



# Mulberry Bush Nursery - Winter Newsletter

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all new parents at the nurseries. We very much hope your children enjoy their time with us and that you feel happy with the care they receive.

## EVENTS



## Halloween

The children and team had a fantastic time celebrating Halloween, dressing up, carving pumpkins and playing spooky games! We posted lots of photos of the children's fabulous outfits on our Facebook page.



## Pyjama Day for Children in Need

Thank you to everyone who took part in our Children in Need event, dressing in their pyjamas. All of the children looked great and our team made a big effort as well. Pudsey Bear visited the children at all five nurseries, helping to raise money for such an amazing charity.

## Parent First Aid Course

Our most recent first aid course for parents and carers took place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November at our Dumers Lane nursery. Don't worry if you missed it, we will run another course in the new year and we are already operating a list of parents interested in attending so just let your nursery managers know.

## Parents' evening

Each nursery will be holding a Parents' Evening in November. You will have the opportunity to speak to your child's key person, discuss their development and have a look at their learning journeys. The parents of our Kindergarten and Toddler children can also use the evening to look around our Toddler and Pre-school units and meet other members of the team.

Please take time to complete a questionnaire as the feedback you give is invaluable. The questionnaires give you a chance to ask a question or raise a point which you may not have done previously. You will also be able to nominate a team member for a Parent Hero Award. All completed questionnaires get put into a draw to win a Mulberry Bush golf umbrella, make sure that you return yours!

## Christmas Appeal

We are supporting the Wood Street Mission Christmas toy appeal again. Christmas is a time of joy and gifts but it can be a difficult time for those struggling to make ends meet. The Mission has provided toys for children across Manchester at Christmas since the charity began in 1869. Please bring in any new, unwrapped toys in the first two weeks of December and we will deliver them.

## Team Christmas Party

We are looking forward to our Christmas Party at The Red Hall Hotel in Bury in December. Our annual group wide party is an opportunity for our fabulous hardworking team to let their hair down. They all deserve to celebrate another year of being devoted to the children in our care.

## WHAT'S NEW IN NURSERY?

### Mindfulness Programme

Over the past 6 weeks we have been delivering Mindfulness training to our Toddler and Pre-school team, ready for us to roll out our bespoke Mindfulness Programme from December. We have been working closely with Aislinn from the 'The Calm Within' to design the programme that will introduce our children to the calming benefits of focusing their minds. Our teams are excited to provide a variety of activities and resources that will encourage children to learn to pause and notice how they are feeling, accept and understand why they are experiencing those feelings.



Our teams will introduce an attitude of mindfulness to the care they give to the children, modelling this through their words and actions. The activities have been designed to enhance our practice, our relationships with the children as well as developing the children's mindful practices.



The programme has been developed, alongside a package of staff care, in order to facilitate commitment and practice. We introduced our first Team MB relaxation class in June which was a huge success and we will hold another class early next year. We care about our team and want them to be able to access classes which help them to relax and be mindful given our busy lives.

The Pre-school Mindfulness programme will run initially for 8 weeks, each week focusing on an aspect; sound, touch, breathing, eating, sight, smell, movement and creation. Children can take part in mindfulness activities throughout the day and spontaneous 'mindful moments'. Watch out for our weekly Facebook posts that will give our parents some insight to the wonderful activities our children will be taking part in.

All Pre-school parents will receive a mindfulness programme handout at the end of November that will provide information of the programme and the benefits for our children.

### **Lending Libraries – Love of books!**

As you all know, reading to babies and young children is a critical part of teaching early literacy skills and developing a love of books. It also provides a brilliant and crucial opportunity for parents to spend calm, cosy, high quality time with their little ones.

We have been lending books to our children to read at home for the last 29 years! However, we have recently created some new community lending libraries in the hallways of all of our nurseries (instead of within our units) with the intention that parents and children to choose books together to take home, and keep a book for a night or for two weeks, or two months if your child loves it.



### **Deputy Senior Manager**

Congratulations to Stacey Chester (nee Wroe)! During the summer Stacey got married and was promoted to become our Deputy Senior Manager. Stacey is now working with our Senior Manager, Stacey Kenyon, supporting our nursery teams and overseeing standards in all five nurseries.

### **REMINDERS**

#### **Vacancies**

All of the nurseries are currently very full, with only very limited vacancies. If you are expecting a baby and would like a place for them at nursery or would like to increase your child's attendance, could we suggest that you speak to the nursery managers as soon as possible, and ideally complete and return an enrolment form to give you the best chance of securing a place at the time of year that you require.

## Winter weather

Please make sure your child has a warm coat, hat, scarf and gloves at nursery, ideally labelled with your child's name so they don't get mixed up. We have spare pairs of wellies but feel free to bring in your child's from home (again, with their name inside).



The children love it when it snows but it comes with its own challenges. We have snow shovels and bags of grit salt at the ready and will do our very best to clear pavements, paths and car parks. A large number of our team live within walking distance of nursery and we have never opened late or been forced to close because of the weather – we intend on keeping up that tradition this year!

## Christmas holidays

The nurseries will be open on Christmas Eve but we plan to close at 3pm so that our team are able to start the Christmas celebrations with their families and their own children. Please let one of your nursery managers know if this early finish will cause you any problems, as we will be more than happy to arrange for the nursery to remain open for any families who need it. We are sure that you'll understand the wish to plan ahead for the sake of our team. The nurseries will re-open at the usual time on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2020.

## Primary school applications

Just a reminder for the parents of our Pre-school children, the closing date for primary school applications is shortly after the Christmas break (15<sup>th</sup> January 2020). Whilst we know our Mulberry Bush children are really well prepared to make the most of this next exciting step, and we have some fantastic primary schools in Bury, it can feel like a very big decision for Mums and Dads! Good luck!

## Facebook

Please 'like' and 'follow' our nursery Facebook page to keep up to date with events, reminders and lots of photographs of the children having fun during the day! This newsletter simply summarises information that we have usually already shared with our parents on our Facebook page so please remember to check in with the page for up to date information.

## THANK YOU!

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 below:

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 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