



December Newsletter 2014

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 October as well as our plans for the month ahead.

Baby Unit

Throughout November in the Pooh Bears room staff provided lots of activities aimed at helping the babies develop co-ordination, hand movements and physical skills in general. Some of the babies are just learning to sit whilst others are feeling a little more adventurous, attempting to pull themselves up whilst holding on to the furniture. However, they all thoroughly enjoyed all the activities, especially the singing and learning movements through action rhymes.

Throughout the month the Rabbits have had lots of fun as well, collecting and playing with fallen autumn leaves.

They went outside to collect the leaves and then thoroughly enjoyed throwing and catching the leaves before using what was left for a sticking activity. The end results of the activity are displayed on the wall in the Rabbits room so please do have a look if you can.

The Rabbits have also enjoyed looking at picture books over the last month and have managed to master several new words whilst matching words and pictures. Some of the children have become so confident that they can readily identify specific pictures requested by staff.

Early Years Unit

Throughout November the Piglets enjoyed doing mark making using shaving foam. They have had lots of fun as they squirted and splodged the foam all over the table top before drawing pictures using their finger tips.

Staff also spent lots of time with the Piglets working on the concept of sharing and turn taking. This is a skill which most two year olds struggle with so staff presented the children with several opportunities to practice these attributes.

Throughout November staff had several discussions with Tiggers on hygiene.

These discussions covered the importance of hand washing after using the toilet and before eating as well as covering our faces and washing our hands after we cough and sneeze. All the children had lots of ideas on how best to ensure we do not spread germs as they can upset our tummies and make us poorly if we don't wash our hands properly.

The Tiggers now have good understanding of the importance of hand washing and it would help greatly if parents/ carers could continue to promote this message at home. This will help staff greatly and will also help to reinforce the message about the importance of hygiene.

Being fascinated with hygiene at the moment the Tiggers decided that our dolls needed a good wash to make them clean. This has resulted in the dolls having had a bath every day for the last two weeks and now they are extremely clean!

Throughout the nursery all the children are now preparing to make Christmas decorations and pictures to decorate the nursery, ready for the excitement of Christmas. This has of course led to discussions on all the excitement to come so from this week onwards nursery will be in full blown Christmas mode.

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. All the children loved having their face painted and by the end of the day we had raised £50.

As usual Toy Box will match the final amount raised so well done to everyone who took part. A cheque for £100 will now be paid into Children in Need and we are delighted to be able to contribute to this worthwhile charity.

Birthdays

We have seven 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.

Rabbits	– Reece 2.
Piglets	– Henley 3.
Tiggers	– Bella 4, Amelia 3, Elliott 4, Isla 4, Lottie 4.

Staff Member of the Month

The award for staff member of the month for November goes to Katy Peters. Katy works with the Tiggers and has been nominated by parents/ carers for being very friendly, easy to approach, helpful and always having a ready smile.

Well done Katy! Keep up the good work!

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

Children's Christmas Party – Friday 12th December

By now all parents/ carers should have received your child's Christmas party invitation.

If you have not already done so please return the REPLY SLIP at the bottom of the invite informing us as to whether you are able to attend or not.

The children's Christmas Party will take place at the usual venue of St. Paul's Church Hall which is directly opposite the nursery.

The party is scheduled to start at 3.30pm and will finish at approximately 5pm depending on how the children are enjoying themselves.

We have booked an entertainer to come along and entertain the children during the party and I have heard a whisper that towards the end of the party, if he is not too busy, Father Christmas will be putting in an appearance!

As usual staff will be in Christmas fancy dress outfits and all the children are invited to come along in fancy dress as well.

All parents/ carers are invited to come along and join in the fun. Unfortunately, for Health and Safety reasons we have to limit numbers to a maximum of two adults per family and NO OLDER SIBLINGS . If the hall becomes too overcrowded it makes it impossible for the children to spread out and enjoy the entertainer and the activities.

Also, depending on final numbers we may have to say no to prams being parked in the hall. Last year the hall became so congested, that had there been an emergency, it would have made it very difficult for everybody to get out in a hurry.

Children over the age of two who would normally attend nursery during the afternoon of the party can be taken across to the party by staff. Please note that this applies ONLY if staff are made aware well in advance that parents/ carers are unable to attend.

THESE ARRANGEMENTS CANNOT BE MADE ON THE DAY.

Children under the age of two as well as children who attend grant only sessions MUST be accompanied by a parent/ carer.

All children who would not normally attend nursery during this afternoon session MUST also be accompanied by a parent/ carer for the duration of the party.

Toy Box Christmas Fayre

A huge thank you to all our parents/ carers, children and staff who attended our Christmas Fayre last Saturday. As usual the event was a roaring success with everybody taking part and enjoying the activities on the day

Every year staff willingly give their time for free and work so very hard at ensuring the event is fun for everybody. The success of the day is testament to all their hard work, planning and dedication. Everybody had lots of fun and loads of photographs were taken throughout the morning. Once I have printed them all off I will display them in the hallway for all to see.

Reminders

Please can all parents/ carers ensure they send their child/ children to nursery with the following items on a daily basis.

- A spare set of clothes.
- Appropriate outdoor clothing.
- Nappies and wipes
- Medicine such as Calpol. This is especially important if your child is teething or suffering from a cold)
- A cot sheet if they require a daily nap.

We have once again exhausted our supply of spare clothes for children in the Early Years Unit. This situation has come about as a result of children being sent home in spare nursery clothes and those clothes not being laundered and returned. The spare clothes situation has now become so critical that should your child/ children get wet, dirty or have an accident we will have no option but to contact you to bring in some spare clothes from home.

Whilst you are packing your child's bag please have a look for any of our nursery clothes your child may have gone home in. If you do come across any please return them to nursery, no questions asked.

Also if there are any clothes your child no longer wears please bring them to nursery and we will be delighted to add them to our spares box.

A big thank you to those parents/ carers who always remember all of the above items on a daily basis.

December Menu

Sue has planned a lovely menu for December which you will find attached to this newsletter. She has also planned a Christmas dinner which is due to take place on Tuesday 16th December. Any feedback on the menu as well as ideas for any future menus are always welcome.

Closing for Christmas

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

Nursery will close on Wednesday 24th December, Christmas Eve at 3.30pm - 4pm or earlier if all the children have gone home.

Nursery will re-open as normal in the New Year on Friday 2nd of January. 2015

Dates to remember

Children's Christmas Party	– Friday 12 th December
Term finishes for GRANT ONLY children	– Friday 19 th December
Nursery Closes for Christmas break	-Wednesday 24 th December at 4pm.
Nursery re-opens after Christmas break	-Friday 2 nd January 2015
Term starts for GRANT ONLY children	- Monday 5 th January

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 for your support over the last year and we look forward to working closely with all parents/carers and children in 2015.

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYBODY!

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