



# Mulberry Bush Nursery Group

## Walshaw Nursery Newsletter

### **Mulberry Bush Nursery, Walshaw - Newsletter Aug 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.

#### **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)**

All children, from the youngest babies to the eldest pre-school children follow the EYFS curriculum. This will become mandatory in all nurseries from September 2008. We introduced it in September 2007 so all our staff are already competent and confident with the new legislation.

#### **Pre-school unit**

In addition to the EYFS, our pre-school children are introduced to Jolly Phonics and the Oxford Reading Tree. Jolly Phonics is a learning process for the alphabet and the sounds of the letters. Each letter has an action that helps children to remember the sound. Every time the sound is heard or the letter is seen, the action will be made and vice versa. With constant reinforcement along with fun activities the children should learn the sounds and letters with ease. The Oxford Reading Tree has always placed real emphasis on the part speaking and listening plays in early language development. Much-loved [Biff, Chip and Kipper](#) stories, and the supporting teaching material and activities all actively encourage talk. The pre-school staff benefit from the support and advice from Pam Axford, our fully qualified early years teacher who is based at our Tottington nursery.

#### **Menu**

The menu has been reviewed and the order of the meals has been changed so that children who attend nursery part time can try something new.

#### **Nursery Education Funding**

Children aged three and upwards are eligible for a government grant in the term after their third birthday. It is organised by the nursery. Those entitled to the grant in the Autumn Term will pay reduced fees for a period of 15 weeks starting on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008.

#### **Security**

Please make sure that all doors and gates are closed properly so that the children always remain safe.

#### **[www.mulberrybush-nursery.co.uk](http://www.mulberrybush-nursery.co.uk)**

We are pleased with our updated website. We have combined our three nurseries on one website [www.mulberrybush-nursery.co.uk](http://www.mulberrybush-nursery.co.uk). Please visit the site and give us your feedback.

#### **Refurbishments**

A number of large projects have been started recently. The old heating system has been removed and the new one is about to be installed. The ceiling in the entrance corridor has been lowered to allow us to insulate the area. The large pre-school room will also have a lowered ceiling installed. The pre-school toilets have been updated and a new storage room created. The wooden fence leading from the nursery entrance to the car park will be replaced with the same green plastic

fencing that encloses the soft play area. This new fence will be fitted to allow better access to the car park at the rear of the nursery and should stop any splinters in the children's hands. During all of these projects, the health and safety of the children, parents and staff is our main priority.

### **Late session**

In addition to the existing early session of 7.30-8.00am, we are now offering a late session every evening from 5.30-6.00pm for those who finish work late. There is a small charge, which will be added on to the following weekly or monthly fee.

### **Children's photographer**

The photographer will be in nursery to take individual photographs of all the children on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2008. If your child does not normally attend on a Thursday, please speak to their Head of Unit to confirm arrangements.

### **Pre-school leavers**

Many of our pre-school children are leaving us to start primary school in September. We wish them well and hope they will continue to enjoy their early years education and make new friends along the way. Thank you to the parents who have completed the 'leavers questionnaires'. We agree with the popular sentiment that our staff are our best asset.

### **Vacancies**

There are a number of vacancies in the nursery because the pre-school children leave us to start primary school. Existing children will move up through the nursery and new children on the waiting list start. If you do want to change or increase your child's attendance please speak to Ann or Stacey as soon as possible.

### **Transfer of units**

Many children transfer units at this time of year. They have several tasters in their new unit. The vast majority of children settle in immediately. If you have any concerns please speak to the Head of Unit.

### **Charity Event 2008**

Our annual charity event was a huge success. Mulberry Bush Nursery, Walshaw raised £499 which was added to the money raised by Mulberry Bush Nursery, Whitefield and Tottington Nursery School to give a combined total of over £3800. Thank you very much for all your generous donations. This year we would like to donate the money raised to 'The Good Life Orphanage'. This local charity has built and maintains an orphanage in Mombasa, Kenya. We will set up an ongoing link so that we can see exactly how the money is helping. We hope to give further support to the orphanage in the years to come. More information is currently be displayed in the nursery or you can look at their website: [www.thegoodlifeorphanage.com](http://www.thegoodlifeorphanage.com).