



Transition to school

It's that time of year again when we anticipate our eldest children heading off to primary school on the next step of their learning journey. We know that the transition from nursery to primary school can be daunting for parents as well as children and we aim to make this move as smooth as possible. For the last couple of months, the home corner areas of our pre-school units have been turned into classrooms with a variety of different uniforms for the children to try on and lunch boxes etc. We have also been discussing schools at group time to familiarise children as much as we can.

The reception teachers of the local primary schools will be visiting our nurseries to meet the children in familiar surroundings. Our Pre-school team have previously also visited the local schools and, with permission, taken photographs of the teacher, classroom, dinner hall and playground and made a booklet which helps the children visualise what their new surroundings will be like.



Most primary schools also offer the opportunity for children to go into the school with parents for a guided tour or reading session. If you have any concerns about your child moving on to school and feel that we might be able to help, please let us know. Each pre-school unit has a list displayed so you can see which children will be moving on to which primary school to help you and your child know who they will already know at big school.

As you will be aware, when children leave nursery for primary school, we sometimes need to process refunds of nursery fees, especially when children leave mid-month. We always do these as quickly as possible, but they are time consuming. We wanted to let you know that during the summer months, refunds are likely to take a little longer to process due to the sheer numbers of them. We aim to process all refunds within four weeks of children ceasing to attend.

Leavers' parties

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 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! Please speak to the Pre-school team to ask the date of your child's party.

Leaving dates

Please let us know about the date on which your child will be leaving nursery this summer. This will allow us to calculate your final payment for nursery fees, taking into account your original two week deposit. Prior notice of leaving dates also allows us to keep those on the waiting list informed of a possible start date. We require four weeks' notice of children's change in attendance, including notice to end their place at nursery. Please complete a *Change of Attendance* form which you can get from the nursery or can print from our website (Parent Area / Useful Forms).

CHARITY WEEK – Primary Colours

We held the most brilliant charity week this May! We have held an annual charity event every year since 1990, raising over £150,000 for more than 50 charities! This year we are supporting 2 fantastic causes which mean a lot of us at Mulberry Bush, Macmillan Cancer Support and The Good Life Orphanage.



MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT is a nationwide charity set up to support people living with cancer. We are supporting Macmillan in memory of our Dumers Lane Kindergarten team member, Joanne Kelly, who died in hospital a couple of weeks ago. Joanne suffered a short illness which turned out to be cancer and her death came as a huge shock to everyone. We wanted to raise money this year in Joanne's memory. She was a wonderful person and an incredible nursery nurse and is hugely missed and mourned by us all.

The **GOOD LIFE ORPHANAGE** was set up in 2008 by Mary and Kevin Maguire as a non-profit organisation with every single penny raised going directly to the project. They built an orphanage which now cares for over 100 children and we have been supporting the GLO since 2008 and each of our nurseries sponsors a child in the orphanage.

As we write this newsletter, we have just heard the incredibly sad news that Mary Maguire has passed away following a short period of illness. Mary was a truly inspirational lady whose compassion, dedication and hard work has transformed the lives of literally hundreds of children who otherwise would have had a very different start to life. This year is the seventeenth consecutive year that Mulberry Bush have supported the orphanage so we got to know Mary well over the years and we will really miss her lovely, happy and bubbly personality.



Joanne Kelly



Mary Maguire

Please help us to make our final total raised as impressive as possible by returning sponsor forms to the nursery office together with all monies raised by Friday 21st June 2024 or alternatively use the QR code above or visit www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/charityweek2024 to donate online.

Parent training

It was great to have so many parents attend a **First Aid** course at our Dumers Lane nursery in May. Knowing the basics of C.P.R. and general first aid is such a vital skill to have.

We have another parent training course, **Understanding & supporting children's emotional wellbeing**, coming up in June. It is another really useful 'in person' and online course where you can pick up some new techniques to help deal with issues that all parents face.

*Understanding & supporting
children's emotional well-being*

PARENT TRAINING

IN PERSON (DUMERS LANE NURSERY) - THURS 13TH JUNE 6 - 8.30PM

VIRTUAL FOLLOW UP - THURS 27TH JUNE 8 - 9PM

Mulberry Bush Nursery
Outstanding Childcare

Funded hours and vacancies

Don't forget that the new funded hours entitlement will be extended from September this year to all children of working families aged 9 months and above. Visit the Childcare Choices website where there is a lot of information about the changes. We are already seeing these upcoming changes have a real impact on demand for nursery places and so please make sure you talk to us as soon as possible if you would like to increase your child's attendance or need a place for a sibling.

Meeting the needs of our existing families is our priority, and all children already in nursery will be able to access the new funding arrangements on their existing attendance, requests to increase attendance will be a priority above new children starting at nursery.

Despite lots of our pre-school children leaving to start school in September the nurseries only have **very** limited vacancies for September and beyond due to children on the waiting lists. 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.

Events

As ever, it's been a really busy time in nursery celebrating lots of events and enjoying fun activities over the last few weeks. We've had visits from emergency services, learnt about road safety awareness, brushed our teeth for National Smile Month and we have Mental Health Awareness Week, Pride Month and lots more planned for the summer months ahead! Here are just some of many photos from our Mulberry Bush Facebook page which give you an idea of what your children get up to during their nursery days.





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 |
| 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 |