



# Sunshine Preschool Newsletter



## St Martin's January 2025

A warm welcome back to everyone and we hope you had an enjoyable Christmas time. As we start the new term the team would like to wish you all a very happy and healthy new year and say a big thank you for the lovely Christmas cards and presents we received, which were very much appreciated.

### TERM DATES

#### Term starts

Monday 6th Jan 2025

#### Last day of term

Friday 14th Feb 2025

Please note we do not always run to the same dates as local schools. Term dates are detailed in the [Welcome book](#) and on our [calendar](#)

### CURRICULUM TOPICS

We will be exploring the topics detailed below. This term we will be using books, songs and activities to support children's mathematical development. You can support your child's mathematical learning at home by looking at shapes in the environment and helping them to count during every day routines, such as climbing the stairs, unpacking the shopping and noticing numbers when you're out and about. If you would like more information on suitable activity ideas you can arrange to speak to your child's key person when dropping off, or collecting.

**Sound of the Week** - Our sound of the week is detailed below, so please encourage your child to explore phonics by looking for objects at home that begin with this sound.

**Number of the Week** - This term we will be introducing a 'number' alongside our 'sound' of the week. If you would like to send us some photos on Tapestry of your child holding that amount or having found the numeral when out and about please do send them in!

**Can you help?** As part of our focus on maths, we will be looking at how music supports mathematical thinking. **If you, or a family member, can play a musical instrument**, and you would like to come in and play for the children, please let us know. We would love to introduce the children to a range of instruments, music styles and the sounds they make, so any ability would be welcomed!

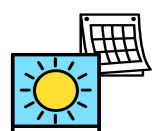
### SETTING CONTACT

St Martin's mobile number:  
**07716 890 545**



### IMPORTANT DATES

23rd Jan: Polish Grandparents' Day



Date	Learning Themes	Sound of the week	Story of the week	Song of the week	Number of the week
6 - 10 Jan	1 2 3 look at me	B	Goldilocks and the Three Bears	When Goldilocks went to the house of the bears	1
13 - 17 Jan	Let's get counting	O	Great Pet Sale	Sleeping bunnies	2
20 - 24 Jan	How big is a dinosaur?	D	Don't Teach a Stegosaurus to do Sums	There's a dinosaur	3
27 - 31 Jan	Lunar New Year (Year of the Snake)	Y	The Great Race	A Dragon is Very Fierce	4
3 - 7 Feb	Building Bridges	G	Three Billy Goats Gruff	London Bridge is falling down	5
10 - 14 Feb	Let's Build!	L	Three Little Pigs	10 Little Builders	6

### NEWSPAPERS / MAGAZINES / SOCKS

We are in desperate need of newspapers to cover tables for craft activities, and also old wallpaper rolls for mark making activities.

We'd also love any magazines (children's and suitable grown up ones) and children's socks for our maths pairing activities.

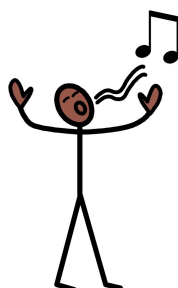


### POLISH GRANDPARENTS' DAY

We will be celebrating Polish Grandparents' Day this year on **Thursday 23rd January**. All grandparents are welcome to come into the setting **2 - 3 pm** on this day to take part in songs, stories and a cup of tea! If it is not your child's normal session, they are still welcome to attend with their grandparents.

### STORY & SONG OF THE WEEK

To support children's literacy development we explore a story and song each week (as detailed above). It would be really helpful if you could share the story at home, or talk to your child about the story if you don't have a copy, as this will reinforce their reading and storytelling skills. Singing is also a great way to enhance language skills as it teaches children rhythm and rhyme.



### PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

The deadline for primary school places is fast approaching! If your child was born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021 you need to apply for a new reception school place to your home local authority.

Parents must make an application for Reception in September 2025 by midnight on **15th January 2025**.

**Speech & Language Support** - Bristol City Council have asked us to share the following information with parents which gives useful and practical ways to support children's speech and language development:

- YouTube [Playlist](#): Information videos and bitesize clips to share with colleagues & families, including a new 'Sorting Out Sounds' video and updated 'Confident Communicators' video, as well as bitesize tips and activity ideas.

If you have any concerns about your child's speech and language development please do not hesitate to speak to your key person as we have lots of advice we can share with you.

## ILLNESS

Bristol City Council have sent information to schools and pre-schools regarding infection control measures as there are concerns about the rising number of cases of: **Scarlet Fever, Strep Throat, Respiratory Infections (including Covid and flu), Norovirus, Chicken Pox, and Impetigo**. In order to help minimise the risk of infection, Sunshines will continue to carry out strict hygiene and hand washing procedures and our enhanced cleaning routines. We also need parents to be vigilant in not sending their child to preschool if they are ill to prevent the spread of germs. As we have a small staff team, and do not use agency staff, our sickness policy sometimes differs from the NHS guidelines to ensure we can stay operational: children need to be off for a minimum of 48 hours for any contagious illness or infection, or until they are no longer contagious. We really appreciate your support in this matter in keeping everyone as well as possible in our community.

**Suitable Clothes for Pre-school** - Please make sure children are dressed in appropriate clothes for pre-school which they can easily manage themselves when using the toilet. Clothes need to be easy to pull up and down with no difficult fastenings. As the weather is now colder, please make sure they are dressed in warm clothes as we will be accessing outdoor play every day. We ask for no scarves as these are a strangling hazard. Shoes need to be suitable for climbing and running outdoors but wellington boots are not suitable for indoor play so if your child wears them to pre-school please can you bring shoes for them to change into. Many thanks for your help with these issues.

**A very big thank you** to everyone who supported our sponsored events last term; we raised an amazing £665! Some of the money was spent on magnetic shapes, and new space-themed toys that Santa delivered for us at our end of term Christmas party. The rest of the money we will be asking the children to vote on what they would like, and we will spend it accordingly.

## WEBSITE

Please remember you can find more information about special events, view our Welcome Book and find a copy of newsletters online at:

[www.sunshinepreschool.org.uk](http://www.sunshinepreschool.org.uk)

**Parent Consultations** - We hope you found it useful to discuss your child's learning and development with your key person last term. It was really nice for us to be able to give you feedback on what has been a really lovely and positive start to the academic year. Although we are limited in the feedback we can give you on a daily basis, due to drop off and collection routines, please let us know if you would like to speak to your key person at any time and we can arrange to meet you at pre-school or have a telephone conversation.

### **SPARE CLOTHES**

Please can you check to make sure there several sets of weather-appropriate clothes in your child's bag as children may need changing after messy or water play, as well as for toilet accidents.



**The Big Brush Club** - oral health advice for parents. There is an Oral Health Improvement **Online Webinar** for Parents and Guardians on Tuesday 14th Jan (6.00 pm). This session will discuss the importance of good oral health in children, common oral problems and diseases that occur in infancy and preventive advice for parents or carers.

The **BBC Tiny Happy People** website provides a wealth of FREE resources including fun activity ideas, tips and advice, child development facts, key talking tips for any age and much more. All designed to empower families with knowledge and techniques to support their 0–4-year-olds development in the home learning environment.