



December Newsletter 2015

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.

As per usual we are all left standing with head in hands asking ourselves how it can possibly be that Christmas is here already! It's been a very hectic term for staff with lots of new children starting between September and now. Everybody is looking forward to the Festive Season and a nice long well earned rest.

Baby Unit

Louise has recently completed 'Beginning with Babies' training at the Totem Pole in Grantham.

During the training Louise learnt that sensory play is a very important part of children's learning and development. Louise has wasted no time in putting her latest training into action with staff providing lots more sensory play opportunities for the children. Sensory activities including painting with a range of tools, scented play dough and using a range of different objects to manipulate it, scented gloop and coloured and scented water have provided the children with several opportunities to play and explore. Staff supported and encouraged the children and the results have been wonderful to witness as the children used lots of new language and others tried to copy.

Another interesting fact Louise learned during her training was that children learn a lot through experiencing different textures through bare feet. As a result the babies will no longer wear shoes or socks whilst indoors at nursery. Staff will of course always make sure the babies are warm and comfortable. Shoes and socks will always be worn for outdoor play.

Early Years Unit

The Tiggers have had a lot of fun learning about rhyming words and repeated refrains. The book Hairy McClary proved particularly interesting and captured the children's imagination. They have also spent time learning numbers, quantities and shape recognition.

Throughout the month Piglets have been focusing on expressing their feelings and preferences. This led to discussions around being happy or sad, thirsty or hungry. The

children were given emotion cards and they had no trouble in matching the words with the cards.

Both Tiggers and Piglets have been busy preparing for Christmas, making cards and calendars and practicing Christmas carols.

All the children in the nursery took part in celebrating British Values Week which took place between 28th November and the 2nd December. Discussions around sharing and taking turns, treating others kindly, looking at and discussing different religions and celebrations, being independent and looking at diversity led to the children sharing some very interesting thoughts. At the end of the week all the children were asked to bring in their favourite book to share with their friends.

Children in Need

As usual staff and children here at Toy Box took part in Children in need with everybody coming to nursery dressed in their pyjamas.

Throughout the day everybody had lots of fun, taking part in various games which staff had planned and by the end of the day we had raised £33

A very big thank you to everyone who took part. Your efforts and contributions are very much appreciated.

Birthdays

We have five birthdays 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 – Ruby 2

Piglets – Mert 3, Emelia-Rose 3, Broke 3

Tiggers – Harrison 3

Staff Member of the Month

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

Ellie has been really helpful this month in supporting Kirstie and Jenny in the Tigger room. Ellie is currently doing her Level 3 in Childcare at Doncaster college and has lots of work to do at home. Despite this she always finds the time to make and collect resources for her area of learning here at nursery. Ellie always gives her all to whatever she does and we are all delighted to have her as part of our team.

Well done Ellie!! 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.

Christmas Jumper Day Friday 16th December

This year we have decided to take part in the Text Santa Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 16th December.

The idea behind the day is to help raise funds for McMillan, Make a Wish and Save the Children charities.

All donations from the day will go to the charities. All we are asking is that every child attending on the day makes a £1 donation to go towards these worthy causes.

Reminders

Please can all parents/carers ensure that their child/ children attends nursery with everything they may need throughout the day. This includes a spare set of clothes in case of "accidents" as well as a supply of nappies and wipes. We do not supply nappies and wipes so if your child runs out staff end up having to "borrow" from somebody else.

I'm sure parent/ carers will agree that it's not right having to "borrow" nappies, so I have taken steps which I hope will resolve the situation. From next Monday I will keep a spare pack of nappies and wipes in the office. Each time staff have to use one of our spare nappies or wipes the parent will be charged £2 per nappy and £2 per pack of wipes.

A big thank you to those parents/ carers who always remember all of the above items on a daily basis. Your co-operation helps make nursery life run smoothly.

Closing for Christmas

As usual Toy Box Day Nursery will be closed over Christmas.

Nursery will CLOSE on Friday 23rd December at 6pm AND WILL REMAIN CLOSED THROUGHOUT CHRISTMAS WEEK.

Nursery will re-open as normal in the New Year on Tuesday 3rd January 2017.

Dates to remember

Christmas Jumper Day for text Santa	- Friday 16 th December
Term finishes for GRANT ONLY children	- Wednesday 14 th December
Nursery Closes for Christmas break	- Friday 23 rd December at 6pm.
Nursery re-opens after Christmas break	- Tuesday 3 rd January 2016
Term starts for GRANT ONLY children	- Thursday 5 th January 2016

And finally.....

A very big thank you to everybody who made the effort to come to our nursery Christmas party yesterday. It was a wonderful occasion and all the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The entertainer was good and all the children were very well behaved. Participation by parents/ carers at these events make the whole experience so much more enjoyable for the children. A huge thank you to everyone who came along. Your presence was very much appreciated by both the children and staff.

As we close the book here on 2016 we thank all parents/ carers for your continuing support. We feel very privileged indeed that you have placed your precious children in our care. We would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that each and every day staff endeavour to make your child's time here at Toy Box both as enjoyable and productive as it could possibly be.

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

We wish you all a very happy, peaceful and restful Festive Season and look forward to working closely with you all in 2017.

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYBODY!

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