

# St Pauls Nursery School and Children's Centre Newsletter

## TERM 2 Newsletter



### Words from Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are finally reaching the end of 2020! A year we won't forget for a very long time, and a year which I think will have an impact on the way we behave and live now for years.

Our **THOUGHTS** go to families who have lost loved ones, and families whose circumstances may have changed immeasurably, for example they may have found themselves tipped into joblessness, poverty or uncomfortable family dynamics.

Our **THANKS** go to people who have been keeping our services going, despite all the challenges along the way. This includes our fantastic team at St Pauls and our Central Bristol Children's Centre, who have worked throughout to ensure that our families in need can still access our services. This year the team have been SO solution focused. They have been mind-blowingly professional, resilient, creative, thoughtful, loving and committed. I have always known how lucky we are to have such inspiring bunch of people on our team, but I have been humbled by how far they have been willing to go for the St Pauls community. Each and every staff member and Governor plays an important role in the St Pauls service – without them we wouldn't be so exceptional. **Please join me in appreciating all they do here.**

Despite the circumstances, the children have had some very wonderful learning experience this year. The settling period was well structured and very supportive, so they have settled brilliantly and struck up some lovely trusting relationships with the adults and children in their rooms. The planning for outdoor learning, cooking, food exploration, using the fire pit etc has ensured they have had some really interesting and new learning opportunities. And our smaller groups/classes are working really well in supporting their sense of wellbeing and belonging.

Your children are remarkable, joyful, and help us to stay focused and feel hopeful. Thankyou for trusting us with them and choosing St Pauls. Looking at the world through the eyes on a 1, 2, 3 yr old, means it is always full of energy, adventure, curiosity and opportunity! We are so lucky to work with young children!

We hope next year brings us all a little more stability and sense of safety, as the vaccines are rolled out. Here at St Pauls we will still be juggling ideas to support sustainability. The government has still not committed to continued and better funding for Nursery Schools, so we are working closely with other Bristol Nursery Schools and the LA to consider new and different ways of working in closer collaborations.

We will still be here though! So please register your 2 and 3 year olds for our Nursery School September 2021 admissions – and spread the word.

In the meantime, I wish you all a happy, healthy and peaceful break.

Please remember to stay safe and stick to the HAND, FACE, and SPACE guidance over this holiday period.

**If one of our nursery children does contract Covid over our closure period – please can you notify me immediately on [lucy.driver@bristol-schools.uk](mailto:lucy.driver@bristol-schools.uk) so that we can consider the implications it may have for our Bubbles.**

Many Thanks,

Lucy

## Update from Early Years 1



Here in Early Years 1 we know how important it is to have access to the outside and offer free-flow to our baby garden as much as possible. We are also committed to using "The Shack" which is our baby-friendly space in the main garden.

We also have wet weather gear for all the children including waterproof overshoes for crawling babies. You can help us by making sure your little one has warm clothes and change of clothes so they can explore the natural world fully.



## Update from Early Years 2

In Early Years Two we have been really focusing on learning to make friends. Key people have been noticing developing friendship. We have been supporting them by encouraging collaborative games and role modelling how to solve the conflicts that always arise. This helps everyone value our unique and different play styles and interests.



Some children are moving to nursery school in January and we will also be welcoming new children to start in Early Years Two. So this is a really good time to build the children's understanding of the daily routine. This helps them feel safe and secure so they can become absorbed in new learning and build new friendships. We do this by using predictable phrases, singing specific songs and using visual timetable cards to share key parts of the day. If you would like to find out more, please speak to your key person.

## Update from Nursery School



As children continue to settle at Nursery, our first two terms have focused particularly on supporting emotional wellbeing. We've observed children developing incredible strategies to manage their feelings around being away from home...

Core Stories and Group Times provide children with a chance to reflect upon their feelings. This has felt more important than ever during these strange times. Your children are so incredibly resilient in the face of the disruptions Covid has brought to our daily lives. They are forever finding ways to communicate their stories... and we are always listening.



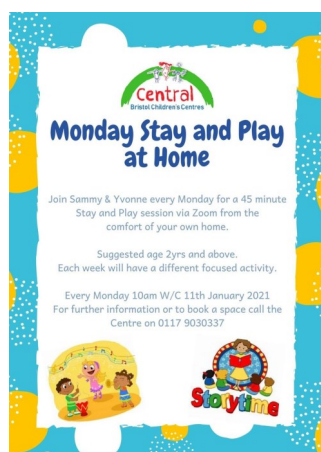
## Update from Family Support

### We are on Facebook

Stay and Play sessions, up to date information, stories to share and more!

Find us : Central Bristol Children's Centres

@CentralBristolCC



Every Monday and every Friday at 10 am we are organising online play and stay sessions.  
Join us if you can !

## Important dates

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- \* Last day of term 2 for nursery school children  
- *Friday 18th December*
- \* Last day for eligible 2 children - *Friday 18th December*
- \* Last day for 2-3s and babies before a Christmas break  
- *Wednesday 23rd December*
- \* First day back for everyone - *Monday 4th January*
- \* Half day INSET day - *Thursday 7th January* (nursery will be *CLOSED for ALL children at 12 midday*)
- \* School application deadline - *Friday 15th January*
- \* Half day INSET day - *Wednesday 3rd February*
- \* Last day of Term 3 - *Friday 12th February* (nursery will be *CLOSED for ALL children at 12 midday*)

### PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATION

Children who become 4 before 31st August 2021 will need to apply for primary school place.

The deadline for making an on time application is midnight

**Friday - 15 January 2021**

A link to apply online :

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/schools-learning-early-years/primary-apply>

Or simply google :

**"Bristol primary school admissions"**  
and click on the first link

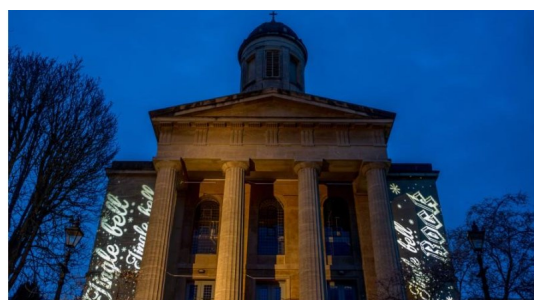
## Local Activities



### TREEFEST at St Mary Redcliffe Church

*An online display of 100 decorated Christmas trees  
12 December - 2 January 2021*

Treefest is a spectacular festive display of Christmas trees normally held within the splendid gothic church of St Mary Redcliffe. This year due to the restrictions imposed by the Covid pandemic they are holding Treefest online, displaying the trees in a virtual exhibition.



### Bristol ADVENTures Illumination

*Throughtout Bristol City Centre  
1 December - 24 December 2020 (illuminated between dusk until 11pm)*

Bristol ADVENTures, a new arts project spearheaded by Bristol City Centre BID, will light up a new building each day with a selection of the jolliest and iconic Christmas lyrics, with a trail of 24 locations complete by Christmas Eve.

## Nursery NEWS corner

**Nursery Drop in times** : the teachers will be waiting to welcome your children at the gate until 8:45 am. If you arrive after 8:45 am please go to the main entrance. Please note that teachers won't be able to leave the room until they finish the morning group time around 9 am.

**Nursery Pick up times** : if you would like to pick up your child earlier than 2:15 pm please go to the main entrance. After 2:15 pm teachers won't be able to leave the room as they are tidying up and having a snack with children before they go home. Therefore there won't be a pick up time available between 2:15-2:45pm.

**School lunch money** : you can pay for your school lunches by card at the reception or via the phone. You could also bring cash (the exact amount as we don't give change) in an envelope with your child's name and group written on it.

**Change of clothes** : The children are constant adventurers so even in a cold weather they will explore water, mud and other elements. Please bring a spare pair of clothes (pants, trousers, tops ...) so we can change them after their exploration.

*On behalf of all team members we would like to wish all  
our families a peaceful and happy break.*