



Sunshine Preschool

Newsletter



St Gerard's November 2025

Welcome to our November newsletter! This month we're excited to share our upcoming events, including our Christmas singalong, and we'll be celebrating lots of autumn festivals with the children throughout this term. We will also be holding key meetings to update you on your child's progress 10th - 14th November.

TERM DATES

Term starts

Monday 3rd Nov 2025

Last day of term

Friday 19th Dec 2025

MORNING ONLY (collect
11:45 - 12:00)

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 - This term we will be using child centred activities and books to celebrate various festivals including Bonfire Night, Diwali, the German festival of St. Martin and the Christmas celebration of St. Nikolaus. We will also commemorate Remembrance Sunday.

IMPORTANT! We are transitioning from our current email address to: **office@sunshinepreschool.org.uk** and **finance@sunshinepreschool.org.uk**. Please add these email addresses to your contacts list. We'll be starting to use these from after half-term, but we'll also be checking the old email address, so your email won't be missed!

Sound of the Week - Starting this term, we will be introducing a weekly phonic sound. Each week we will be exploring a letter sound through fun phonic songs and activities and will be giving children the opportunity to go on 'sound hunts' around the setting. You can support your child to learn phonics at home by helping them to find items that begin with the sound of the week, which they can bring into preschool for our 'Sounds Basket' and to share with their friends. When introducing children to phonics it is useful to remember to use the 'sound' that the letter makes and not the letter name, but if you would like more information about phonics then please speak to your child's key person or look at the [Resources](#) section of our website for helpful tips.

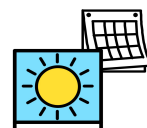
SETTING CONTACT

St Gerard's mobile
number:
07798 672 609



IMPORTANT DATES

3rd Nov: Photographer
10th - 14th Nov: Key meetings
14th Nov: Children in Need
11th Dec: Christmas singalong
19th Dec: Christmas party (AM only)



SPECIAL EVENTS FOR THIS TERM – DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Children in Need: Friday 14th Nov. We will be organising a Pudsey Bear fun day and any donations received will be passed on to Children in Need; details to follow.

Christmas Sing-along: Parents are invited to join us for a Christmas sing-along on **Thursday 11th December at 2:00**. The sing-along will be followed by a bring and buy cake sale and Christmas raffle. We hope you will be able to join us but due to limitations with space we can only invite two people per child. All children and families are invited so if your child does not attend this session please arrive at 2:00. If you have any suitable raffle prizes, please let us know!

End of Term Christmas Party – Friday 19th Dec. Our Christmas party will be held during the morning session and will mark the end of term so there is no afternoon session on this day. All children are invited to attend so if your child does not normally attend this session please bring them along for a morning of fun games and activities and a visit from Santa. Please collect children 11:45 - 12:00.

Family Celebrations: Please let us know if you have any special cultural celebrations or ways of celebrating that are different to traditional English customs so we can broaden our horizons and include them in our planning.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION. Please can we remind you of the following:

Sickness: If children are sick for any reason they must not return to pre-school until at least 48 hours after the last bout of sickness. This applies to cases of diarrhoea as well.

Illnesses: We ask parents to continue to be vigilant in keeping their child at home if they are unwell for any reason. We have had lots of colds, coughs and sore throat bugs being spread around pre-school due to children attending when they are poorly. The pre-school day is busy and if children are feeling under the weather it is better for them stay at home and recuperate until they are fully recovered. Please help us to minimise infections and keep everyone well by not sending children until they are fully fit and well.

Dress Code: In order for children to develop self-help skills and gain confidence in looking after themselves please dress children in clothing that they can easily manage themselves. Trousers and leggings that can be easily pulled up and down are best for accessing the toilet and preventing accidents. It is also essential that children have warm outdoor clothing to wear every day as they will be accessing outdoor learning at some point during the day. Children need to have suitable footwear for running & climbing, and coats to ensure they are kept warm and dry.

Lunchboxes: Please remember that due to health and safety and choking hazards the following items are prohibited from children's lunchboxes: **popcorn, tube yoghurts (e.g. Frubes), nuts/nut butters**. Any **round items such as grapes, cherry tomatoes, olives, sausages etc. need to be sliced lengthways**.

Date	Learning Themes	Sound of the week	Story of the week	Song of the week	Special events
3-7 Nov	Winter Festivals	S	Binny's Diwali	Twinkle Twinkle	
10-14 Nov	Our Universe	A	Whatever Next	Zoom, Zoom, Zoom	Key meeting week: please see Tapestry Fri 14th: Children in Need
17 - 21 Nov	Our Universe	T	Aliens Love Underpants	Five Little Men in a Flying Saucer	
24 - 28 Nov	Winter Wonderland	P	Jack Frost	Christmas songs	
1 - 5 Dec	Christmas: The Nativity Story	I	Nativity Story	Christmas songs	
8 - 19 Dec	Christmas: Santa's Grotto	N	Christmas Stories	Christmas songs	11th: Singalong 19th: Christmas Party

STORY OF THE WEEK

To support children's literacy development we will be continuing to explore a specific story each week as detailed above. Through revisiting a familiar story, children are able to develop pre-reading skills and enhance their own creative storytelling. You can support your child by reading our story of the week or asking them to retell the story to you.

MACMILLAN COFFEE AFTERNOON

Thank you for supporting our coffee afternoon. It was lovely to spend time with you and we hope you enjoyed being with your child at pre-school and sampling the delicious cakes! Across all three of our settings we raised over £400 for Macmillan Cancer Support, so thank you for all your donations.

CHRISTMAS BOOKS

If you are buying any books this Christmas, please consider buying them from Scholastic where you can nominate Sunshines as your chosen school and we receive a percentage of the total sales in free books. As you click through to pay, select "Sunshine Pre-School, St Gerard Majella Church Hall, Buller Road Knowle, Bristol, Avon, BS4 2LN". (We hold one account with Scholastic, but any money raised is shared between all 3 of our settings). Thank you!

SECRET READER

To support literacy development we would like different people to come into the setting to be our 'secret reader'. This involves coming in for around 30 minutes to read a story (nothing too scary and staff will support you!) and the invitation is also open to grandparents and relatives as well. If you are able to come in please speak to a member of staff to book a convenient date and time and remember not to tell your child as we want it to be a surprise!

Inclusive and Diverse resources: Thanks to last year's fundraising efforts we have been able to update our library with books and resources that reflect a wider range of ethnicities, languages, abilities and disabilities, genders and family dynamics. We have been able to purchase high quality story books rather than information books, so children are able to identify with the characters and see positive images represented in the stories they love. Staff have been undergoing training and using reflective practice to identify how to improve on current practice and our work has been recognised and praised by the Local Authority. This is still a work in progress and we would welcome any comments or support you may want to give. Please email us if you would like any more information.

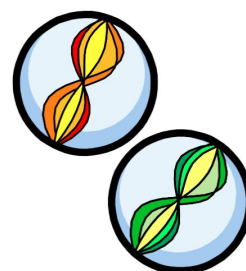
WORKING WITH THE DOGS TRUST

It is very important that children know how to keep themselves safe around dogs both in the home and when they are out in the community. A while ago we were fortunate to work alongside The Dogs Trust on an action research programme to help them develop teaching resources for preschool children. We continue to use these resources during the year to help children feel more confident and to keep safe around dogs. Parents can access these resources using this [link](#) and we would urge any families with dogs to have a look at the important messages they put across.

E-SAFETY

As part of our safeguarding responsibilities we will be talking to the children about how to keep themselves safe both in the real world and online. This term we will be specifically looking at appropriate use of devices, especially the need to switch off from screens and the internet at bed time. We will explore these messages using the book Webster's Bedtime and other age appropriate resources. Further information can be found on the [Resources](#) page of our website or from the [NSPCC](#).

Marble Jar: Over the last few weeks your child may have told you they have 'put a marble in the jar' which is another way we use to reward children. Whenever a child is kind, helpful or has worked to achieve their best they are rewarded by adding a marble to our jar. When the marble jar is full the whole group has a treat and the treat is decided by the children. If your child tells you they've been able to put a marble in the jar be sure to give them lots of praise!



Harvest: A big thank you to everyone who supported our Harvest food collection which was given to Withywood food bank. Food banks are seeing a big increase in demand and were extremely grateful for all your donations. Please also let us know if you need any help or advice about using a food bank or getting help with any financial issues.

WEBSITE

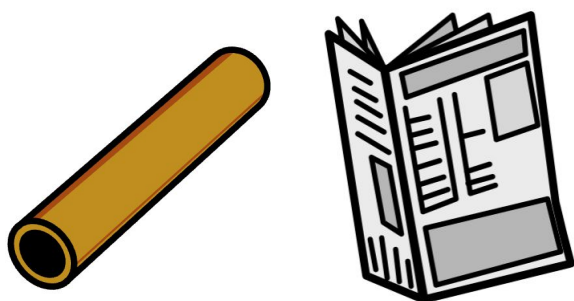
Please remember you can find more information about special events, view our Welcome Book and find a copy of newsletters online at:
www.sunshinepreschool.org.uk

This year, we are partnering with Bristol City Council's Schools Active Travel team, to support sustainable travel to Sunshines. Below you will find a 5 minute walking map, so why don't you see if you could walk, scoot, or cycle some of the way to preschool? To make the walk more fun for your little one, why not play "Five Things: Name Five (or Ten)". To play this, name a category e.g. animals, ways to travel, or fruit, and your child needs to come up with 5 things in that category e.g. dog, rabbit, guinea pig, cat, hamster. You can also do this with letters/the sound of a letter.

As we engage more with the scheme, we will be able to access different perks and workshops from the Active Travel team. This term, they will be running a "Be Bright Be Seen" workshop, talking about road safety in the darker months with the children.

JUNK MODELLING

Donations required! We are going to be enjoying lots of junk modelling this term, so please save us your clean boxes, tubs and tubes for us to turn into amazing learning opportunities! We are also on the lookout for old newspapers, so please bring any donations into preschool.



TAPESTRY

We hope you are enjoying Tapestry, and finding it a useful way to get a flavour of the lovely activities your child has been up to during their busy preschool day. We love seeing your Tapestry posts too, and it is a great way for children to link their learning between preschool and home. If you do put a Tapestry post on, please could you mention to the person on the door when dropping off your child so we know to look out for it? Our practitioners have set "non contact" time each week to upload their observations so may not see your post for a few days otherwise!

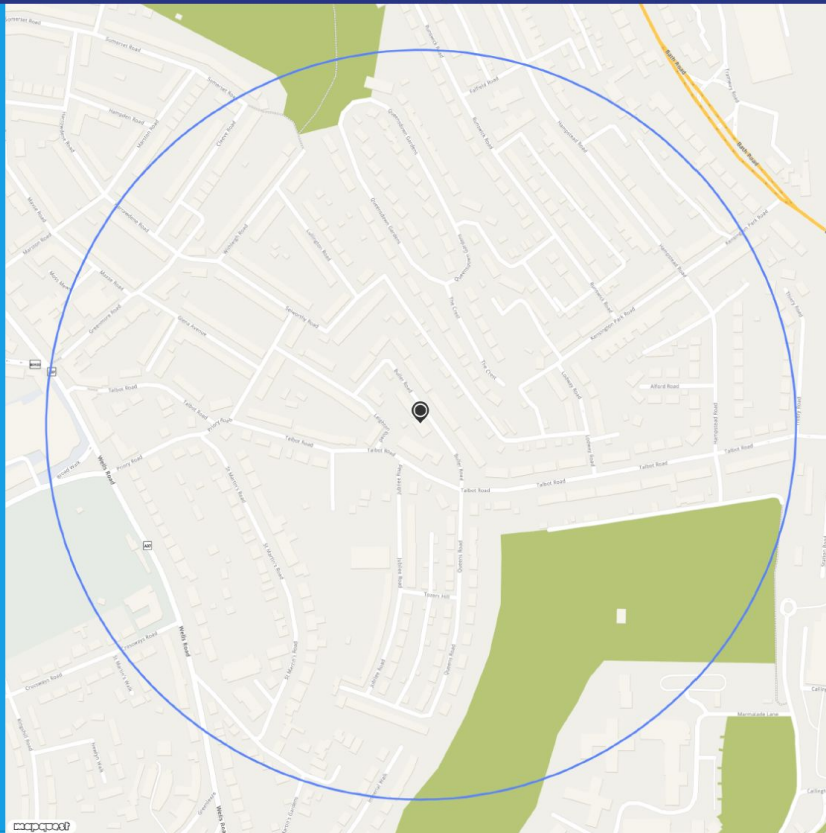
Fundraising: This year we will be fundraising for climbing apparatus for our outside space; we look forward to seeing your sponsored collection photos on Tapestry!

5-MINUTE WALKING BUBBLE

#StaySafeGetActive on your journey to school



Sunshine
Preschool - St
Gerard's



Protect
our
children

If possible,
walk, cycle
or scoot
to school

If you have
to drive,
park at least
5-minutes
away

Supported by the



Department
for Transport

For more hints, tips and information please visit www.modeshiftstars.org/staysafegetactive

This 5-minute walking zone represents a distance of 400m measured as a straight line, based upon an average walking speed of 3-miles per hour