staff
training and
development on the
following dates:
Thursday 1st
September 2016

Monday 7th November
2016

Tuesday 17th January
2017

Wednesday 8th March
2017

Wednesday 26th April
2017

Thursday 8th June
2017

drop off and collection times, which means that sometimes they can get held open by people coming and going from the room.

To ensure safety our doors will now be locked at all times. This may mean you have to knock or wait to gain access – but we need to keep the children safe. There will always be a member of staff on the room doors too.

Please can you all be alert to safety at these critical times of the day – ensuring that the doors and front gate are closed behind you and that no other children are trying to follow you.

Personal Thankyou:

I would just like to thank all the Staff and Governors for helping make St Pauls a great place to be! Every year brings with it some tricky times and now, more than ever, we have to do more with less – there really is no money left in the system. Our team rise to this challenge everyday – putting children first. They are brilliant! Thankyou too, to all of our parents for your continued support and feedback – we couldn't do this job without you, have a good summer!

Lucy X

St Pauls Nursery and Children's Centre Summer activities
Please contact the family support team on 0117 9030337 to find out more.

Week beginning	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
25th July	Painting in the Park 10am-11.30am (Meet us in St. Pauls Park, BS2 8SA)	Baby group (under 1's) @ St. Pauls 1pm-2.30pm	Did you know? Under 5s travel free on First Buses	St. Werburghs City Farm Meet at the children's centre 10am	Baby Group (under 8 months) @Hampton House 10am-11.30am
1st August	Playdough in the park 10am-11.30am (Meet us in St. Pauls Park, BS2 8SA)	Baby group (under 1's) @ St. Pauls 1pm-2.30pm	Have a look at dayoutwiththe-kids.co.uk for ideas of things to do	Music in the garden @ St. Pauls 10am-11.30am	Baby Group (under 8 months) @Hampton House 10am-11.30am
8th August	Fun and games in the park 10am-11.30am (Meet us in St. Pauls Park, BS2 8SA)	Baby group (under 1's) @ St. Pauls 1pm-2.30pm	Vue Cinemas £1.99 per ticket check myvue.com Odeon Kids £1.50 Odeon.co.uk	Day trip to Weston by train (Please call to book) Meet at the centre 9.30am	Baby Group (under 8 months) @Hampton House 10am-11.30am
15th August	Junk modelling in the park 10am-11.30am (Meet us in St. Pauls Park, BS2 8SA)	Baby group (under 1's) @ St. Pauls 1pm-2.30pm	Check out Facebook page 'Bristol free and affordable things to do with kids'	St. Andrews Park Meet at the children's centre 10am to catch the bus	Baby Group (under 8 months) @Hampton House 10am-11.30am
22 August	Teddy bears picnic in the park 10am-11.30am (Meet us in St. Pauls Park, BS2 8SA)	Baby group (under 1's) @ St. Pauls 1pm-2.30pm	Like our Facebook page: St Pauls Nursery and Children's Centre Keep up to date with what's happening.	Den Making in the garden @ St. Pauls 10am-11.30am	Baby Group (under 8 months) @Hampton House 10am-11.30am
29th August	Bank Holiday	Family support groups closed	Family support groups closed	Inset Centre Closed	Family support groups closed



Nursery Update

It's been a busy and exciting last term in Nursery School, as many of the children get ready to move on to the next stage in their learning journeys.. Primary School! There has been so much to celebrate and we are so thankful to share so many memorable experiences with you all. Our trip to Blaise Castle back in May was one of the most memorable - it was amazing to see how involved you all got; starting football games, leading walks up to the castle and river, sharing food at lunchtime. We loved hearing from you about the trip - Tameera said that Sayeeda '*loved the openness, and the sense of freedom*' at Blaise Castle, '*The river*

reminded me of my village in Pakistan,' said Sonia.

Our Garden has been a hive of planting and growing activity this last term especially - the children have been fascinated to observe the life cycle of many vegetables including sweet peas, courgettes, potatoes and runner beans, some of which we dug up and made into samosas and chips for our Eid Party! Delicious! The children have been doing lots of wondering and imagining around their new schools or key groups; we have woven thinking about transition into lots of our learning. One truly amazing example was the journey of our caterpillars, which the children researched, fed and nurtured until it was time to release them as butterflies into our garden. As we said goodbye, we wondered how they felt to be leaving the nursery to go into the big world outside. Learning about the caterpillar life cycle was sparked by lots of children's strong interest in finding and caring for minibeasts. This led to much research into habitats, diets and life-cycles, even creating our own snail habitats where children could fine-tune their noticing skills to closely study the creatures.

Upcoming transitions have also been supported through ongoing visits to and from our local primary schools. We have watched with delight as your children have proudly shared learning diaries with their new teachers with such ownership. We are noticing the amazing strategies children are using to support themselves through this transition; making links to Nursery by noticing similarities and differences in their new schools, planning what they may need to take with them - '*all my learning stuff, like my learning diary and my pen,*' Ashley tells me.

Alongside goodbyes to many of our children, we are sad to say goodbye this year to some very special Nursery School staff. Eleri, Nawal, Alli and Marco will be leaving us this term, we know they will all be missed greatly by the whole centre. Lastly, we would like to thank you enormously for your ongoing support this year. Our Forest Learning, various trips and parties, in particular our Eid Party, would not be the same without your help - so Thank You for your voices, help and generosity. We have been truly inspired observing your children thrive and achieve throughout this past year, equipping themselves so expertly with skills they will use in their learning at Primary school, and beyond!



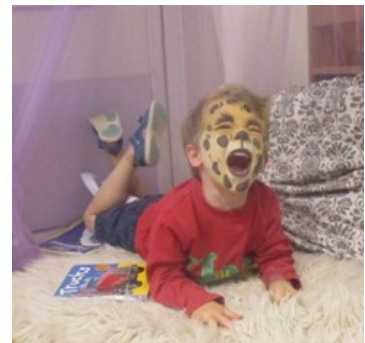
Face Painting and Imaginative Play in Early Years Two



Recently in Early Years Two, the children have been interested in wild animals. Johanna appears to be particularly passionate about big cats and one morning chose to wear the tiger outfit from our role play resources. She then asked Lydia if she could have her face painted like a tiger which then sparked other children's interest in animals. The children were independently choosing how they would like to have their face painted. Salma chose to be a tiger and Lyad chose to be an elephant.

After the children had their faces painted, we noticed the different ways in which they were extending their own play and explorations. Some children became absorbed in imaginative role play where they creatively made links to their animal of choice by imitating what they had experienced these animals to be like.

Jamie and Johanna collaborated when imitating what knowledge they had of tigers and leopards. Johanna found a small, cuddly tiger which she described as "my baby tiger" she began to brush its hair with a comb and kept it close to her throughout the morning. Jamie was really focusing on the way in which leopards move and make sounds. He crept along the floor roaring and snarling.



As the week has gone on, the interest in face painting and imaginative play has continued and children are using their creativity to think about what they would like to be. After Wen Hao and Mahir had their faces painted like tigers, they both went into the garden and began to "roooooar" and chase each other.

We are all really interested in investigating further how the children are extending their learning in different ways through having their faces painted. To research this we are changing our reflecting whiteboard

question in order for us to explore this deeper. If there is anything you have noticed at home that may link to imaginative play and learning please feel free to write your comments on the whiteboard as we'd love to hear your thoughts.



Introducing the new Adult Learning Coordinator

Mary-Jane is a trained and qualified teacher with over 15 year's experience of supporting parents and community groups to get involved in their local school community or neighbourhoods for positive change. Mary-Jane is passionate about learning and believes it is for everyone at any time of time of life but particularly powerful for parents with young children. Mary-Jane has 2 young children and 3 older step children and in her spare time she helps run a volunteer play project for pre-school children. In the Summer months, Mary-Jane takes her tribe to Festivals to support The Woodland Tribe adventure play project.

From September, Mary-Jane works Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays term time only.

Tel: 0117 9030337

Email: mary-jane.wilshire@bristol-schools.uk

Upcoming Learning Opportunities at St Pauls Children Centre

Becoming a parent is literally life-changing and can be the trigger to wanting to learn something new or gain a new experience. Whether you want some time for you, or want to meet other parents, or perhaps you are thinking about what to do next in terms of work? You may be looking for practical help with learning English, CV writing or money matters. Whatever your interest, please do contact Mary-Jane. We have a very exciting autumn programme to suit a range of needs. **Free crèche available for most courses.**

We are yet to confirm dates and times but please get in contact with Mary-Jane if you are interested in any of the courses. You are very welcome to drop in to meet Mary-Jane at the Children Centre.

ESOL Conversation Club:

Informal drop-in session where learners practice spoken English. Free crèche available.

Accredited ESOL:

A 70 hour course organised into 2 sessions a week where learner s gain a entry level 1 or 2 qualification in English.

Volunteering in Childcare:

Are you interested in working with young children and gaining practical experience in a nursery setting? If so, this course maybe for you. The course is organised in weekly 2 hour sessions over 6 weeks. Free crèche available

Volunteering in Community Outreach:

Are you interested in supporting families with young children to access services? Are you interested in gaining practical experience of community outreach. This opportunity provides training in Children Centre values and community outreach and practical volunteering experience.

Get Ready for Work (GROW)

This is an inspirational and empowering programme which promises to nurture your self esteem and support you to make a plan for action to get ready for work. The course is organised into weekly 2 hour sessions over 3 weeks.

Play in Action

An exciting new programme with lots of outdoor learning to support parents to develop play opportunities in their local community. Can bring children.

Sewing

Pattern cutting and sewing for all abilities. Free crèche provided

Job Club

Supported by Society, weekly drop in to provide support with CV writing, job search and Information and advice and guidance



What have you and your family got planned this summer?
Have you thought about visiting these free / cheap days out?

Don't forget, under 5s are free on the bus, make up a packed lunch and go on an adventure.....

Brandon Hill (BS1 5RR) features a play area for children, a nature conservation area and Cabot Tower, from which you can enjoy a beautiful view of Bristol, you can also feed the squirrels so take some nuts!



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Ashton Court (BS41 9JN) is a 10 minute drive from the centre of Bristol. It offers a cafe, deer park, orienteering and walks through the woods, it also has a miniature railway open on selected weekends (see website).

Castle Park (BS1 3XD) is just off the city centre and offers a chance for fresh air and shopping in the galleries! It has a playground and the remains of a medieval castle offer a picnic.



City and Community Farms

The community and city farms around Bristol are mostly free, or ask only for a small donation. They're a nice change from parks, as there are often play areas, as well as a variety of farm animals children can see.

Lawrence Weston Community Farm (BS11 0NJ) This farm is free to enter and is open Tuesday to Sunday between 9.30-4.30. They often run free or affordable events.

St Werburghs

City Farm (BS2 9YJ) This farm is free to enter, with donations welcome, as it's a charity. It's open 7 days a week, from 9am to 5pm in the summer, 9am to 4pm in the winter.



Windmill City Farm (BS3 4EA) This farm is a charity and asks for donations to enter. There are lots of animals to see, a playground for your children to play in, and they also run different activities for children during the school holidays for a small fee.

Bristol Museums

The following museums are offering Holiday Family Fun sessions from 11am—3pm. The creative craft activities will be on every week during school holidays as follows:

Tuesdays—**M-Shed (BS1 4RN)** 26 July, 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 August

Wednesdays—**Blaise Castle House Museum (BS10 7QS)** 27 July, 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 August

Thursdays—**Bristol Museum and Art Gallery (BS8 1RL)** 28 July, 4, 11, 18, 25 August and 1 September

These sessions are suitable for 3-9 year olds and their adults. They are drop in sessions, they are requesting that you make a donation for the activity.

