



We hope you are all well!

It has certainly been a very difficult year for everyone and we hope that all of our nursery families are coping okay. We are very pleased to have been able to stay open during this second lockdown, in order to provide a sense of normality for our children. They have been fantastic, quickly adapting to new routines at drop off and collection.

Our team members have also been amazing. They have risen to the challenge, adjusting routines and practising as necessary and settling into the new normal.

Our fantastic management teams have facilitated every change and coped with new COVID related workloads and we are so grateful to them all.

Lastly our nursery families, you, our parents, have been so supportive and patient throughout this testing time.

We are so proud of our combined effort and want to thank everyone for helping the Mulberry Bush team move forward into a new year with an optimistic outlook. It's been great to focus on more positive activities in recent weeks such as our charity week (more on that overleaf), World Nursery Rhyme Week and of course Christmas!

NMT Nursery Group of the Year Award



We are thrilled to have been shortlisted as a finalist for the national Nursery Management Today magazine's Nursery Group of the Year Award (under 10 settings)!

In a year dominated by Covid-19 it is great to have something to celebrate. Despite the many challenges that we have been facing, it's great to know that our incredible staff, managers, nurseries, initiatives and resources have received the recognition to reflect the hard work and achievements of all involved.

The winner will be announced on Thursday 26th November at a Gala Evening and Awards ceremony on will be held virtually!

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.



Parents' evening

This year has presented us with countless new challenges and made us look for new ways to operate longstanding routines and events. Parents' evenings are just another example of how we have had to adapt and change.

Our team have made arrangements to ring and have a talk on the telephone to keep you informed about your child's progress. We felt it was really important to touch base even though we would much prefer a face to face chat.

COVID-19 Procedures document

The up to date version of these lengthy procedures can be found on the My School App in the News items. It was last updated on Friday 20th November to reflect the most recent changes.

RAINBOW CHARITY WEEK for Children in Need and Good Life Orphanage

Thank you to everyone who supported our charity week, helping to raise an incredible **£6,280** for Children in Need and the Good Life Orphanage! All of the children looked great in their colourful outfits and our team made a big effort as well. The fantastic activities really kept the children engaged and having fun whilst learning about those less fortunate than themselves.



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 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, and that is particularly relevant in this very difficult year.

The Mission has provided toys for children across Manchester at Christmas since the charity began in 1869. Lots of families will be facing an even tougher time this year so we would really appreciate donations of any new, unwrapped toys, books and games. Selection boxes and rolls of wrapping paper would also be very welcome.

The deadline for this collection is Friday 4th December so we have time to collect them all up and deliver them to Wood Street.



Team Christmas Party

We have had to cancel our Christmas Party this year. It is obviously very disappointing but clearly necessary. Hopefully we will be able to make up for it next year. We still wanted to recognise our hardworking team for their tireless devotion to the children in our care so our Central Support elves have been hard at work making sure some Christmas treats will be heading over to our team members closer to the big day.

Christmas holidays

As usual we will not be open between Christmas and New Year, it's the only time of the year that the nurseries are closed and it provides a really great opportunity for our team to recharge their batteries at the same time, and spend time with their families. We all come back raring to go in January! We will re-open at our normal time on Monday 4th January.

Christmas Eve is always a very quiet day in nursery and we often find that we don't need the whole team to work for the full day and lots of team members are able to go home shortly after arriving. We will be asking you to let us know if you plan to keep your child at home on Christmas Eve (which falls on a Thursday this year). This will allow us to plan and allow extra team members to take Christmas Eve off to be with their families.

We will of course be open on Christmas Eve, and as such, the day will still be chargeable as a full day to parents. For those parents whose children will be attending on that day, we would ask if at all possible that you collect by 3pm. We will of course be able to care for children after 3pm but would appreciate it if you could let us know so we can arrange cover.

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 (15th January 2021). 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.

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.

Thank you

We wanted to say a huge thank you for all of your continued support and encouragement throughout this year

We are really proud of our wonderful team and our amazing children, and we hope that things will get a little easier and feel a bit more normal over the next few months.

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) dumerslane@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

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