



# Mulberry Bush Nursery - Summer Newsletter 2021

## Welcome to nursery!

We would like to welcome all of our new parents who have joined our Mulberry Bush family recently. We are sure your children will quickly feel settled and build bonds and relationships with new friends and our loving team members.

Remember that we have a number of videos on our own Mulberry Bush YouTube channel with videos of story times, yoga sessions, letters and sounds sessions and fitness sessions. The videos are there for you to access at any time and 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.

Summer has definitely arrived and the children and team have been loving spending time outside!



## COVID-19 and Lockdown Experience

The global pandemic affected just about every aspect of all our lives. It's been well over a year since life changed beyond all recognition at nursery. We are very proud to have remained open throughout the entire period and it definitely 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.

We now appear to be moving ever closer to life returning to normal. As you would expect, we will continue to follow the latest government guidance and constantly review our safety precautions. Even as restrictions start to lift across the country, we will still probably retain some of our drop off and collection procedures and other precautions to try and stop any cross infection between children who obviously will not have been vaccinated.

We know how frustrating and inconvenient it is for your child to need to self-isolate, especially if that has happened more than once but hopefully it will start to happen less frequently.

### **My School App**

This App has been an invaluable tool, allowing us to communicate with our parents over the last twelve months or so. It's the place where we displayed any changes to drop off and collection routines, terms and conditions as well as simple reminders.

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.



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.

### **Primary 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 understand this can be a daunting time for our pre-school parents, thinking about maintaining friendships as children move on to different schools.

Try not to worry too much though as we are sure that they will all settle into their new schools very quickly and continue to enjoy their learning experiences. We know that they leave us really well equipped to make the most of the next stage in their journey. We hope they enjoy their remaining time at nursery and we will do our best to make their last few weeks with us as memorable as possible!

If your child is leaving us this summer, please remember to complete a change of attendance form giving us at least 4 weeks' notice of their last day at nursery.



## Summer Charity Week - Yellow Theme

We have been raising money for charity since our first nursery opened in 1990. Over those 30 years, we have raised over £130,000 for more than 50 different charities! This year we will support two causes which are very close to our heart at Mulberry Bush. Firstly, we will support the Good Life Orphanage.

In 2008, we met Mary and Kevin Maguire who set up the Good Life Orphanage in Kenya. They had just been on holiday and they were overwhelmed by the poverty and desperate state of some of the children who were living on the streets near their hotel. This experience affected them so deeply that they took the life changing decision to buy some land and raise funds to build an orphanage which now cares for over 100 children. By 2012, Mary and Kevin had raised enough to build a school which provides food, medicine and education for over 350 children. The Good Life Orphanage is a non-profit organisation and every single penny raised goes directly to the project. Donations never go towards administration, travel or accommodation costs.

We were so impressed and humbled by the efforts of Kevin and Mary that we have supported them with our annual charity event every year since 2008. Each nursery also sends monthly financial support by sponsoring an orphaned child. Our children draw pictures and our team regularly send letters. We send presents on their 'house day' (this is the day they joined the orphanage, as many children were abandoned and wouldn't know their actual birthday) and we send Christmas presents. It's been a great tool to help explain to our children that there are others who are not as fortunate and how important it is to be kind whenever possible.

The second cause we would like to support is much closer to home.

Last December, a seven year old pupil called Teddy who attends one of our feeder schools, Holly Mount Primary, was involved in a very serious accident and suffered life changing injuries. He has been in hospital ever since, having battled through intensive care.

It is hoped he can come home in the next few months but he will need around the clock care and there will be many adjustments to the family home that will need to be put into place for that to happen. We know that you will want to support his family, it's a cause close to lots of us at nursery.

For your child/ren to take part in our Summer charity week please dress them in **YELLOW** and ask family and friends to simply make a donation towards these two amazing causes. The week will be extra special for the children with lots of great activities organised.

### Bringing Teddy Home



## Parents evening by phone

As many of you will know, we usually hold parents evenings at each nursery twice a year. We've always loved parents evenings, they provide a great opportunity for our fabulous key people to talk parents in a bit more detail about how their child is getting on at nursery.

Given the current situation and the guidance that we must adhere to, we are unable to hold parent's evenings in their normal format. So we are planning to offer all of our families a 'parents evening' telephone call with their child's key person. For more details see our post on MySchoolApp. We're looking forward to talking to you all!

## National Smile Month

As it's National Smile Month we wanted to remind you of the 'Brush Bus Scheme' that we follow in our Pre-School units. The aim of the scheme is to help make teeth brushing more fun and to increase the children's exposure to fluoride. We have been taking part in the scheme since 2018 and our Pre-School children continue to really enjoy taking part and we hope it has supported their tooth brushing at home.

Statistics show that since the Bury Oral Health team started the programme we have seen a decline in tooth decay of children under 5 in Bury which is fantastic news. Here are some photos of our Pre-school children showing us how it's done!



## Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework update

The EYFS framework is designed by the Department of Education and attempts to set the standards to make sure that children aged from birth to 5 learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe.

The framework applies to all Ofsted registered early years providers in all settings, including nurseries, childminders, pre-schools and applies up to the end of reception at primary school.



The EYFS framework is changing from September 2021. The intention is to try to improve outcomes for children at age 5, particularly in early language and literacy.

Another of its aims is to try to reduce workload for early years practitioners, especially unnecessary paperwork, so team members can concentrate on the much more important job of spending time and building relationships with your children. We have been ahead of the game here, having reduced our own internal paperwork some years ago – however, we are currently working hard to update our internal paperwork to reflect these changes and will then take time to explain these changes to our team.

### RoSPA – Take Action Today, Put Them Away!

Mulberry Bush is helping support The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents launch a major programme to promote awareness and prevent accidents with household cleaning products.

Every year, thousands of infants need medical care for poisoning from products commonly found in and around the home. Most accidental poisoning happens to children younger than five years old, with children aged one to three years being most at risk. On average, 15 under-fives are admitted to hospital each day due to suspected poisoning from all sources. Admissions for poisoning across most of the North West of England, are significantly above the national average.

Mulberry Bush parents will be given a magnetic notepad to keep on your fridge with useful reminders to help avoid accidental poisoning in the home. Our nursery reception areas have further displays and information to provide really helpful tips.

Exploring is part of growing up but young children have little concept of potential dangers. They are inquisitive and often put things in their mouth to further explore their texture and taste. The kitchen and bathroom are the likeliest places for accidental poisonings from cleaning products.

Wherever possible buy products in child-resistant or child-safety packaging but be aware that these are not child proof. They simply delay the child from getting the product as quickly. It is still therefore important not to rely on child resistant packaging and to keep these products out of reach of children.

There are many other poisoning risks in the home such as medication, button batteries, alcohol, solvents, plants and garden products so please take some time to check your home is as safe as it can be.



## Thank you

We are really proud of our wonderful team and our amazing children for coping so well with such a difficult year. We hope that things will 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 <b>Currently on maternity leave</b>	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