



# Group Newsletter – Summer 2018



Summer is here again and we have already seen some amazing weather! We are loving the sunshine and making the most of it.

If you have not yet 'liked' our nursery Facebook page, please check it out as it's constantly updated with information, reminders and photographs!



## CHARITY FUNDRAISING 'CHARACTER WEEK' Charity Week w/c 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Our annual charity event was another huge success this year and the children and our team had a great time. Thank you to all of our team members who made a big effort in dressing up in lots of fantastic outfits and planning lots of related activities. Everyone made it a really special week for the children. Thanks also to all of our parents who supported the event and helped the children get into the spirit of the week whilst raising money for such worthy causes.

The final total now stands at an amazing **£7,000!** (We were just below the seven thousand pounds marker so Mulberry Bush have rounded it up).

This year we plan to split the money raised between three charities which are all meaningful for us here at Mulberry Bush.

Firstly, '**The Good Life Orphanage**', who we have supported for many years as you know. Secondly **Bury Cancer Support Centre** which is based on Bolton Road in Bury and offers support to anyone whose life is affected by cancer, both patients and their family / carers.

Thirdly, **Baby Basics Bury & Bolton** is a local charity which works with midwives and health professionals to provide Moses baskets and starter kits for vulnerable women in Bury & Bolton.





### Management maternity news

A number of our management team are pregnant and will soon be leaving to begin their maternity leave. We are used to planning for maternity cover as our amazing team is predominantly made up by young women who all love children! We are helped by the fact that each nursery has two supernumerary managers and we have already appointed an additional Trainee Deputy Manager who will help provide support during this time.

We always try our best to provide consistent staffing at all levels but sometimes it is necessary to move team members between nurseries. Where change is unavoidable we aim to make the transition as smooth as possible. We are very lucky that many members of our team (including our managers) have worked for Mulberry Bush for many years and have often worked together at some point in their careers. The result is a team that works together to support and help each other out rather than five different, competing teams.

The consistency of standards and paperwork also makes it easier for our management teams to cover at each others' nurseries. We almost always promote our managers from within and periods of maternity cover give the perfect opportunity for our Senior Heads of Units to make the next step up their career ladder.

### New management teams

We are very pleased that Stacey Wroe will be returning to **Walshaw** from her own maternity to manage the nursery. Amy Kay will soon start her maternity leave, expecting her first baby in September. Stacey will be supported by Jane Hodgkinson as Deputy Manager, a post she has held at our Dumers Lane and Whitefield nurseries.

The manager of our **Tottington** nursery, Gemma Watson, is about to start her maternity leave and is looking forward to the arrival of her third child. Gemma's deputy, Gemma Drewitt, will step up to cover the manager's role. Gemma Drewitt will be supported by Lucy Catherall who has been working as Deputy Manager at our Walshaw nursery for the last three years and has been at Mulberry Bush for five years.

At **Dumers Lane**, our manager Melissa Platt will be going off on maternity leave after the summer months awaiting the birth of her second child, and our existing Deputy Manager Shouna Krupnyckyj will be stepping up to become acting nursery manager in Melissa's absence. Shouna will be assisted by Emma Greenwood as Deputy Manager who has transferred from our Walmersley nursery and Stacie Cotter, our existing Trainee Deputy Manager.

At **Whitefield**, Sarah Johnson will continue to manage the nursery and following Jane's move to Walshaw, Sarah will be assisted by Sarah Lake, our new Trainee Deputy Manager. Sarah Lake has worked for Mulberry Bush for the last six years and been in childcare for ten years. She is really excited to join our management team and has spent the last few months getting to know everyone at Whitefield in her role as joint Head of Toddlers.

Our **Walmersley** nursery will keep the management team of Sarah Mather and Elayne Connaughton working 3 days each and will be assisted by Zoe Hall as Trainee Deputy Manager who has recently returned from maternity leave following the birth of her son, Jacob. Zoe has worked for Mulberry Bush for the last ten years and is really enjoying being back and getting to know all of the Walmersley children and their families.



Please find some time to pop into the nursery offices and have a chat with our new management teams if you haven't already had time to speak to them, they're keen to make sure that they get to know all of our families as soon as possible!

### New recruits evening

We had a brilliant new starters welcome, induction and training evening last month for all of our newest team members. It was great to have an opportunity for those members of our team to meet each other, and for us all to spend some time talking about the most important aspects of our roles - keeping all of our children safe and happy.

We covered safeguarding, whistleblowing, dietary requirements, Ofsted, planning for the EYFS and lots more. An evening very well spent!



### TRANSITION TO SCHOOL

The transition from nursery to primary school can be rather daunting for parents as well as the children and we aim to make this move as smooth as possible. For the last couple of months, the home corner areas of our pre-school units have been turned into classrooms with a variety of different uniforms for the children to try on and lunch boxes etc. We have also been discussing schools at group time to familiarise children as much as we can.

The reception teachers of the local primary schools have been visiting our nurseries to meet the children in familiar surroundings. Our Pre-school team have previously also visited the local schools and, with permission, taken photographs of the teacher, classroom, dinner hall and playground and made a booklet which helps the children visualise what their new surroundings will be like.

Most primary schools also offer the opportunity for children to go into the school with parents for a guided tour or reading session. If you have any concerns about your child moving on to school and feel that we might be able to help, please let us know. Each pre-school unit



has a list displayed so you can see which children will be moving on to which primary school to help you and your child know who they will already know at big school.

### Leavers' parties

Many of our pre-school children have been with us from being young babies. Time seems to go so fast and it's hard to believe they'll be off to school in September. We are sure that they will all settle into their new schools very quickly and continue to enjoy their learning experiences. We hope they all enjoyed/will enjoy their leavers' parties at nursery and we will do our best to make their last few weeks with us as memorable as possible!

### Photographs

We hope that parents of children who leave us this summer like their leavers' photograph. It's a fun day having the leavers photographs done (although very busy!), seeing all the children coming in with their big smiles ready! The leavers' photograph will no doubt become something for you to treasure in years to come!

### Leaving dates

Thank you for letting us know about the date on which your child will be leaving nursery this summer, which has allowed us to calculate your final payment for nursery fees. Prior notice of leaving dates also allows us to keep those on the waiting list informed of a possible start date. We require four weeks' notice of children's change in attendance, including notice to end their place at nursery.

### VACANCIES

Despite lots of our pre-school children leaving to start school in September the nurseries only have **very** limited vacancies for September and beyond due to children on the waiting lists. If you would like a place for your child's younger sibling or want to increase your child's days of attendance please ask a member of the management team for an enrolment form as soon as possible and ask them what the exact availability is like in your nursery so that you can plan.

### PARENTS EVENING QUESTIONNAIRE WINNERS!

We were thrilled to see so many of you at our parents' evenings throughout May and June and we really value your close links with the nurseries. As you know, we give our lovely Mulberry Bush umbrellas as prizes for some lucky winners for completing our parents evening questionnaires so we hope these went down well and that you don't get much cause to use them this summer!

### THANK YOU

If you have any ideas or suggestions of things we could do differently or better, please don't hesitate to bring those to any of us. All members of the team will always be happy to talk to you, and please don't forget that you are always welcome to contact any member of management or the directors with any queries or questions. We've set out all of our contact details on the following page.

We care very much about the nurseries and all of the children in our care and are constantly striving to provide the best care we can!



Tottington Nursery	01204 88 5656	Emergency contact no: 07542 137 531 (should landline be out of action) tottington@mulberrybush-nursery.co.uk
Walshaw Nursery	0161 797 3788	Emergency contact no: 07542 137 531 (should landline be out of action) walshaw@mulberrybush-nursery.co.uk
Whitefield Nursery	0161 766 5742	Emergency contact no: 07542 137 531 (should landline be out of action) whitefield@mulberrybush-nursery.co.uk
Walmersley Nursery	0161 761 0150	Emergency contact no: 07542 137 531 (should landline be out of action) walmersley@mulberrybush-nursery.co.uk
Stacey Kenyon	07807 216 415	Senior Manager stacey.kenyon@mulberrybush-nursery.co.uk
Central Support Team	0161 761 0169	Sharon – HR Manager Cara – Accounts Manager
Directors	0161 761 0127	Jo - 07872 464 283 jo.kinloch@mulberrybush-nursery.co.uk  Paul - 07919 921 673 paul.robinson@mulberrybush-nursery.co.uk  Andy - 07723 054 414 andy.robinson@mulberrybush-nursery.co.uk

