

Mulberry Bush Nursery, Walshaw - Newsletter April 2009

Staff training

Sarah Mather has enrolled on a Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator Course (S.E.N.C.O.) and Sarah Rowley on an Equalities Course (E.N.C.O.). A number of staff are about to undertake further training for 'Letters & Sounds' and 'Safeguarding Children'.

Dates for your diary

Parents evening:	14/05/09
Charity week:	w/c 18/05/09
Leavers' photo:	03/06/09
Leavers' party:	17/06/09
Individual photos:	07/10/09

Walshaw nursery extension plans

Due to continued popularity, we have recently submitted a planning application to Bury MBC to extend the nursery with a detached single storey building. We intend to have our Preschool unit in the new building along with a Toddler room. The Kindergarten unit will then be able to expand into the current Pre-school room. If the plans are approved the nursery will be able to care for an extra 35 children in total. We are aware that an increase in parent and staff numbers will have an impact on Stewart Street so we intend to make an additional car park to ease any congestion and keep disruption to our neighbours to a minimum. We will keep you informed of progress.

Early / Late sessions

These sessions will now take place in the Kindergarten unit rather than the Toddler unit.

Whitefield nursery Ofsted inspection

Our Whitefield nursery was inspected by Ofsted on Monday 9th February 2009. We are very pleased with the outcome, receiving three judgements of 'Outstanding' and achieving 'Good' in the other areas of inspection. The report is available to view online at www.ofsted.gov.uk.

Parents Evening

We will be holding a Parents Evening on Thursday 14th May 2009. It is open to parents of all children who attend the nursery. You will be able to speak to your child's keyworker and discuss their development. It will also provide you with the opportunity to look around the other units. More information will be available nearer the time. Please feel free to bring along grandparents or a friend. Could we ask you to arrange childcare for the evening rather than bringing your children along. The staff will be busy giving feedback to parents and will not be available to supervise children.

Baby daily report sheets

We have previously given a verbal report to parents on their child's day at nursery. We will now trial a new system of giving brief written reports as well for our youngest babies. This should still allow us to convey all of the appropriate information but in a brief written format.

Arriving with injury form

New child protection legislation states that nurseries should now record all children's injuries whether they were suffered at nursery or at home. In order to record this information we have designed an 'Arriving with injury form' to be used alongside our existing Accident forms. If for example a child falls off a slide in the park at weekend and grazes their face, your child's Head/Deputy of Unit will record the injury on the new form and ask for you to sign it. It will only be used to document the more serious bruising, cuts or burns. It will not be used to record the smallest cuts and bruises to the shins, elbows or knees. If an injury is discovered later in the day at nappy time for example, the Head/Deputy of Unit will ring you to let you know about it and to complete a form while you are on the telephone.

Summer term grant

The grant for 3 and 4 year olds started on Monday 6th April and will last for 12 weeks. Fees will then revert back to full fees until the Autumn Term grant starts.

Charity Event 2009

Since we first started fundraising we have raised over £45,000 for more than 40 charities. All of our nurseries take part in the event and last year we raised a combined total of £3,800 for the Good Life Orphanage in Kenya. In previous years the children have been asked to wear certain colours and sponsored on how many items are worn in those colours. However, this year the theme will be 'SPOTS & STRIPES' and the event will take place in the week commencing Monday 18th May. Your child's sponsor day will be their last day of attendance that week, so for most children it will be Friday 22nd May 2009. We will be supporting the Good Life Orphanage again as well as a local charity. Sponsor forms will be available nearer the time.

Parent observations and interactions

We would like to ask all parents to contribute towards the planning process for the children's activities. If there is a particular event coming up such as a wedding, the birth of a sibling, a special birthday, a new pet or a visit to somewhere special, then please let us know. This will allow the staff to plan certain activities that will relate to events taking place at home. For example, the homecorner can be changed into a shop, garage, vets or travel agent with accessories and dressing up clothes to match. Perhaps your child has said their first word, taken their first step or begun to count. If you inform the staff they will then be able to plan activities that will develop their new talents even further. Each unit will have a designated box where parents can drop in any observations, suggestions or comments. These can be written on a 'Post-it' or any other similarly sized piece of paper.

Reminder

If your child will not be in nursery on their normal day of attendance, please ring as early as possible. This helps to prevent their lunch being wasted. Lunch is served at approximately 11.30am if your child will be in later and you'd like a meal to be saved please ring the office.