



April Newsletter 2014

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to our April newsletter bringing you up to date with everything that has been happening here at Toy Box over the last month.

Baby Unit

Throughout the month of March we have had a few new babies start in the Pooh Bears room. So far they all seem to have settled in really well, gaining more and more confidence on a daily basis as they explore their new surroundings.

Some of the babies are feeling so confident they have started to try and feed themselves. Staff facilitate this and continuously offer help and encouragement at mealtimes and with activities which are aimed at developing these skills further. Activities such as singing and action rhymes are particular favourites with all the children enjoying the pointing, waving, clapping and general noise making that takes place throughout the activities..

The Rabbits too have been practicing their self care and independence skills during the last month. Staff further encourage this through ensuring the Rabbits are fully participating in all the room activities and routines which take place throughout the day. This includes the children helping set up and clear away the toys they have been playing with, a game they all thoroughly enjoy.

Another challenging skill staff are introducing the children to is the concept of sharing and turn taking. Even for older children this can be quite difficult, but already some of the Rabbits are getting the hang of it and doing really well.

Early Years

In the Piglet room the children have spent much of their time playing at being Pirates! Using a treasure map they organised a treasure hunt where at the end they discovered a stash of pirate gold.

They all thoroughly enjoyed the experience and kept this imaginative play going for a full week by dressing up, making pirate maps and pretending to go sailing on a pirate ship!

Photos of all the fun they had can be found on a display in the Piglet room.

Staff have also been discussing feelings with the Piglets during the last month. Staff encouraged the children to talk about what makes them feel happy and what makes them feel sad as well as the importance of being kind to our friends.

In the Tigger room the children have had lots of fun playing with all the different sized boxes which have been kindly donated by parents/ carers.

The children usually use the larger boxes in the large construction area and with the addition of pipes and other large objects they build really imaginative towers. The smaller boxes have been placed into the junk modelling box to be used by the children to create and construct smaller models, using glue and paint and any other materials they may find.

This type of activity encourages the children to develop many skills as they use their imagination to create, their large and small muscles to build and finally their social skills as they present and describe their creations to the staff and their friends!

Birthdays

We have six birthdays this month here at Toy Box and I'm sure you will join with us as we wish them all a very Happy Birthday.

Pooh Bears – Leo 1.

Piglets – Sam 4, Dolton 3, Bailey 3, Hedi 3.

Tiggers – Evan 4.

Sports Relief – Friday 21st March

A big thank you to everyone who took part in our Sports Relief Jumping day! Everybody had lots of fun and we managed to raise over £30.00 for this fantastic charity.

Lots of photographs taken throughout the day of the children jumping and generally having a good time are displayed in the hallway for everyone to see.

Staff news

Leah Beekie, a nursery nurse in the Tigger room will be leaving us just after Easter. Leah's daughter starts school in September and Leah has got a job in a school where she will be working term time only.

Leah has been with us here Toy Box for a couple of years now and has been a loyal and dedicated member of staff. We are all very sad to see her go and wish her all the very best in her new job.

To replace Leah we are being joined by Nursery Nurse, Jenny Moore. Jenny has ten years experience as a nursery nurse and also has a qualification in British Sign Language Level 1. Jenny worked here at Toy Box for many years before she left us to pursue a career in working with children with hearing impairments. When she worked here previously Jenny was always regarded as a highly valued member of the Toy Box team and we are all delighted that she will be rejoining the team once again.

We are also being joined this month by Katy Peters, a qualified nursery nurse who will also be working with the Tiggers. Katy has four years experience and we are looking forward to having her as part of our team.

We have also been joined this month by a new General Assistant, Lisa Gregory.

As well as lending a helping hand during lunch times Lisa's main role is to ensure that the nursery runs as smoothly as possible by ensuring that all the rooms are kept clean and hygienic and generally being available to help out when and where needed.

Lisa has lots of experience as she has worked as service assistant at the hospital for several years. Even though Lisa has only been with us for three weeks she has settled in really well and is already proving to be a great asset to our nursery team.

Staff member of the month

This month the award goes to Louise Carr, Senior Nursery Nurse in the Baby Unit. Louise has been nominated by a parent who feels that she is friendly, helpful and approachable!

This is a lovely statement and one that Louise should feel happy to be associated with as it is what we all aim to be!

Please continue to nominate staff for this award as it means so much to them to know that their efforts are appreciated.

April Menu

Sue has planned a lovely menu for April which you will find attached to this newsletter. In order to get us all into the holiday mood Sue has also planned a special Maundy Thursday menu which I am also attaching to the newsletter.

Any feedback on the menu and ideas for any future menus are always welcome.

Changes to Nursery!

I'm sure you will have all noticed by now that we have made a start at redecorating the nursery. In order to minimise disruption all the work is being carried out over weekends. We respectfully ask for your patience and understanding whilst the redecorating is taking place as the only other alternative is closing the nursery for a week, which I'm sure you will agree would cause far more disruption for everybody.

Staff do get in early on a Monday morning in order to open all the windows to try and get rid of some of the smell of paint. Work is progressing at a good pace so hopefully it won't be long before it's all completed.

We have also redesigned the layout of the Piglet room and the conservatory and purchased lots of new resources to compliment the new layout. As we work our way through the nursery we will access each room, changing and replacing equipment where needed.

So far the changes have been well received by the children and they have all thoroughly enjoyed exploring the new spaces and equipment. All the new equipment provides many new learning opportunities for all the children.

Dates for your diary

Friday 11th April – End of term for grant only children.

Friday 18th April – Good Friday – NURSERY CLOSED

Monday 21st April – Easter Monday – NURSERY CLOSED

Monday 28th April – start of term for grant only children

And finally

Thank you for your continued support. As ever please remember that all your comments, concerns and suggestions are welcome, taken seriously and acted upon if necessary.

Joanne and all the Staff at Toy Box