



Mulberry Bush Nursery Group

Whitefield Nursery Newsletter

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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 let us know if you have any concerns.

Leavers' dates

Many of our pre-school children are leaving us to start primary school. We wish them well and hope they will continue to enjoy their early years education and make new friends along the way. If you know which date your child will be leaving the nursery this summer, please let Stacey or Sara know as soon as possible. We will amend your Direct Debit take into account your two-week advance payment. It also allows us to keep those on the waiting list informed of a possible start date.

Transfer of units

Many children transfer units at this time of year. They have several tasters in their new unit and the vast majority of children settle in immediately. A member of staff from your child's current unit will go with them on these taster sessions to help reassure them in the new unit. If you have any concerns please speak to the Head of Unit.

Questionnaires

Thank you to the parents who have completed the parents' evening and the leavers' questionnaires. We agree with the popular sentiment that our staff are our best asset. The questionnaires completed with the children have also been very nice to read.

Charity Event 2009

Our annual charity event was a huge success. Tottington Nursery School, Mulberry Bush Nursery, Whitefield and Mulberry Bush Nursery, Walshaw raised a combined total of £4,520. Thank you very much for all your generous donations. This year we'd like to donate £3,000 to 'The Good Life Orphanage'. This charity, set up by a Bury couple, has built and maintains an orphanage in Mombasa, Kenya. We have set up an ongoing link with the orphanage so we can see exactly how the money is helping. We would also like to support another local charity called Hurdles. Hurdles is a Bury based, registered charity which supports children and young people who have disabilities and additional needs. £1,520 will fund a day trip to Knowsley Safari Park for over 100 children and their carers.

Swine flu

The number of 'suspected' cases of Swine flu across the country has now dropped significantly. We would suggest that you keep yourself informed (television, internet, radio, press) on how to protect yourself and family from Swine flu. Remember to CATCH IT, BIN IT, KILL IT! The symptoms of Swine flu are the sudden onset of fever, cough or shortness of breath. Other symptoms can include headache, sore throat, tiredness, aching muscles, chills, sneezing, runny nose or loss of appetite. If your child is diagnosed with suspected or confirmed Swine flu and / or prescribed Tamiflu or any similar medication, the current nursery policy is for your child to be kept away from nursery for a minimum of five days, or longer if the symptoms persist or if medical advice recommends. We will keep this policy under review and update you accordingly.

Hand cleanser

The staff at each of our nurseries have always been and will continue to be vigilant in relation to hand washing, hygiene and cleanliness. Virtually every single room in the nursery has a sink for hand washing. If there is no sink in the room the staff have always been provided with a quick acting, non-tainting food safe, alcohol hand rub. All staff have read and understood the risk assessment that has been completed on this cleanser and it is always kept out of the reach of children. A bottle of this hand cleanser is now available for parents and visitors to use by the entrance to the nursery.

Change of rooms

Unusually for the nursery, only 6 children will leave to go to school in September this year. As a consequence the preschool unit will be quite large for the next academic year. This has led us to review the use of the rooms. From the start of August we have now decided to have the Toddler unit based in the current Pre-school room. A new nappy changing station has been created in the current Pre-school toilet area. The Pre-school children will then be split between the current Toddler and Busy Bee room.

Parent observations

Thank you to all the parents who have written down any ideas, suggestions or observations of their own children. When ever possible we will implement any such suggestions. If you do give us any feedback please add your name to the note so we can thank you or explain why it is not always possible to introduce the idea into a busy nursery environment.

Children's photographer

The photographer will be back in nursery to take individual photographs of all the children on 22/09/09 in time to give out as presents at Christmas!

LEA Grant

Pre-school children aged three and upwards are eligible for a grant in the term after their third birthday. The Autumn Term grant starts Monday 07/09/09 for 15 weeks.

Mobile telephones

Our mobile telephone policy has always stated that phones must be kept in the staff lockers during the day and may only be used on morning break or lunchtime. Staff have never been allowed to use their mobile telephones whilst looking after the children. Any visitors to the nursery will now be asked if they have a mobile phone with a camera facility and told it may not be used on site and a warning sign is now displayed.

Outdoor play

We hope you like the new outdoor play area. The new design has turned the previously unused entrance area into an exciting outdoor classroom for the children. The space will allow the children to plant a sensory garden, sit and socialise on the benches or use one of the activity panels. The weather shades will provide protection from the sun and rain so the children can spend time outside all year round. The vegetable patch has benefited from the wet summer with a good crop of potatoes, beetroot, peas, rhubarb and strawberries.

Reminders

If you bring in a cake for your child's birthday could we possibly ask for it to be okay for vegetarians so that all of the children can share the cake.

Please do not allow your children to bring in dress jewellery such as bracelets or necklaces. It is quite possible these items may get broken and end up in small, easy to swallow pieces.

Please empty spare clothes into your child's pumpbag rather than leaving plastic carrier bags on the pegs.

Please do not take the pumpbag home.

Nursery fees / Payment process

Fees are displayed at the entrance to the nursery. The vast majority of parents pay fees by Direct Debit. You will be given a slip showing the amount due to be taken from your account ten working days before it is taken. This should give you opportunity to check the amount and to ensure enough funds are in your account.

Walshaw extension

We are pleased to announce that we have been successful in obtaining planning permission for an extension to our Walshaw nursery. The new building should be in operation for January 2010.

Song of the month: Leo the Lion

Leo the lion, he's the king of the jungle and his jaws are big and wide!

When he roars it's a warning so you'd better all run and hide, you'd better all run and hide..... 1... 2 ... 3 ... ROAR!!!!!!