

Mulberry Bush Nursery, Walshaw – Newsletter December 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.

Pre-school extension

Poor weather delayed the delivery date of our new modular building by a week but it has now been safely installed. The new building will be used for the older Toddler and the Pre-school children and will be in use in January 2010. When Pre-school transfer into their new rooms, work will then commence on expanding and refurbishing the existing Kindergarten unit by extending it into the space currently occupied by Pre-school in the main building. The outdoor play area will start to take shape during January and should be completed by the end of February.

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 almost 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.

Menu

The menu has been updated and lots of tasty new meals have been introduced. A copy of the new menu is on the reverse of this newsletter. It has already been awarded the 'Gold standard' by the local NHS healthy eating scheme. If you would like to comment on the new menu or give any suggestions please tell Nicola or Sarah as we plan to review it in a month's time. We have made the afternoon teas more substantial so you may notice your child does not eat as much when they have tea at home.

Christmas parties

The children's Christmas parties will take place during week commencing Monday 7th December. Each unit is now displaying a list showing which day your child's party is on. If your child does not normally attend nursery on this day, please bring them in for 2.00pm and come to collect them at 4.00pm. Fancy dress is optional but the staff are dressing up because Father Christmas will be dropping in!

Christmas closure

The nursery will be open on Christmas Eve but will close early at 3.00pm. This will give all of our staff a guaranteed early finish and will enable them to make definite arrangements for the afternoon. If this will cause you a problem please see Nicola or Sarah as soon as possible so that late cover can be arranged. The nursery will re-open at the usual time on the morning of Monday 4th January 2010.

Parking

Wherever possible could we please ask you to park on the nursery side of the road or to use the nursery car park so that local residents can park outside their houses.

Song of the month: Tiny turtle

I have a tiny turtle, his name is tiny Tim,
I put him in the bathtub, to see if he could swim,
He drank up all the water, he ate up all the soap,
And now he's got a bubble, a bubble in his throat, Bubble.....bubble....bubble....bubble...POP!!!

LEA Grant

All of the Pre-school children aged three and upwards are eligible for a government grant in the term after their third birthday. It is organised by the nursery and just requires your signature on a form. Everyone who is entitled to the grant in the Spring Term will pay reduced fees for a period of 11 weeks starting week commencing Monday 4th January 2010.

Childcare vouchers

Employers may offer help with childcare 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 that we recommend.

New medication forms

We have introduced two new forms, one for 'Prior medication' and one for 'Long term medication'. If you need to give your child some medication before dropping them off at nursery you will be asked to complete the Prior medication form. This form will record the dose, the time given and the time the next dose can be given if necessary.

If your child needs medication everyday for a long term condition you will be asked to complete a Long term medication form so you do not have to sign for this medication every single day. Both forms have been designed to be simple to complete whilst still giving the nursery a complete written summary of any medication that has been given to a child in our care.