Dear All

Welcome to our March 2022 newsletter. Please find detailed below lots of information about what we have been doing at Nursery recently and any upcoming events for your diaries.

**Covid 19** – Although the current message from the government is “living with Covid” the numbers of cases is still high in early years, therefore there will be no immediate change to our policies or procedures in regard to attendance if feeling unwell. The systems that have been in place this term will remain in place until further notice.

Please continue to seek a test for your child if they are showing symptoms of Covid.

If your child tests positive for Covid please ensure they isolate in line with PHE guidance. This means at least 5 days away from Nursery. We would ask that you carry out lateral flow testing on days 5 and 6 to see if they can return to nursery. We will ask our staff to do the same.

Whilst the legal requirements for isolation have changed, the Public Health England (PHE) guidance remains. Our nursery has and always will follow the PHE guidance to limit the spread of infectious diseases as we do for illnesses such as Norovirus or Chicken Pox.

Face coverings are no longer required by law, we are leaving it to the individual if they wish to wear a face covering whilst meeting at the door, if we could please ask that you continue to distance yourself from each other whilst waiting and where possible from the staff on hand over.

We have worked well together to keep nursery open and as safe for our children and staff as possible. Your support as parents has been vital for this. We will continue to work together as guidance changes and will provide you with updates where appropriate. Limiting the spread of Covid in nursery not only protects health but allows us to keep nursery open to all children.

**Nursery car park** - Please can you drive slowly, carefully and with great caution when entering and leaving the nursery car park. We have a number of families who travel to nursery on foot and unfortunately, we do not have a dedicated pathway to run alongside the driveway.

We can not emphasise enough how important it is to drive with due care and attention no matter how much of a hurry you are in.
**Change of Details** - Please remember to inform us of any change to your personal details such as mobile phone numbers, home telephone numbers and your address or place of work, thank you.

**Extending Sessions, Appointments and Holiday Requests** - When you would like to book your child’s holiday or make changes to your child’s regular booked sessions, where possible please send your request via e-mail to the office so a written record can be kept and registers adjusted accordingly. Along with any appointments your child is due to have please inform the office as well as your child’s keyperson.

**Nursery reviews** - We would like to thank you all for recommending us to your friends, neighbours, families, and colleagues! We have numerous new families joining us who have all told us they have been highly recommended to The Mulberry Bush Nursery by our current and previous families by word of mouth and from seeing lovely reviews on social media such as Diss Mama. We are extremely grateful for your kind words and lovely compliments; it really does mean a lot to the team.

We have recently joined a childcare site called daynurseries.co.uk to share information about our nursery to the local community. We would really appreciate it if you could spare a few minutes to share your lovely reviews about The Mulberry Bush Nursery on Day Care Nurseries for other potential parents to read. This can be accessed by going to www.daynurseries.co.uk or collect a form from nursery to send in.

If you could also share your reviews on our Facebook page, Instagram page and google and like and share our posts that would be amazing!

Thank you in advance for your time and support.

**Staff news** - As previously informed it is with great sadness Jane McKee, our Nursery Manager will be leaving us on 31st March 2022. Jane has decided to take a huge leap and have a complete change of career, running her own business and shop.

Jane has been a brilliant Manager, colleague, carer and friend to all seeing and I hope you will all wish her every success for her future adventure.

The position of manager will be taken over by Debbie Barham, Debbie has many years working and managing early years settings and is receiving a good handover from Jane. Debbie is very much looking forwards to working with you all and getting to know your families.

We would also like to introduce Rickie Colbourn our new nursery cook, Rickie has many years of experience working in school kitchens and will continue to provide the children with lovely nutritious meals and introduce a few new items to the menu.
**World Book Day** - The children and staff joined together dressing up as their favourite book character on Thursday 10th March and held lots of different book related activities throughout the week. The children brought in their favourite book to share with their friends. We also held a book swap shop which was very popular, the children could exchange a book they no longer required for another exciting story.

**Fundraising Fun** - We have been enjoying a few days of fun, dressing in red, our pyjamas and party clothes for a small donation along with guess the name of the Cat to celebrate and raise money for comic relief, raising a fantastic £100.00. Thank you all for joining in with us.

**Easter Holiday Club** - We are pleased to announce we will once again be running our holiday club over the Easter holidays for children who are 11 years of age or younger (who are attending full time school). We have planned different Easter activities along with active physical games.

Offering sessions between 8am and 5pm, please contact the office for more information.

**Golden Jubilee** - We are planning to celebrate the Queens golden jubilee by holding a garden party inviting the parents to join us for a drink and few nibbles, we will send out invitations and more information close to the time.

**Childcare Savings** - There are several options to help parents with childcare costs, whether you have toddlers or teens, you could get support. You could be entitled to:

- 2-year-old funding 15 hrs
- 3+4-year-old funding 15 hrs
- 3+4-year-old funding up to 30 hrs
- Tax free childcare 0-11 years
- Tax Credits 0-15 years
- Universal credits 0-15 years
- Childcare voucher 0-15 years
- Support while you study

Please have a look on [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk) to check what you may be entitled to and apply.

As a nursery we offer funding for eligible 2, 3- and 4-year olds, 15 and 30 hours a week, term time only or stretched over the holidays.

We also accept Childcare employment vouchers and signed up to the government tax free childcare payments.
**Tax free child care account** – we would like to make you all aware of a government scheme aimed at working parents to open an account to use to pay your childcare from. Every £8 you enter into this account the government will add £2. For more information go to [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk). Within this website can also look at your eligibility for other childcare benefits.

**Room news**

**After School Club** – It was nice to welcome some old faces and new children back to holiday club during February half term. The children were excited to see each other and chat about what’s been happening since they last saw each other. We played lots of different board games which they seemed to beat me at, I think I will need to practice for next time.

Lots of crafts were on offer, hammer beads, painting, junk modelling, and the children really enjoyed getting creative some working on ideas together.

The children showed their cooking skills making buns, which we added orange rind and juice to as well as decorating them.

Here at The Mulberry Bush, we encourage being physically active and the children enjoyed games outside such as hide and seek, chase and Yoga inside.

I have already planned for the Easter holiday and hope to welcome back some more children. Some of the activities on offer will be making a wooden game, flying crafts and experiments, Easter crafts, gardening, and much more. As well as crafts we will do lots of physical activities and have board games and other activities available.

I look forward to seeing you at Easter and for you to read what happens.

**Berries** – It has been a busy term so far in the berries, covering a range of topics. We celebrated the new year by making calendars, cards, talking about our wishes and watching fireworks on the interactive board. For our winter topic the children loved exploring ice, making snowmen pictures, making snowmen biscuits and ice painting. The children had fun on RSPB week, we went on a walk to look and listen for birds, made bird feeders, and bird hand print pictures. Then we celebrated Chinese new year which was the year of the tiger, the children had fun dancing to Chinese music, made tiger masks, made spring rolls and tried Chinese food for snack. The children enjoyed making Valentine’s cards and biscuits for their loved ones, we also talked about our feelings and had fun joining in mindfulness activities including circle time, yoga and listening to whale music. On the 17th of Feb it was random act of kindness day and the children made some cards which we then posted through our neighbour’s doors, the children really enjoyed doing this and we had some lovely feedback from them. We
also made friendship bracelets and talked about how we can be kind. Last week we have been learning about the festival of Brazil, making headdress, dancing to music and making colleges of people dressed up. We have also included some free weeks where we concentrate on the children’s interests, they can choose what activities they would like to do. In the coming weeks we will be participating in world book day, Red nose day and learning about space.

**Buds 2** - This year in Buds we welcomed the children back with a free week to settle back in whilst having the option to make some 2022 calendars and then we looked at the season, Winter. For our Winter topic the children wrapped up in coats, scrapes, hats and welly boots and went for a walk, explored different types of messy play such as gloop, fizzy snow and shaving foam whilst also making our own snowflakes by snipping into paper with scissors, designing a woolly hat and so much more. After our Winter topic we moved on to nursery rhymes taking part in activities based around the songs Twinkle Little Star, 1 2 3 4 5 once I caught a fish alive, 5 currant buns, zoom zoom zoom zoom and the wheels on the bus.

We have celebrated some different festivals this term such as Burns Night, Australia Day, National Handwriting Day, Chinese New Year, Valentines Day, World Book Day, Pancake Day and St David’s Day. Alongside all these festivals we have celebrated we have also looked at bird week where we made binoculars from kitchen roll tubes and feathers, making play dough birds, bird feeders and chocolate nest cakes!! Some of the topics we will be taking in next will be Colours and Shapes, Holi Festival and Red Nose Day, Mothers Week, Spring and lots more.

**Baby Buds** - We welcomed the children back after the Christmas holidays with a free play week so that everybody could settle back in nicely! The babies then enjoyed 2 weeks of Winter and enjoyed baking gingerbread biscuits, exploring ice play and arctic animals and had special hot chocolate snack. We have also been celebrating special festivals like Valentines Day, Chinese New Year, Burns Night and World Book Day. The babies have also been getting stuck in to our messy play activities recently and with the weather cheering up, we have been exploring outside with sand play, cereal and pasta play and soft play. Our upcoming topics are Easter & Spring, St George’s Day, a physical week, a role play week and pirates/under the sea week. We are also welcoming lots of new babies at the moment which is lovely so we will all have some new friends.

Please remember to share any pictures or videos of what you get up to outside of nursery on Blossom!

**Term Time Only Children** - Term Time only children will finish for the Easter Holidays on Friday 8th April and will return to nursery on Monday 25th April 2022.
## Dates for your Diary (also available on the website)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 5(^{th}) March 2022</td>
<td>World Book Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed-Fri 16(^{th}) March 2022</td>
<td>Comic Relief Fun week</td>
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<td>Friday 8(^{th}) April 2022</td>
<td>Last day for TTO children</td>
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<td>Friday 15(^{th}) April 2022</td>
<td>Good Friday Nursery closed</td>
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<td>Monday 13(^{th}) April 2020</td>
<td>Easter Monday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 11th April to Friday 22(^{nd})April 2022</td>
<td>Holiday Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 25(^{th}) April 2022</td>
<td>TTO children return to Nursery</td>
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<td>Monday 2(^{nd}) May 2022</td>
<td>Bank Holiday - Nursery Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 2(^{nd}) and Friday 3(^{rd}) June 2022</td>
<td>Bank Holidays - Nursery Closed Queens jubilee</td>
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<td>W/C 30(^{th}) May 2022</td>
<td>Half term week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 22(^{nd}) July 2022</td>
<td>TTO children finish for Summer</td>
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