



News in brief. The impression is that recently more than ever, childminders in Bristol are having to close their settings because of a Covid-positive in their household. Despite the new rules which reduce the potential period of closure to five days (opening on the sixth day after two negatives) some childminders report that in fact their household members have taken longer than five days to clear the infection and so the setting remains closed accordingly.

The Dept for Ed recently produced some additional FAQs to describe the circumstances in which childminders could continue to operate, even with a positive in their household [Additional actions for childminders GOV.UK](#) (see options A, B, C, D, E) The ways in which



Remember, even if a minded child or an assistant (who does not live in your household) tests positive, you still have to report to Ofsted, even if you do not have to close your setting. [Tell Ofsted if you have a COVID-19 incident at your childcare business - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) Please let our local Health Protection Team know too, they will give you a call if you give them your number education.covid19reporting@bristol.gov.uk

The research body 'Childcare during Covid19' found that that the impact of the pandemic on childminders' businesses has been very negative, with associated losses to the workforce. Childminders reported feeling "unsupported". The research body want to hear from childminders [Childcare During COVID-19 \(childcare-during-covid.org\)](#)

Inspections: It is not possible to predict exactly when Ofsted will inspect someone, but at the moment in Bristol it seems that those registered in 2018/19 are now getting their first inspection (the first inspection should be within a 30-month window of registration) and those who are being **re-inspected**, were last inspected in 2016/17 (re-inspections should be within a six-year window). So, Ofsted do seem to be substantially behind with inspections. The Childminding Support Team contact those childminders who, we predict, are due for an inspection. Do take advantage of our offer of a home visit - we can help you reflect, talk about your children and your setting with confidence and feel prepared. cmsupport@bristol.gov.uk

Since inspections started up again, we notice that, to date, all previous 'Outstanding' outcomes are newly judged as 'Good'. There seems to be a pattern here: perhaps there is an explanation around 'moderation' as Ofsted get back into the swing of inspections? This is just a guess of a theory.

Almost all inspections of childminders in Bristol continue to be 'Good'. The 'actions' which Ofsted set are varied, for example; giving children more time to think when asking questions; giving children opportunity to talk about feelings. Partnerships with parents and other settings comes up quite often as an inspection action.

Resources on Bristol Early Years website. For your information, the Bristol Transition Record/Transfer Record has been re-created, in keeping with the EYFS reforms – you can use this Universal Transfer Record for transfer to any setting, not just to school. <https://www.bristolearlyyears.org.uk/early-learning/assessment-and-transition/transfer-to-school-documents/>

Take a look at the new resources which are available on the Bristol Early Years website, including a straightforward form for the Two-Year-Old Progress Check [Assessment and Transition | Bristol Early Years](#)

News in brief:

Bristol Early Years Department is now based at Southmead Children's Centre (no longer at Bristol Education Centre), although most staff are still home-working.

The local authority database which holds the contact details and Ofsted information about all registered childcare providers, including childminders, has been changed (or at least is in the process of changing...big job!). We are swapping over to a new database called Liquid Logic, EYES. This database receives official information directly from Ofsted about registered childcare providers. At the moment the changes will not affect you, BUT in due course the local authority, childcare search website [Synergy - Enquiry \(servelec-synergy.com\)](https://www.synergy-enquiry.com) will be replaced and upgraded, and this will give you more control over your own profile. Deborah Brown explains more below.



In November Rachel Jacobs took her children to watch the Children in Need rickshaw go past



This Spring, we are launching a new Family Information Service webpage which will be found on the Parent Portal (where parents already go to apply for other BCC services, like applying for a free school meal or primary school place). It will provide an improved searching facility for families looking for childcare and give you more control over the information you share. You will shortly be invited to update your information (via the Establishment / Provider Portal – so the same place where you submit headcounts) and to engage in its new features, like adding any social media links you use (e.g. Facebook pages for your businesses), your company logo, and your hourly rates and vacancies. You will also be able to control how much information you share with the public (e.g. nothing at all, nothing online (only via the FIS team), only your name and postal code, or your whole address). Once we have read it, your information will be published to the new FIS webpage. You will be able to refresh it whenever you wish.

Our Family Information Service phone number (0117 3574192) and email address (askcyps@bristol.gov.uk) are both still in service for those families who prefer other methods of interaction. We look forward to seeing your updated information online soon.

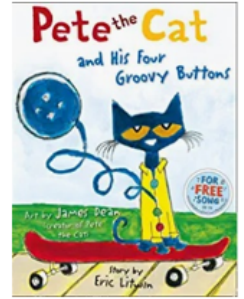
Deborah Brown.

What's happening at the childminding groups?

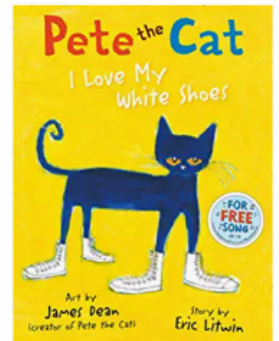
Bishopsworth Childminding Group.

Every Monday during term-time 9.30am – 11am

Despite a disrupted few weeks due to covid, there have been good sessions with regular attendees, which has been great for the children to become confident in the room and build relationships. For the children, we've been focusing on their interests; combining different textures within messy play, cars – rolling and movement and familiar home role play. We enjoyed sharing the Pete the Cat stories by Eric Litwin and James Dean, I Love My White Shoes and Pete the Cat & his Four Groovy Buttons.



As adults, we've been discussing the changes to assessment and what that means for settings. Lots of the childminders have attended the OPAL training, though were still figuring out how it would work for their children and families. We've also been talking about the expectations of OFSTED. The childminder's have also been using the time to rebuild old connections and new ones with each other after the disruption of the pandemic.



Boe (Rowena) Meaton, Interim Lead Teacher

Broomhill Childminding Group

Every Wednesday during term-time, 9.30am – 11am



We have been involved with the Nature Discovery project and Jane and Lucie supported us in setting up raised beds. We have planted garlic, rosemary and strawberries, along with spring bulbs. We also had a visit from a hedgehog!



We have had professional conversations about the EYFS reforms, communication, speech and language. We looked at the Universally Speaking document as a support tool alongside the Bristol ECAT (Every Child a Talker) documents and also in conjunction with supporting EAL (English as an additional language) children.

Our core book has been based on the Bear Hunt, followed by Leaf Hunt and then, December, our Christmas hunt.

Zoe Breen, Lead Teacher for East Bristol Hub

Bedminster Childminding Group

Every Monday during term time, 9.30am – 11.30am

From September, childminder groups have been welcomed back to Indoor venues. Bedminster group has been running weekly on Mondays at Bedminster Children's Centre. We have settled into the huge Nursery space and have been busy exploring, creating, baking and socialising with friends. Here are some photos of what we have been up to:



Bannerman Road Childminding Group

Every Wednesday during term time, 9.30am – 11am

Bannerman Road Childminder group has been running at Bannerman Road Children's Centre on Wednesdays since September. We have all enjoyed being back together, making new friends and playing and learning together. Here are a few photos of what we have been up to:



Lucy Dale

St Paul's Childminding Group

Every Tuesday during term time, 9.30am – 11.30am



For me, and hopefully the childminders who have been attending the group these last few months have been about connecting again. I have enjoyed catching up and spending time finding out what people have been doing and meeting new children and even some new childminders. As a group we have given support and advice to help with the new EYFS Reforms and to those thinking about or having been through OFSTED. What has been great for me is that relationships have grown stronger and I feel truly part of the group. Hopefully the new year will bring opportunities to connect with the wider community. When we can plan trips out and invite visitors in. Here's to a positive and happy 2022!

Jo Franklin, Lead Teacher.



SBCC

SOUTH BRISTOL CHILDREN'S CENTRES

Stockwood Childminding Group.

Every Wednesday during term time, 10am – 11.30am

I have recently become involved in this group and am looking forward to the prospect of fun times ahead. We have already enjoyed some sensory activities and pre-Christmas crafts. I have really loved the song times at the end of each session and the children's enthusiasm for this is infectious. We're often joined by props and puppets which really help to bring the songs to life.

The children's centre had a fabulous outdoor space and we're looking forward to making the most of all that it has to offer in the new year and beyond.

Numbers are restricted due to covid, to book a place please email Julia.harkess@bristol.gov.uk on the Monday before each session.



NATURE DISCOVERY

Childminders across Bristol East & Central reach areas are invited to join our Nature Discovery East/Central Childminder Hub Project. The project was born 3 years ago and initiated and led by Jane Francis (East Bristol Lead Teacher) and Luci Gorell Barnes; both allotment owners and gardeners. The positive impact nature and growing has on people of all ages is evident; this project enables increased well-being, knowledge and connection. We gain a deeper understanding of nature; how to work alongside it with it.

The last six months have been challenging but being outside and engaging with nature impacts on our physical and mental health

Nature Discovery so far...

SUMMER

Follow a lovely Summer Celebration at the end of the year at Speedwell Allotments, we enjoyed a cream tea with homemade jam and fruit kebabs. We made our own shakers and bunting using beautiful things we found. We found lots of bugs and were busy looking after their babies. We were lucky enough to see butterflies too!



AUTUMN



We entered the Autumn season with a session based on harvesting. We collected lots of fruit and vegetables. We picked apples and made apple mandala's, we ate dried and stewed apple - yum!

We collected strawberry runners and planted them so we can enjoy lots of strawberries next year! We prepared a planter and planted spring bulbs and garlic cloves to enjoy tasty dishes in the Spring!



We demonstrated how easy it is to do at home....

Buy a garlic bulb in the supermarket separate the garlic cloves and pop bottom and point at the top) and you too can enjoy your own organic garlic next year!



It has been wonderful to be able to start meeting indoors again over the last two terms even though we love being outside as well. We have continued with forest school meet ups and made good use of outdoor spaces at the various venues we meet at in the North.

Here is a taste of what's on offer at the various groups run across the North...



*Painting outdoors
in Stoke Park
Woods*

Monday 9:30 – 11am Cairns' Road Baptist Church

The Cairns Road group, run by Filton Avenue, has been getting used to a new space in the light and airy upstairs hall. There is plenty of room for physical play as well as space to set up small world, sensory play, construction activities, craft, painting, and books to read.

Tuesdays 9:30 – 11:15 Filton Avenue Children's Centre

At Filton Avenue we have been able to free flow into the outdoor area and use the mud kitchen and outdoor sand pit. Indoors, the newly resourced sensory room has been popular with all ages as well as experimenting with different ways of mark making using paint, crayons, chalks and in shaving foam and sand. We have had a couple of Forest school sessions in Stoke Park estate and noticed how the woods changed with the seasons.

Tuesdays 9:30 – 11:15 Southmead Children's Centre

Childminders have been able to use a newly resourced room and garden area that has been developed to offer lots of opportunities for exploration and investigation.

Thursdays 9:30- 11:15am Avonmouth, Longcross and Sea Mills

This term the Avonmouth , Longcross and Sea Mills Groups have been exploring all that our local communities have to offer. We have been on an 'I wonder walk' around Kings Weston estate where we have focused on communication and language skills. A 'Messy Maths' session which has allowed discussions around the question "where's the maths in that?" We have been discovering the power of loose parts play and the creative opportunities that this presents. We have also explored Sea Mills School Forest area which provides an amazing opportunity for children to explore and roam within a secure wild space. We explored mud kitchens, different sized trees, a rope swing, pushing wheelbarrows on different ground levels and spotted some Gruffalo character habitats as well as curiously investigating the fire pit! The children had the opportunity for balancing, developing strength and practising skills in navigating space. The views are fantastic and children talked about what they could see and hear. We look forward to being able to use this space more in the future to support learning across all areas of the curriculum.

If you have never been along to a childminding group before, why not give it a try in the New Year? The groups are very friendly and welcoming and a great place for both childminders and children to make new friends. The groups provide opportunities for you to get support in your role as a childminder and inspiration for ways to develop and extend your children's learning.

Please do email me if you would like any more information about what is on offer in the North

Jane Smith

North Childminding Hub Lead Jane.smith@bristol-schools.uk

Congratulations!



Congratulations to Karla Marmolejo and Desrine Bailey who have successfully gained their Bristol Standard Quality Improvement for Birth to Five certificate.

Being reflective



If you have answered **YES** to any or all of these questions,

then the **BRISTOL STANDARD** is for you!

With the introduction of two **CHILDMINDER FRIENDLY** pathways,

REFLECTIVE PRACTICE HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER!

You can choose either a two or three year pathway and will have mentor support to guide you on your Bristol Standard journey.

For further information please contact Julia at Julia.harkess@bristol.gov.uk

Wonderful Wintery Reading



The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats

[The Snowy Day Read-aloud, an animated story - YouTube](#)

This book tells the story of a child's first encounter with snow. A simple story which is beautifully illustrated providing lots of opportunities of opportunities for discussion.

Here Comes Jack Frost by Kazuno Kohara

[Jack Frost by Kazuno Kohara - YouTube](#)

A child becomes friend with Jack Frost in this simple and beautifully illustrated book. Don't mention anything warm or Jack will disappear....



One Snowy Night by Nick Butterworth

[One Snowy Night by Nick Butterworth I Read aloud I Books about friendship - YouTube](#)

A lovely Percy the Park Keeper tale of how all the animals sought warmth and refuge with Percy. Just delightful.

Charlie Crow in the Snow by Paula Metcalf and Cally Johnson-Isaacs

The home that Charlie Crow knows and loves changes as winter descends, he's not sure what's going on...

[Charlie Crow in the Snow. Children's illustrated read-aloud \(audiobook\) story. - YouTube](#)



Kipper's Snow Day by Mick Inkpen

This is an absolute favourite at Harkess House, our copy is incredibly well read and looking a tad worse for wear as a result. It's a heart-warming tale of Kipper and his friend Tiger and the fun they have together in the snow. We read this one all year round!

[Kids book read aloud: Kipper: Kipper's Snowy Day by Mick Inkpen - YouTube](#)

Seasonal Activity Ideas

We have had a very mild start to this winter, although the temperature is dropping down now, so it has been perfect to explore the outdoors. Children thrive exploring their outdoor environments at this time of year, observing the changes in the seasons, and extending and expanding their vocabulary.



Making the most of the outdoors

Try and take some time in the take trips outside at different times of the day and in all weathers, talk about the changes such as the frost of spider webs or the crunchy crisp leaves. Encourage children to move around as if there was snow everywhere or pretend to be putting on big winter clothes.



Blow bubbles!

Is it really cold? Then try blowing Bubbles outside to see how frost patterns form on them. Blow the bubbles next to a cold surface so that they don't break in the air, and use a Bubble Wand to catch them! Blowing bubbles onto frosty grass is perfect for this!

Go on a Bear Hunt!

Take a book out with you on your adventures. Allow children to recreate the story, telling it in their own words, moving through the 'swishy swashy' grass, 'squelch' through the mud! This supports all the areas of learning and development in the Early Years Foundation Stage.



Tuff tray idea – frozen polar animals

If you cannot get to a big outdoor environment, you could use some small world animals, polar bears, penguins, etc, freeze them in a small amount of water and put them in a tuff tray in the garden or inside in a tray. Let the children discover the animals and try and set them free! Support their language and ideas as they work out how to get the animals out.



HMRC updates

The government have published some guidance for financial support for the self-employed.
[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): what to do if you're self-employed and getting less work or no work](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-what-to-do-if-youre-self-employed-and-getting-less-work-or-no-work)
- GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Regular payments if you're getting less or no work

If your income has gone down, you might be able to get:

- [New Style Jobseeker's Allowance \(JSA\)](#) if you're under State Pension age, unemployed or are working less than 16 hours a week on average, and have made class 1 National Insurance contributions, usually by working as an employee over the last 2 to 3 years – your savings and partner's income will not affect how much you get
- [Universal Credit](#) if you or your partner are under State Pension age and you have £16,000 or less in savings – you might be able to get it at the same time as New Style JSA
- [Pension Credit](#) if both you and your partner have reached State Pension age

If you have coronavirus symptoms or are self-isolating

If you cannot work because you have coronavirus symptoms or because you're self-isolating, you might be able to get:

- a one off payment if you've been told to self-isolate - [Test and Trace Payment Support - bristol.gov.uk](#)
- [New Style Employment and Support Allowance \(ESA\)](#) if you're under State Pension age, and you have made enough National Insurance contributions, usually over the last 2 to 3 years – you could also get it if your child has symptoms or is self-isolating
- [Universal Credit](#) if you or your partner are under State Pension age and you have £16,000 or less in savings – you might be able to get it at the same time as New Style ESA
- [Pension Credit](#) if both you and your partner have reached State Pension age

If you are a childminder and you own children are under five years of age you can get benefits advice from the Information Advice and Guidance (IAGs)

[Help for parents returning to work - bristol.gov.uk](#)

Self-Assessment submission due (for tax year 2020/21) by 31st January 2022


The deadline for your 2020/2021 accounts submission to HMRC is fast approaching. By 31st January 2022 you must be ready to submit 3 figures for self-employment - total income - total expenses = net income for the year.

You will also need the total of any grants you claimed to hand. You will need to find your login details for HMRC and check they work so if you have to update them, you can do it before the end of the month because there are fines for late submission.

If you think you're going to struggle to pay your tax bill on time, you can [arrange a payment plan](#) with HMRC. You must do this before the tax is due, or by 1 April for Self-Assessment.

Example invoice It is really simple to do your own accounts if you invoice families. We have created a template invoice you may wish to use to support your accounting. If you would like a Word version emailed out to you, please email cmsupport@bristol.gov.uk

Invoice for Child Care Fees *October 21 (for example)*

Invoiced to: <i>Parents' names (child's name for reference)</i>		Childminder's name Address Ofsted ref:
Description:	Amount:	
Contracted hours: <i>Reminder here of contracted hours, for example 'Child's name' will be attending the setting between ...am andpm charged at £6.00 per hour. This equates to £60.00 per day</i>		General notes: <i>General notes, such as;</i> <i>Payment to be made and cleared into my account by no later than, or before Friday 29th October 2021</i> <i>If you pay by Universal Credits you will need to pay me in advance, so I am in receipt of fees. I can sign this invoice which you can then use to claim Universal Credit.</i> <i>Please note that if you pay through a voucher scheme or a government childcare choices account, when you have actioned the payment it takes a further 3-5 working days to clear in my account.</i> <i>Please allow suitable time for the payment to clear by the stated date or late fees will be incurred.</i>
Details of fees (by session/day/week)		Reminder note for parents <i>such as:</i> <i>Payment to be made first, Universal Credit to be claimed by parents after payment.</i> Childminder's bank account details <i>May be a separate bank account for work</i> Bank <i>eg HSBC</i> Acc name: <i>Ms</i> Acc sort code: <i>- -</i> Acc number: <i>*****</i> Ref: <i>Child's name or Childcare Choices/Tax Free Childcare reference</i>
<i>4th October</i>	<i>£60.00</i>	
<i>5th October</i>	<i>£60.00</i>	
<i>6th October 2021</i>	<i>£60.00</i>	
<i>11th October</i> <i>12th October</i>	<i>£60.00</i> <i>£60.00 per day</i> <i>or £120.00 per week, for example</i>	
<i>October</i>		
<i>October</i>		Payment received: <i>Signed and dated by childminder to confirm receipt of funds.</i> <i>Add reminder notes here for childminder's own records, such as notes about variations in payment relating to Covid or variation to usual payment due to holiday period.</i>
Total payable <i>October 21</i> 		Invoiced by: <i>Childminder's name</i>