

October Newsletter 2016

Dear Parents/ Carers

Welcome to the October newsletter bringing you up to date with what has been happening here at Toy Box during the month of September as well as our plans for the month ahead.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all new parents/carers and children to the nursery and hope that in no time at all you will have settled in really well and feel like part of our Toy Box family.

These years seem to fly by so quickly; it feels like there is someone in the background fast forwarding the weeks. This year in particular seems to have disappeared in the blink of an eye. It feels impossible to comprehend that we have already started making preparations for Christmas.

All our school leavers have now moved on and we have been joined by several new faces, who I am delighted to report, appear to be settling in very well.

Baby Unit

We have had a few new babies start in the Baby Unit lately so staff have spent time helping our new arrivals to settle into nursery routine. Lots of activities which involved talking, sound making, singing, sharing and turn taking kept the babies busy and helped them to get to know their little nursery friends.

Throughout the month of September the theme in the Baby Unit has been based on sea life, recognising and naming creatures which live in the sea. This topic links to understanding of the world and encourages the babies to make links to experiences they have had outside of nursery.

The babies did lovely paintings of fish, using tin foil and glitter to make the fish colourful and shiny. They babies also enjoyed playing with the animals in the water. Staff added food colouring and bubbles to the water in order to enhance the learning experience and make everything a little more fascinating.

Early Years Unit

Throughout September our existing Tiggers had a great time welcoming our Piglets who became Tiggers, as well as our new Tiggers who have just joined us at the beginning of September. The children really enjoyed role modelling daily routine and did a great job of making all the new Tiggers feel settled and part of the group.

Last week the Tiggers had a visit from Kayleigh, a Community Champion from Tesco. Kayleigh goes out to schools, nurseries and old people's homes throughout Doncaster to promote healthy eating through various activities involving fruit. We felt very lucky to have Kayleigh come to Toy Box and give the children the opportunity to taste and experiment with several different fruits, some familiar and some more exotic.

Using different combinations of fruit which included lime, lemon, cucumber, mint, strawberry and orange the children made their own flavoured water, which they were all very eager to sample.

They also did fruit tasting with pomegranate, whole coconuts and kiwis, fruits which children wouldn't normally have on a regular basis. All the children thoroughly enjoyed the whole

experience and hopefully it helped the message about the importance of healthy eating sink in.

The Piglets have also been busy settling into their new room and new routine.

The focus for the month of September has been on sorting and counting objects which help develop the Piglets early mathematical skills. Activities based around number, pattern and shape as well as counting to 10 kept the children busy and interested. By the end of the activity everything was being counted, children, cars, shells as well as their plates and cups at meal times.

The Piglets have also have also been practising their mark making skills, using the tripod grip to hold the pencil in their preferred hand, giving meanings to the marks they made on paper.

The book for the month of September was Aliens love Underpants, a story which all the children thoroughly enjoy. The children did several fun activities based around the story. We had a fancy dress day to finish off the month, which all the children throughout the nursery thoroughly enjoyed.

Birthdays

Pooh Bears	Teddy 1, Joseph 1
Rabbits	Ryley 2
Piglet	
Tigger	Elijah 3
	Lily-Rose 4, Peighton 4, Dylan 4, Layla 4,
	Ava 5

Staff member of the month

The award for Staff Member of the Month for September goes to Sarah Butterfield. Sarah has taken over Georgia's role as Senior Nursery Nurse and has really stepped up to the plate. Sarah is very enthusiastic and relishes her new challenge.

So well done to Sarah who will now receive a £20 gift voucher of her choice.

Book of the Month - Funny Bones

The book of the month for October is Funny Bones.

We have chosen this book as it fits in nicely with Halloween. Staff will also use the story to talk to the children about their body, exploring body parts as well as taste, touch, sight, hearing and smell.

Photographer – Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th October

KCT photographers will be coming to nursery over two days to take lovely photographs of your children. These photos make ideal Christmas presents and are reasonably priced too. If your child normally attends on either of these days they will automatically have their photograph taken, unless parent/ carers stipulate otherwise.

If your child does not normally attend on either of these two days but you would like to have their photo taken, we will be delighted to make an appointment at a specific time for you to attend.

Similarly, if you have older siblings who are at school and you would like them to be included, we can arrange an after school appointment.

Please speak to either myself or Louise and we will be delighted to make an appointment for you.

Dates to remember

Friday 21st October -----Last day of term (funded children only).

Monday 31st October -----First day of term(funded children only).

Monday 31st October-----Halloween Dress Up Day

Late pickups from nursery

Once again I find myself having to remind parents/carers to ensure they pick up their child/ children within their booked session times. For health and safety reasons we have specific numbers of staff based on the number of children booked in for each session. Children arriving at nursery before the start of their session or being picked up late after the end of their session has an impact on the ratios.

It not only has an impact on ratios it also has an impact on staff, especially if parents/ carers are late on an evening. Some of our staff have children of their own and if they are late picking up they have to pay extra. Also some of our staff have a bus to catch and parents not picking up on time means they can miss their bus.

All our staff work long hard hours and some have families of their own to look after. We have had several instances recently where parents have been arriving at 6pm and later and then expect a full hand over. Of course we all want to give parents a full account of what their child has been doing throughout the day but not at the moment when staff are supposed to have finished their shift and need to be walking out the door to catch a bus or pick up their own child.

In order to have a full hand over parent/ carers need to arrive five to ten minutes before the end of your child's session time. As well as ensuring we are always adhering to our staff/child ratios this will also ensure all our staff get off on time, enabling them to sort out their own families.

Charges for late pick up, either afternoon or evening are £5

Parents/ carers will be asked to sign a late pick up form and the charges will be added to your monthly invoice.

A huge thank you to all those parent/ carers who always pick up on time. Your efforts are greatly appreciated

And finally.....

Our new term has got off to a flying start with all our new children settling in well and quickly. We have had a few tears but that is only to be expected. As usual it's our new parents/ carers who suffer far more than the new children.

As always, we would like to thank everyone for their continuing support. We look forward to working closely with all our parent/ carers, both old and new throughout the coming

Academic Year so that together we can achieve the best possible outcome for every child who attends Toy Box.

Please remember that all your comments, concerns and suggestions are welcome, taken seriously and acted upon if necessary.

Kerry and all the Staff at Toy Box Day Nursery