



# Mulberry Bush Nursery - Winter Newsletter 2023

## Welcome to our Mulberry Bush family!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new families who have joined Mulberry Bush since the summer. We very much hope your children enjoy their time with us and that you feel happy with the care they receive.

Please remember to talk to us, ask any questions about nursery life, let us know if you are worrying about anything relating to nursery or your child. We consider ourselves to be an extension of your family and we want to know if you have any niggles or worries so that we can do our best to help. Your nursery managers will always welcome parents in their offices, and contact details can be found at the end of this newsletter.

## Halloween

As ever, 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.



## Children in Need

Thank you to everyone who took part in our Children in Need event, dressing up and helping to raise money for such an amazing charity. All of the children looked great and our team made a big effort as well.





We were really pleased to welcome Pudsey into all the nurseries to say thank you to the children for all of their generous donations during Children In Need week! So far, we have managed to raise over £320!

### **Wood Street Mission - Thank you**

We just want to share what a difference your money made from our Charity Week in May. We shared £5000 between three charities one being the Wood Street Mission. They suggested putting it towards their Childhood Experiences Project, which helps children make long lasting memories and have experiences that might otherwise not be available to them.

Their £1666 went to Route 29, for vulnerable people on edge of care service in Salford. They work with young people to increase their resiliency, self-worth and self-esteem through a strength-based approach. The money was used to take a group to Graystone Sports Activity Centre where these young people got the chance to try new activities and socialise in a way that many of them have not experienced previously.

A spokesperson from Route 29 said: "They tried free running, climbing walls, mini scooters and BMXing. Many of our families live in poverty and you have provided an amazing experience and they all want to say a massive thank you to every one of you."

So, a big thank you to our parents/carers for their generosity and helping to change the lives of others!



## Children's Christmas Party Week

Our Christmas Party Week this year will be during week commencing 11th December. This is a week that all of our children and our MB team love. Everyone is welcome to wear their Christmas outfits/jumpers and, of course, there will be plenty of party games, dancing and singing.

## Team Christmas Party

We always organise a Christmas Party Night to thank all 200 of our team members for their unwavering hard work and commitment over the last twelve months – we hope that they all enjoy letting their hair down, they certainly deserve it!

## Christmas holidays

As usual, the nurseries 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 close at the normal time on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December and we will re-open at our normal time on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024.

## 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 at the end of yet another 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 Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December so we have time to collect them all up and deliver them to Wood Street in Manchester city centre.





## 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!

## Mindfulness Programme

Our 8-week Mindfulness Programme for our Pre-school children at all our nurseries re-started at the beginning of November. We have been running this for a number of years with our senior MB team working closely with Aislinn from The Calm Within. It's a bespoke mindfulness programme for the MB children.

It introduces our children to the calming benefits of focusing their minds. We 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. The Pre-school Mindfulness Programme will each week focus 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'. We are really enjoying the sessions so far!

## French Week and our French Programme

We all had a great time celebrating our French week back in October, when our Pre-school children and team dressed in red, white and blue clothes. The children sang danced to French songs, tasting some French foods and learning about French culture!

For the past eight years, in all of our nurseries, our 3 and 4-year-olds, who start school the following September, have enjoyed learning French.

Our French programme started at the beginning of September. Designed with the help of a primary specialist language teacher, it introduces simple words and phrases and the children learn French songs, games as well as learning about French festivals and way of life.

Studies indicate that the best time for a child to learn another language is in the first three to four years of life. When people immerse themselves in a language, like children through play and exploration, they can learn a language quickly and easily.

Each term we focus on different topics such as greetings, instructions, colours, family, body parts, numbers and farm animals. The children take part in fun activities used to promote listening and speaking and your child may be coming home talking, counting and singing in French!

All of our Pre-schools have a fortnightly visit from a French teacher from Lingotots (the cost of which is not passed on to our parents). The visits are enjoyed by the children and team as they reinforce the words and songs that we are learning.



### 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 2024). 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! Do come and talk to us if you are worried about this next step, we have lovely relationships with the local primary schools and will do our best to smooth this important transition as much as possible.

### Facebook / Instagram / Twitter

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

## **My School App**

As many of you know, we use an App to communicate with our parents. 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.

## **Vacancies**

The nurseries only have limited vacancies and we are expecting demand for places to increase considerably when more parents will become eligible for government childcare support from April 2024.

Make sure you have signed up to the Childcare Choices website for more information about the expanded childcare funding plans. In summary, two year olds from working families will be entitled to 15 hours of funded assistance for nursery fees from April 2024 with further expansion of the funding in September 2024 and April 2025.

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.

## **Thank you**

We wanted to say a huge thank you for all of your continued support throughout this year. We are really proud of our wonderful team and our amazing children. 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 <b>(maternity leave)</b>	07799 369 947	Stacey Chester stacey.chester@mulberrybush-nursery.co.uk
Deputy Senior Manager	07570 789 031	Gemma Watson gemma.watson@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