



ST. WERBURGH'S PARK
Nursery School, Bristol

*Being a Voice for Children, Giving Children their Voice/ Building Foundations for Learning Together/
Every Child as a Unique Individual*

October Newsletter 2021 – Term 1

It has been a lovely start to this year! We love to welcome back our “returning” children and meet children and families that are new to us. Everyone is working really hard to make sure that the children are settling in well, building relationships with staff and new friends and feeling secure in their environments. This term our focus for learning is helping children to learn that their parent/carer will return soon, where to find resources in the classroom, how to follow routines, e.g. snack time, washing hands, hanging up coats and how to begin to share with their peers. These early skills are essential for children starting their journey at Nursery School. They provide a strong foundation for developing the future skills needed to become great learners! Last year we created our own YouTube channel so that children and families could still access learning if they were unable to come to Nursery School. Please feel free to search for us on YouTube and share the stories and activities with your child at home. We hope to continue to build on this work this year and create a fantastic resource to support you with supporting learning at home. If there is anything you would like us to add to this content, please ask.

Central Children's Centre

Please see the Children's Centre notice board for more information regarding support groups in your local community. The notice board can be found as you walk into the garden via the side entrance.

The programme of events are delivered by Bristol's Central Children's Centre. St Werburgh's Park Nursery School hosts the Nurture Programme every Wednesday 10-12am. If you are interested in attending this group or other groups, please ask Mandy, Lucy or your child's class teacher so we can complete a referral form for you.

Fundraising and Donations

This year we have already received donations of time! We have had some general support in the office, a fence built for us in the garden and support with weeding and cutting back hedges. We truly appreciate any offers to volunteer!

We will be having a gardening day on Saturday 9th October with the support of Good Gym, a group of runners who also volunteer! They have supported us in the past and we love having them!

We continue to receive surplus food from marks and Spencer, Eastgate. We are so pleased to be able to pass this on to you!

We raised money last year and have been able to replace our water trays, purchase new books and we plan to build a chicken coop this year!

Dates for your diary

Friday 9th October: Garden volunteer day
Thursday 21st October: End of Term 1
Friday 22nd October: Inset day
Monday 1st November: Term 2 begins



Reception School Admissions

Some parents have already been asking about applying for Primary school places. If your child was born between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018 you can apply now for a new reception school place for September. You need to apply by **15 January 2022** and can apply on-line at: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/schools-learning-early-years/primary-apply>

We will also share information from our local primary schools to help you make the right decision for you and your child.

Collection times

Thank you for your continued patience when collecting your children from Nursery. As you know, we have continued with our one-way system and slightly staggered drop off/collection times. Thanks to all of you it is working well.

If you need to collect your child outside of the allocated times, please arrange this with your child's class team. It can be tricky for staff to meet all needs as they are busy working with children. We will of course endeavour to meet your needs, and we ask you to understand ours. Thank you.



Covid Updates!

We are continuing to keep the children in “bubbles” in the garden and staff continue to have their own staff room spaces inside. Staff are avidly cleaning surfaces and resources on a daily basis to ensure that our children and community stay safe. It is good to see that local case numbers are dropping and we hope this trend continues.

Thank you for wearing masks when popping into the Nursery or at drop off/collection.

We are all hoping to get through the winter with as little disruption as possible. I thank you for your patience in advance, in anticipation of any changes we may face. We are hopeful that as we move into the new year we will be able to reduce restrictions and maybe get the garden back to normal for all children. In the meantime, the advice from Public health England remains to take a PCR test at the first signs of symptoms (runny nose, sore throat, continuous cough, fever). With the seasons of colds upon us, we understand this can be tedious, but please work with us to keep everyone safe.

Fruit and Snacks

Thank you so much for all of your delicious donations for snack time. The children have a veritable feast thanks to you! We also provide milk and water for the children. Please keep bringing fresh fruit. The children also love breadsticks and crackers!

So much learning happens at snack time too! The children learn to share, take turns, develop their communication skills to make requests and even help prepare the snacks using children friendly tools!



Disabled Parking Bay

We are really pleased to have a Disabled Parking bay outside of Nursery. This is something we campaigned for a few years ago. We proudly support many children with additional needs so this space is essential to those families. Please respect this space. We urge you to display your Blue Badge when using this space. Thank you.



Governors

Welcome to the new school year at St Werburgh’s Park Nursery School from everyone on the Governing Board. All of the governors know the school very well and many of us are parents or grandparents of former and current children, so we know what a special place it is. Our role is to provide support to Mandy and her staff team and challenge them to maintain and improve further the quality of education that our children receive.

Our main challenge in the coming year is in maintaining high standards in line with a very tight budget. We have a wonderful team of dedicated, professional staff, but, as governors, we are concerned at the very heavy workloads we ask them to maintain. We are lucky in having some volunteers helping out, for example in our garden, and please do let us know if you would like to assist in any way.

We also welcome new faces and ideas on our governing board and shall shortly be recruiting a parent governor. If you would like to find out more about the role, please let the school office know so that we can be in touch.

Rebecca Nelson, Chair of Governors

Like our Facebook page – St Werburgh’s Park Nursery School and follow our Twitter for the latest news - @StWerburghsPark

