

Mulberry Bush Nursery, Whitefield - Newsletter August 2010

Staff training

The Pre-school staff from all three of our nurseries have recently attended further training on 'Letters and Sounds'. This course allowed all the staff to further their knowledge and share good practice. The course was led by Sue Routledge from Bury Early Years, who has been tasked with rolling out the national scheme in all the nurseries in the Bury area.

Dancing lessons

Natalie Bennett, Head of Older Toddlers in our Walshaw nursery has taught dance to children at 'Dance Studio 1' in Whitefield for the last ten years. We have now asked Natalie to introduce dancing to our Preschool children at each of our nurseries and Preschool staff have recently been trained by Natalie and dancing lessons will be rolled out in the next few weeks.

Children's photographer

The photographer will be in nursery to take photographs of individual children on Tuesday 21st September. If your child does not normally attend on a Tuesday, please speak to your child's Head of Unit to confirm arrangements.

Teddy Bear's Picnic/Sports Day

The nursery will be having a 'Great Outdoors' week w/c 31st August. This will involve a teddy bears' picnic for all units, and a mini sports day, bug hunt and outdoor sounds lotto for pre-school. Notices will be displayed in the units with the details.

Charity Event 2010

Our annual charity event was another huge success. Tottington Nursery School, Mulberry Bush Nursery, Whitefield and Mulberry Bush Nursery, Walshaw raised a massive combined total of £5466.02!!! Thank you very much for all your generous donations.

This year we plan to split the money between The Good Life Orphanage and The Royal Manchester Children's Hospital Charity.

The Good Life Charity was set up by a couple who live in Bury and have built and continue to maintain 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. Information and photos of the orphanage can be seen on our charity noticeboard in the hallway of the nursery, and there is also a lot more information available on the charity's website which is www.thegoodlifeorphanage.com.

The Royal Manchester Children's Hospital Charity supports projects which aim to make life a little easier for young patients and their families, particularly when they have long or frequent stays in hospital.

We are inviting the Bury Times to come in to take a photograph of the cheque presentation in the next couple of weeks.

Bottle feeding

The parents of young babies that are bottlefed formula milk have recently been given a letter explaining our revised bottle feeding policy. It explains the reasons why we have now taken the decision to provide readymade feeds in a carton. At the bottom of this letter is a tear off slip where you can inform us of the type of formula that you use. We will not charge any extra for providing these feeds.

Rainbow room

At this time of year we have a lot of younger children joining the nursery, as our older children go off to school. The rainbow room will therefore be used for older toddlers from September onwards, instead of the older pre-school children.

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 worries or concerns about your child moving units, please speak to staff or pop into the office.

Pre-school leavers

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.

Thank you to the parents who have completed the 'leavers' questionnaires'. We agree with the sentiment that many of you have expressed that our staff are our best asset. The questionnaires completed with the children have also been very nice to read so many thanks.

If you know which date your child will be leaving the nursery this summer, please let Candice or Sara know as soon as possible. This will allow them to amend your direct debit and to 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.

Email

We would like to start to use email to send out newsletters, reminders of important dates and any other relevant information from the nursery. You will soon be asked to complete a slip where you can list any email addresses that you would like us to use. Your email addresses will not be passed on to any marketing companies and will be kept confidential to the nursery.

20th Anniversary at Tottington

Our Tottington nursery is about to celebrate its 20th anniversary in September. The nursery was opened in September 1990 by Sue and John Robinson and has been managed from day one by Avril Healy. We plan to mark the occasion with a week of celebrations!

Vacancies

As you know, we are lucky that the nursery enjoys a very good reputation and as a result there are very few (if any) places available in the nursery. If you would like change your child's days of attendance or would like a place for your child's younger sibling please ask Candice or Sara for an enrolment form as soon as possible.

Reminders

Please do not allow your children to bring coins into nursery in their pockets as this can be a choking hazard.

If you use childcare vouchers to pay towards nursery fees could we remind you that we need to receive vouchers by the 10th of the month for them to be credited for that month's fees.

Song of the month

It's raining, it's pouring, the old man is snoring, he went to bed and he bumped his head and he couldn't get up in the morning. Rain rain go away, come again another day!