

Executive Headteacher: Ms Sarah Jane Bellerby

Dear families,

The team have really enjoyed seeing familiar faces in our school community these past few weeks and it has been an absolute honour to meet our new families too, we hope you feel very welcome here. As you will have seen, the classroom environments are looking enticing and exciting, and the children have been enjoying getting to know their new spaces. I have observed some fantastic learning already and can't wait to see the high-quality outcomes that the children produce as we progress through the year.

You should have received a detailed curriculum letter from each class teacher detailing the learning, events and plans taking place this half term. Please take the time to read them so you keep well informed about what your child is learning about and how you can engage in a conversation with them at home about specific topics. All letters feature on our website [Letters – Mulberry Wood Wharf](#)

We will also be sending out a weekly newsletter to families which will share all the wonderful learning the children have taken part in. It will detail upcoming events, stars of the week and 'save the dates'. In addition to this, we will continue to provide information about services and events in the local area.

### Communication in summary

- Half term information from each class teacher which details learning and events
- Weekly newsletter
- Ping App – general information and some personalised updates to parents from the class teacher
- Parents evening (November and March)
- Tapestry (Reception only)
- Come and chat to me or Lindsay on the gate

Ping has a calendar with all the school events on there so please take the time to look ahead on what's coming up.

### Mealtimes

#### Snacks

- Children are welcome to bring in **healthy snacks** if they wish, we are an *allergy aware* school and we do have children who have severe allergies. We ask that you **do not** pack snacks that include nuts.
- We do provide healthy snacks to all classes so don't worry if your child does not come in with a snack. Fresh water and cups are also provided to children whenever they need it. We understand that some children require extra reminders to drink water and have a snack and we always allocate an adult to this role and monitor the children closely.

- Snacks should be healthy (We will send out a list of snack ideas soon)
- In Reception, the children are also offered milk daily.

## Lunch

Lunch is free for all pupils.

Accent, are our wonderful caterers, and they will continue to provide us with their service this year; we are delighted Metin will continue to be part of our Mulberry Wood Wharf team as our amazing chef. For some children, getting used to a new routine can be difficult; all Mulberry Wood Wharf staff are trained to skilfully, positively and gently support the children with developing their social skills, their lunchtime habits, exploration and trying new foods. If we are concerned that a child is not eating lunch, please be assured that we will discuss this with you. Please don't be surprised if your child does not remember what they have had for lunch as this is very common amongst young children.

We have received information from the local authority confirming that the contractors are on schedule to complete their work in the kitchen by half term. In the weeks leading up to half term, I have spoken with our caterers about introducing additional variety in the food options available to the children. This will ensure that we can continue to offer appealing and nutritious choices during this transition period.

Once the installation is complete and the caterers have set up the kitchen, we will start serving warm food as soon as possible.

We are excited to provide our pupils with freshly prepared meals and will share more details about the menu options closer to the time. Metin can't wait to get cooking his delicious food again!

Rest assured, we are doing everything within our power to expedite this process and will keep you informed of any changes. If you have any questions, please contact the school office. Thank you for your continued support.

## Packed lunches

If you would prefer your child has a packed lunch, please let the office know by emailing [admin@mulberrywoodwharf.org](mailto:admin@mulberrywoodwharf.org)

Packed lunches should contain healthy and nutritious food and should not contain any crisps or chocolate.

## **Birthdays and celebrations**

As many parents are aware, we love a celebration at Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary and we aim to mark as many cultural and religious festivals as possible. We do this by dressing up, having parties, making food with the children and learning new customs and traditions. If there is a

festival you would like us to mark because it is important to your family, then please let a member of staff know.

Last year many parents expressed the desire to mark their child's birthday in school. We also like to celebrate children's birthdays and for each child we will:

- Sing happy birthday
- Give them a card

If families would like to bring something in from their child on their birthday, we ask that it be something from the list below. Home-made or unpackaged food items will not be distributed by the school, we have pupils who have severe allergies, and it is paramount that we know what the ingredients are in food items:

- Fresh fruit
- Packaged food items so we can check the ingredients on the label
- An age-appropriate toy (e.g. not party poppers)

Please note, this is not an expectation, we will always celebrate with the children when it is their birthday. There is never an expectation that your child should bring something into school for their birthday. If you would like to bring something, please speak to the office one week in advance so that the details can be passed to me and authorised.

### **Enrichment at Mulberry Wood Wharf**

Enrichment activities play a vital role in the development of children, enhancing their learning experience beyond the regular curriculum. These activities, such as art, music, sports, science clubs, and language classes, provide opportunities for pupils to explore new interests, develop talents, and build essential life skills.

Incorporating enrichment activities into the school day makes education a holistic and enjoyable journey, empowering pupils to become well-rounded individuals ready for future challenges.

Enrichment takes many forms including:

- Going on a school trip every half term
- Taking part in special projects like the puppet making workshop with the Little Angel Theatre through the Mulberry Production of Arts
- Having visits from aspirational people such as Authors and Scientists
- Performing and experiencing performance at 1 Canada Square and the theatre at Mulberry UTC
- Taking part in the festival of arts
- Private music tuition
- Lunchtime and afterschool clubs
- Hatching eggs and real butterflies
- Cooking every week in reception

### **Health and safety**

Many of our staff are Paediatric first aid trained, and all staff take the health and safety of children very seriously. If your child has an accident they will be seen by a qualified first aider.

We are using a new system called 'Medical Tracker', if your child has a minor accident then you will be emailed with the details of what happened and the treatment they were given. If a child bumps their head they will be seen by a qualified first aider and a member of the senior leader team. The parent will be called, and medical tracker will also send the parent a notification. The child will be closely monitored for two hours after any bump to the head.

If a child appears unwell, for example: quieter than normal, change in behaviour, sleepy, upset – we will check their temperature. We will call parents and ask them to collect their child if they are too unwell to stay in school.

Autumn typically brings coughs and colds as children enter the new academic year. We teach and promote good hygiene and ensure children regularly wash their hands.

If your child is vomiting and/or has diarrhoea they should remain at home for 48 hours after their last episode, following which they can return to school.

### **Wraparound with Premier**

I have spent time observing the after school wraparound care that is led by Premier Education. It is a service that families can sign up for when they require guaranteed childcare. I am delighted to see Sarah back leading the team. The sessions have been calm and the children are happy and always busy. The snacks have been varied and nutritious and it's been wonderful seeing the children prepare and enjoy their snacks independently. The plan is for the group to move up to the first floor so that can create more of a zoned area approach in the hall space to support the delivery in the enriching activities they have planned. There is also access to the outdoor playground where sports sessions can be held.

I would like to emphasise the importance of balancing structured activities with rest and independent play, especially at the end of a busy school day. Children can benefit greatly from the activities and learning opportunities in the club, but they also need time to relax, unwind, and play independently. Rest and unstructured play are essential for their development, allowing them to process their day, explore their own creativity, and recharge.

We kindly encourage you to support this balance by allowing children time to rest and play independently as well as take part in structured activities, when they are in the Premier wraparound care.

When the kitchen has been completed, Premier plan to prepare some warm food too.

### **Attendance and punctuality**

The school doors open at 08.50 and will close at 9.00am. Now that Year One and Two are familiar with this routine, they say goodbye to their parents at the gate and go to their classroom on their own, where they will be greeted and supported by the classroom adults.

Reception children may initially need a little more support settling in; therefore, parents are welcome to come into the classroom at the start of the day. As discussed in the admission

meetings, all children are unique and will settle differently. Our staff are skilled in getting to know each child individually and they pay particular attention to each child's wellbeing, enthusiasm and engagement in school. We will liaise with parents if we feel a child requires a bespoke settling in plan.

Each week we celebrate attendance by awarding the class who has the best attendance to take the school trophy for the week. We are also introducing class bronze, silver and gold awards. We have a feature in the newsletter every week about attendance and we are always promoting 'Going for Gold' which is 97%+ attendance!

Please check the newsletter for updates on our attendance.

Please note that taking your child out of school for a holiday is not permitted and will not be authorised, parents could be subject to a fine. More importantly, missing school can be detrimental to children's learning, progress and their social development so please always think twice before booking a trip away.

### **What should my child bring to school?**

The class letters will personalise what your children should bring to school but as a starting point, all children should bring the following;

- a water bottle
- a change of clothes
- Year One and Year Two should come to school in their PE kit on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- A book bag or rucksack

We have really enjoyed welcoming everyone to the new term, it goes without saying that at Mulberry Wood Wharf you are welcome to offer feedback and ask as many questions as you would like. Myself or Lindsay, we will always be on the main door to chat. Alternatively, you can call the school on 02087130183 or email [admin@mulberrywoodwharf.org](mailto:admin@mulberrywoodwharf.org) where one of the admin team will answer your query or pass it on to someone else who will.

### **A reminder of who is who**

Sarah Jane Bellerby – Executive Headteacher  
Lindsay Carbonneau – Assistant Headteacher and SENDCO  
Dimitra Tselepi – Tiger Class Teacher  
Marwah Choudhury – Blue Whale Class Teacher  
Shireena Begum – Panda Class Teacher  
Hafsa Tahera – Lion Class Teacher  
Brenna Dunne – Elephant Class Teacher  
Reema Akhtar – Teaching Assistant for Elephant Class  
Verity Nesbitt – Teaching Assistant for Elephant Class  
Rahena Begum – Teaching Assistant for Reception  
Samia – Teaching Assistant for Panda Class

Mukta – Teaching Assistant for Lion Class  
Zaheeda Khatun – Teaching Assistant for Reception  
Candice Franks – Midday Supervisor  
Shelina Begum – Midday Supervisor  
Sabiha Kadir – Midday Supervisor  
Fahmeda Begum Trofder – Midday Supervisor and club coordinator  
Paula Torley – Executive Assistant for Mulberry Schools Trust  
Nazma Kamal – Receptionist / General Administrator  
Iftexhar Fahim – Facilities Manager  
Metin – Assistant, Accent Catering at Mulberry School for Girls

I will be in touch soon to share details of the parent voice session coming up in October and coffee morning events to connect parents, including a sports competition just for parents in the sports hall, I have spotted some competitive parents when it comes to sports, you know who you are!

Kind regards,



Sarah Jane and The Mulberry Wood Wharf Team