



# December Newsletter 2017

## Dear Parents/ Carers

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

## Early Years and Baby Unit

All the children throughout the nursery are getting very excited and are now on countdown to Christmas.

All the Christmas resources are in place and from this week onwards the children will be making Christmas decorations to hang up around the nursery and to decorate the Christmas tree.

They have already started making Christmas cards and learning Christmas Carols, which they will perform for the residents of the old people's home just behind the nursery.

## Birthdays

We have 6 birthday this month here at Toy Box and I'm sure you will join with us as we wish them him a very Happy Birthday.

Rabbits- Thea 2

Piglets- Ruby 3, Aston 3

Tiggers- Harrison 4, Blake 4, Mert 4.

## Staff Member of the Month

The award for staff member of the month for November goes to Mykela.

Mykela works across the nursery, helping out wherever she is needed. Mykela's confidence has come on in leaps and bounds since she joined Toy Box. Her talents really come to the fore when she is dealing with children with additional needs, ensuring that all their targets and needs are met.

Well done Mykela! Keep up the good work!

Please continue to nominate for this award as it means a lot to staff to know that they are appreciated for all the hard work they put in on a daily basis.

## **Toy Box Christmas Fayre**

We held our annual Christmas Fayre here at Toy Box on Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

A huge thank you to all those parent/ carers who came along and brought family and friends as well. As usual the event was well attended and lots of fun was had by all.

A huge thank you also to all our lovely staff that gave their time for free and organised the whole thing in their spare time. They are truly amazing!!!!!!

All monies raised from the Fayre will be divided equally between upstairs and downstairs, with staff being free to choose which toys/resources they want to purchase for the children in their room.

Thanks you again to all who attended. It was such a fun morning and a lovely start to Christmas.

## **Carol singing at the Residential Home Wednesday 13th December.**

On Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> December staff will take the children to visit the old people's Residential Home just behind the nursery.

Staff take the children every Christmas to sing carols for the residents. Staff and residents at the home really appreciate the visit and the little carol concert the children put on for them. The performance will begin at 2.30 and of course the children will be fully escorted and supervised by staff from the moment they leave the nursery until they return.

## **Christmas Jumper Day Friday 15th December**

This year we have decided to take part in the Text Santa Christmas Jumper Day.

The reason for the event is to help raise money for McMillan, Make a Wish and Save the Children charities.

All donations from the day will go to these charities. All we are asking is that every child attending on the day comes to nursery in their Christmas jumper (if possible) and makes a £1 donation towards these worthy causes.

## **Early drop off and late pickups**

Once again I find myself having to remind parents/carers to ensure they drop off and pick up their child/ children within their booked session times.

For health and safety reasons we have specific numbers of staff per session 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 staffing ratios.

Please note the morning session ends at 1pm and the afternoon session starts at 1pm.

Children arriving for the afternoon session cannot be admitted to nursery before 1pm.

Things have got a little out of hand recently with parents and children arriving anything from 12.30 onwards. Unfortunately I cannot allow this to continue. From here on in parents/ carers arriving early for the afternoon session will have to wait with their child/ children in the car park until 1pm.

Arriving early and picking up late 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 to their childminder. 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, it will also ensure parent/ carers get a full hand over and staff get off on time, enabling them to sort out their own families.

[Charges for late pick up, either afternoon or evening are £5 per 5 minutes.](#)

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

### **Nursery closure dates for Christmas**

Nursery will close on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December for both funded and non- funded children at the normal time of 6pm.

**NURSERY WILL REMAIN CLOSED THROUGHOUT CHRISTMAS WEEK.**

Nursery will re-open as normal on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018 for non-funded children.

GRANT ONLY children return on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

## **Dates to remember**

Carols at Residential Home	- Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December
Christmas Jumper Day for text Santa	- Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December
Term finishes for ALL CHILDREN	- Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December
Nursery re-opens after Christmas break	- Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2018
Term starts for GRANT ONLY children	- Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2018

## **And finally.....**

As usual we thank all parents/ carers for your continuing support. Please remember that all your comments, concerns and suggestions are welcome, taken seriously and acted upon if necessary.

**We would also like to wish everybody a very merry Christmas and a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.**

**Thank you all for your support throughout 2017. We look forward to working closely with all parents/carers and children in 2018.**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYBODY!**

**Kerry, Noreen and all the Staff at Toy Box Day Nursery**