



## Mulberry Bush Nursery Group

### Whitefield Nursery Newsletter

# Mulberry Bush Nursery, Whitefield – Parents Newsletter February 2009

#### 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. Please tell us if you have any concerns.

#### Staff training

A number of staff have recently renewed their Food Hygiene certificate. Others are booked onto a Paediatric First Aid course in February. Sara Seymour is currently attending a six-week S.E.N.C.O. (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator) course. The nursery manager, Stacey Russell, as well as Jenna Williams and Emma Crabtree have attended a course on the new 'Letters & Sounds' programme for Pre-school.

#### Chinese New Year

Throughout the nursery the children have been enjoying various activities to celebrate the Chinese New Year. The most popular being mask making and dressing up as a dragon.

#### Refurbishments

The nursery has a new entrance carpet and new flooring throughout the Toddler unit. This has made the entrance more welcoming and allowed the layout of the Toddler unit to be improved.

#### Thank you

We would like to say thank you for all the generous presents that were brought in at Christmas. They were shared equally among all of the staff.

#### Childcare vouchers

Employers may offer help with childcare costs 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 we recommend. If you change the amount you pay by vouchers or change the voucher company, please inform us in writing so we can amend your direct debit accordingly. Other information regarding help with nursery fees is available on our website, [www.mulberrybush-nursery.co.uk](http://www.mulberrybush-nursery.co.uk).

#### Letters and Sounds

Over the last few years our Pre-school unit has used the Oxford Reading Tree and Jolly Phonics systems to help the children learn the alphabet and to encourage early language development. A new six-phase teaching programme called 'Letters and Sounds' has been designed to help teach children how the alphabet works for reading and spelling. It has been piloted in schools for the last three years and is now being introduced in nurseries. Phases two to six are designed for schools and phase one is designed specifically for pre-school children. It concentrates on developing children's speaking and listening skills, phonological awareness and oral blending and segmenting. We will now focus more on the Letters and Sounds programme and less on Jolly Phonics and Oxford Reading Tree.

#### Dates for your diary

Parents evening:	13/05/09
Leavers' photo:	14/05/09
Charity week:	w/c 18/05/09
Individual photos:	01/10/09

#### Painter & decorator

We would like to welcome Jason Galbraith to the nursery. Jason is a qualified painter and decorator and has been employed to work between our three nurseries. He has already refreshed several areas and over the next few months he will decorate every room and then maintain them to a high standard. As soon as the weather improves he'll also paint the exterior of the buildings as well.

#### Reminders

- The double gates to the car park are opened every morning and evening to help ease congestion in Sefton Street.
- Please do not take the pumpbag home, just take the dirty washing which will have been put into a plastic bag inside your pumpbag.
- If you need a place at nursery for a younger sibling please ask for an enrolment form as soon as possible because the nursery is full at the moment.
- The Spring Term grant started on 05/01/09 and will last for ten weeks. Fees will then revert back to full fees until the Summer Term grant starts.
- 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 usually play outside everyday.
- If you are planning a birthday party, staff will be able to provide you with a list of names for you to invite, but they are not able to then chase up replies and take orders for meal choices.

#### **Puffin book club**

The nursery has set up a book club with Puffin Books to provide parents with an opportunity to buy a great range of books and it will also allow us to improve our already impressive stock of books throughout the nursery. For every pound spent by parents the nursery will receive a pound voucher to spend on new books. Attached to your newsletter is a magazine with the current offers. Simply choose the book(s) you would like, complete the order form on the back page and return it to the nursery office with a cheque made payable to 'Puffin Book Club' or just complete your bank card details on the form. Forms should be returned by Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February.