



Mulberry Bush Nursery - Summer Newsletter 2020

Welcome back to nursery!

It's been brilliant to welcome back so many of our families to nursery since 1st June when we were able to open our doors more widely. Whilst we were really pleased to have stayed open for key worker families and vulnerable children during this very difficult time, it's been lovely taking steps back towards normality.

Our team are settled and so happy to be back at nursery with our children, they've missed them so much. Our children have, as always, exceeded all our expectations and have settled back into nursery life as if they've never been away.

All of our new procedures are working well and we are adjusting into our new way of operating, with our rooms very separate from each other to minimise any opportunities for the spread of germs. The up to date version of these procedures can be found on the My School App in the News items and we expect to post a further update before 20th July when we will be making some tweaks, including no longer taking children's temperatures on a daily basis.



If your child is returning to nursery soon, please find time to have a look at our 'Welcome back to nursery' videos on our YouTube Channel and watch them with your children. Please also ensure that you complete an 'All About Me During Lockdown' document and send it back to us so that we are up to date with everything relating to your little one. We are so looking forward to seeing them again, and all of you!

We think we have spoken to all of you now to confirm the date on which your child is returning to nursery if they aren't already back with us. If you haven't confirmed, please get in touch as a matter of urgency. Unless we hear otherwise, everyone will be receiving September invoices for childcare at the end of August.



30 Year Anniversary



We are thrilled to be celebrating our 30th Year, providing Outstanding Childcare for the many thousands of children and families in Bury who have attended one of our nurseries since our Tottington nursery was opened in 1990.

As many of you will know, Jo, Paul and Andy's parents Sue and John Robinson opened Tottington nursery 30 years ago. At that time Sue was a health visitor and John was a teacher and they used all of their expertise in starting the nursery and it is their high standards to which we still aspire today.

We are proud to say we are still family owned and run – Paul, Jo and Andy (pictured below) are all totally committed to nursery life, living and breathing the ups and downs and managing the senior team who do such a great job in the nurseries.



We are still working on our plans for how to best celebrate this 30th year, we certainly didn't think we'd start it with a global pandemic!

Keep checking our Facebook page for announcements about our celebrations plans which will be coming soon.



Tottington Nursery during renovations in 1990



Tottington Nursery 2020

COVID-19 and Lockdown Experience

It has been the strangest few months at nursery since life changed beyond all recognition in March. You all know that we have kept the nurseries open for key worker families and our vulnerable children and that we've been very proud to do so. It hasn't always been easy, but thanks to our brilliant team and our wonderful families, we have made it through lockdown with our children and our team happy and healthy.

As key workers ourselves, we have been so incredibly proud of the efforts of our amazing key worker parents who we have been able to support throughout this time and we wanted to recognise the special time that we spent with those families and their children during lockdown. We therefore prepared and framed a beautiful rainbow made up of all of the finger prints of our children and presented it to our key workers families and team as a memento of this incredible time spent together – see below. The original will be framed and hung in the hallway at Dumers Lane.



Our team have been incredible during lockdown and we could not be more proud of them. We know how appreciative our key worker families have been and we tried very hard to ensure that we rewarded and recognised their commitment with paid time off, financial bonuses, provision of free meals and snacks – not to mention rainbow badges and mugs!



We are very pleased to be edging towards more normal life again although we'll never forget this time in nursery. We hope that you and your families are all okay and please let us know if we can provide you with any support or help as things slowly get back to normal.

My School App

As many of you know, we have been using a new App to communicate with our parents during the last few months. If you do not yet have access to the App, please contact us so that we can register your email address. It's really important that all of our parents can access the information which we have posted there.

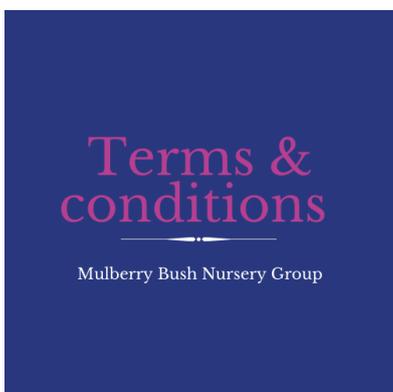


The app is called My School App – logo displayed to check you are downloading the right one.

When we have sent you an invite, please remember to check your junk folder but if it doesn't arrive, you can search for the app, download it, and register yourselves, as long as you use the email address you have registered with nursery. Any problems please let us know.

Terms and conditions

We have posted the variations to our standard terms and conditions on the App on a regular basis and this is one of the reasons we want to ensure that all parents have access to it.



The last update in relation to T&Cs was posted on 17th June 2020. In that update, amongst other things we confirmed that Nursery fees will not be charged for June, July or August for parents whose children are not returning to nursery in those months.

Nursery fees will become payable from 1st September 2020 for all of our families. The normal 4-week notice period for change of attendance will continue to be waived during June, July but will be reinstated from 1st August. If you do not intend for your child to return to nursery, we will need to have received their 4-week notice prior to the end of July as otherwise fees will be payable from 1st September.

Any refunds due to parents whose children are leaving us to go to school or because they are not otherwise returning, will be organised as soon as possible and in any event within three weeks of notice being received.

We have done our best throughout this crisis to be fair and reasonable in our dealings with parents in relation to nursery fees. We intend on maintaining this approach.

Early and late sessions

We have confirmed on the App, and discussed with all of our parents who usually use our early and late sessions that they now need to be booked in advance, they are no longer available on an ad hoc basis due to the changed operation of our nursery units. For the same reasons (the staffing requirements of maintaining individual groups of children), the price of early/late sessions has been increased to £7.50 per session from 1st July. This amount will be reduced if more than one child from an individual group requires the same early/late session.

Testing for COVID-19

From 1st June all children attending a childcare setting will have access to a COVID-19 test if they display symptoms of coronavirus. We would ask that parents obtain a test for their child in this scenario with the aim of enabling your child to get back to nursery asap and for your family not to need to self-isolate for any longer than is necessary if the test proves to be negative. If your child were to test positive, we would then be able to ensure rapid action to protect other children and team members.

We would ask parents to notify us immediately of a positive test by calling Jo one of the directors on 07872 464 283. Evidence of negative tests should be emailed to nursery as soon as received. Further guidance about getting tested is available at gov.uk.

Fees will not be payable if children need to be absent from nursery for 14 days self-isolation resulting from a child in their group testing positive for COVID-19, fees will also be waived for any child testing positive for COVID-19 for the period of time they are symptomatic up to a maximum of two weeks attendance.

Reminders

Thank you so much to all of our parents for adhering to our new procedures at nursery, some of the main reminders are set out below.

COVID-19
PROCEDURES
PARENT
REMINDERS

Mulberry
Bush Nursery
Group

PLEASE REMEMBER
TO WEAR YOUR
FACE COVERING
WHEN DROPPING
OFF/COLLECTING

USE A TISSUE TO
RING THE DOORBELL
AND REMEMBER TO
STAND ON THE
FOOTPRINTS

PLEASE ENSURE THAT
YOU WASH YOUR
CHILD'S HANDS IN
OUR OUTDOOR
SINKS

Children leaving us to go to school

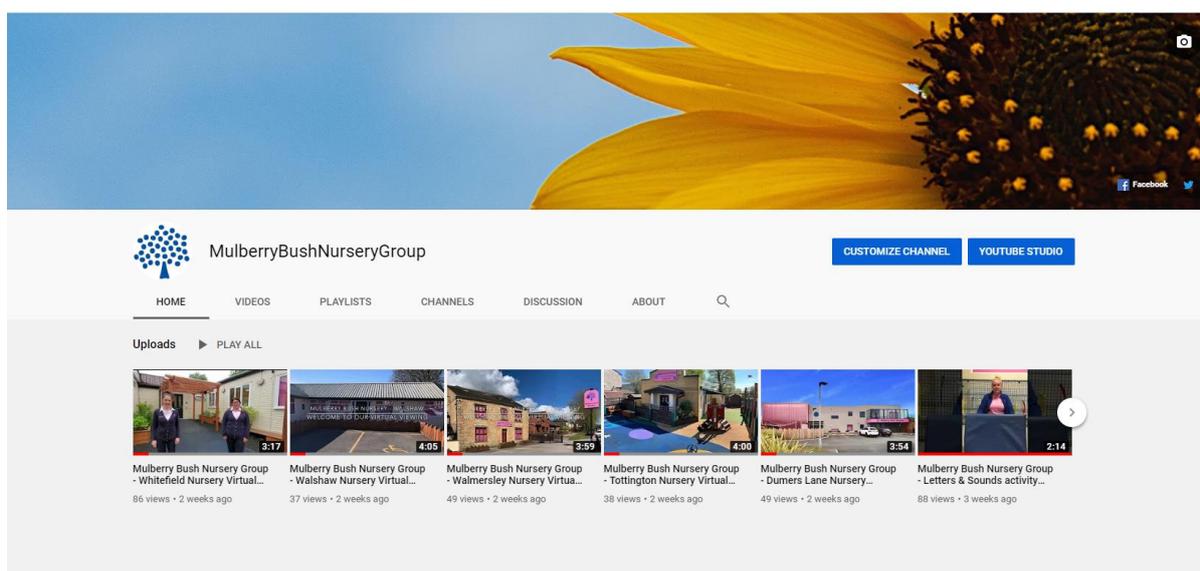
Many of our pre-school children have been with us from being young babies. Time seems to go so fast and it's hard to believe they'll be off to school in September. We are sure that they will all settle into their new schools very quickly and continue to enjoy their learning experiences.

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!



Mulberry Bush YouTube Channel

Hopefully you all already know about our new Mulberry Bush YouTube channel. It's fair to say that we wouldn't have even considered setting up a YouTube channel before this pandemic! During lockdown our team worked really hard recording videos of storytimes, yoga sessions, letters and sounds sessions and fitness sessions to share with our children who were at home with their families. The feedback we received was phenomenal and the videos are there for you to access at any time. We have also used it as a place to store our virtual viewing videos which you may wish to share with any friends who might be looking for childcare.



Our fantastic maintenance team

As you may have seen on Facebook, we wanted to say a public thank you and well done to Oli and Kris, our fantastic maintenance team. They have been working hard throughout this time, making the practical changes and adjustments needed to our buildings and outdoor areas to ensure the safety of our children and team in this new world.

They have carried out numerous jobs, including fitting 9 new outdoor sinks (which look like they've always been there and were part of the design in the first place!), splitting up our Walshaw Kindergarten play area to provide separate spaces for our different Kindergarten groups, splitting up our Tottington main building outdoor play area to ensure that our Toddlers and Pre-school children can be outside at the same time whilst staying separate. They've also made changes to our outdoor staircase at Dumers Lane to create a new entrance for our Pre-school children to reduce congestion at the front door, created new team areas to ensure social distancing for our team on their lunch breaks and set up one way systems and entry and exit systems at all nurseries as part of our new procedures.

Our fantastic maintenance team can turn their hand to anything and we're lucky to have such fantastic abilities in our team. Our maintenance supervisor Oli has a real ability to visualise changes and execute them well, ably assisted by Kris. Well done and big thank you to both of them.

Some photos of their hard work below!



Thank you

In preparing this newsletter we have had opportunity to review the last few months, re-read some of the lovely emails and comments on Facebook from our parents and reflect on everything that's happened and it has been really emotional.

We've never signed off as many messages and emails from Jo, Paul and Andy as we have over this last 3 months. We feel so lucky to have such an incredible team and wonderful nursery family of children and parents who have all supported us throughout this period.

We wanted to say a huge thank you for all of your kind words and encouragement as we have found our way through the Government guidance and the restrictions and challenges that we have faced.

We are really proud of our wonderful team, our amazing children, our beautiful nurseries and each other. We hope that things will get a little easier and feel a bit more normal over the next few months, although we'll never forget this time.



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!

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. All of our contact details are shown on the following page.

Contact details

Dumers Lane Nursery	0161 672 3338	Emergency contact no: 07517 153 955 (should landline be out of action) dumers@mulberrybush-nursery.co.uk
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 117 942 (should landline be out of action) walshaw@mulberrybush-nursery.co.uk
Whitefield Nursery	0161 766 5742	Emergency contact no: 07512 793 751 (should landline be out of action) whitefield@mulberrybush-nursery.co.uk
Walmersley Nursery	0161 761 0150	Emergency contact no: 07512 788 201 (should landline be out of action) walmersley@mulberrybush-nursery.co.uk
Senior Manager	07807 216 415	Stacey Kenyon stacey.kenyon@mulberrybush-nursery.co.uk
Deputy Senior Manager	07799 369 947	Stacey Chester Stacey.chester@mulberrybush-nursery.co.uk
Directors	0161 761 0169	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

**Celebrating 30 years
Outstanding Childcare
1990 - 2020**

