



Mulberry Bush Nursery Group

Whitefield Nursery Newsletter

Mulberry Bush Nursery, Whitefield – Parent Newsletter December 2008

Welcome

We would like to welcome all new parents to the nursery. We hope your children enjoy their time with us and that you feel happy with the care they receive. Never be afraid to give us your suggestions.

Vacancies

There are only limited vacancies in the nursery on a Monday and Friday. If you would like to increase your child's attendance or change their days, please see Nicola or Sara as soon as possible. Any previous special offers for introducing a friend's child to the nursery have now expired.

Uniform

We hope you like the new staff uniform. It has our new logo on and looks a lot brighter than the old one. The old uniform is still being worn until the end of February and then all of the staff will wear the new one. The managers also have a smart new uniform as well and should help them to stand out!

LEA Grant

Pre-school children aged three and upwards are eligible for a government grant in the term after their third birthday. It is organised by the nursery and just requires your signature on a form. Everyone who is entitled to the grant in the Spring Term will pay reduced fees for a period of 10 weeks starting week commencing 05/01/09.

Childcare vouchers

Employers may offer help with childcare by using childcare vouchers, which can give a huge saving on your tax and National Insurance contributions. Talk to your employer about the support that is available. If they are not currently registered with a voucher company, there are several voucher companies that we recommend.

Letters and Sounds

Our Pre-school unit has used the Oxford Reading Tree and Jolly Phonics system to help children learn the alphabet and to encourage early language development. Letters and Sounds is a new six-phase teaching programme designed to help teach children how the alphabet works for reading and spelling. Phases two to six are designed for schools and phase one is designed specifically for young children and concentrates on developing children's speaking and listening skills, phonological awareness and oral blending and segmenting. We are starting to implement this new programme over the next few weeks.

New use of Busy Bee room

Until recently the Busy Bee room has been used as a wet and messy playroom for both the Toddler and Pre-school units at the morning and afternoon 'core-times'. At other times this room was often left empty and unused. To give the children and staff the maximum amount of space we have now decided to use this room throughout the whole day. The eldest Toddler children will now be based in this room and Louise Uden will be their Head of Unit.

Early / Late session

The early session starts at 7.30am. If you come into the nursery before 8.00am we will assume your child is on the early session. The late session starts at 5.30pm. If your child is still in the nursery after

5.30pm we will assume your child is on the late session. The late session finishes at 6.00pm. There is no need to pre-book to use one of these sessions. A small fee will be added to your next monthly payment if you do use one of these sessions.

Christmas parties

The children's Christmas parties will take place on Wednesday 17th and Thursday 18th December. Further details will be available nearer the time. Father Christmas will be dropping in!!!

Christmas closure

As mentioned in February's newsletter, the nursery will be open on Christmas Eve but will close early at 3.00pm. This will give all of our staff a guaranteed early finish. The nursery will re-open at the usual time on the morning of Friday 2nd January 2009. We do not charge fees when the nursery is closed over the Christmas period.

Reminder

Winter is definitely here so please make sure your child has a warm outdoor coat along with a hat, gloves and a scarf. The children will play outside everyday unless it is raining heavily.

Pumpbags

We have replaced all of the pumpbags with smart new pink or blue nylon bags. Please keep them stocked with spare clothes and underwear. If there is any dirty washing, please just take the bagged dirty washing home rather than the pumpbag itself.