



Mulberry Bush Nursery Group

Tottington Nursery Newsletter

Tottington Nursery School – 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. Zoe Hall is currently attending a six-week S.E.N.C.O. (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator) course. The nursery manager, Avril Healy, as well as Lorraine Taylor and Lisa Round have attended a course on the new 'Letters & Sounds' programme for Pre-school.

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.

Nativity play collection

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the collection at the end of the Pre-school Nativity play. An impressive £247.23 was raised and donated to the 'Good Life Orphanage'. A receipt is displayed in the nursery.

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.

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:	12/05/09
Charity week: w/c	18/05/09
Leavers' photo:	20/05/09
Individual photos:	23/09/09 & 25/09/09
Nativity play:	T.B.C.

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 20th February.

Bury Times

According to last week's Bury Times newspaper our nursery is mentioned in the annual report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills 2007/08 in recognition of the fact the nursery was judged to be outstanding in all five areas of its inspection criteria.

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.

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.

Reminders

- Please do not take the pumpbag home, just take the dirty washing which will have been put into a plastic bag inside your pumpbag.
- Please do not leave the main building through the front door. Parents and grandparents should use the door at the rear of the building. This will ensure the building is kept secure.
- 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.