

February 2019

Newsletter

Dear Parents/ Carers

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

Baby Unit

The children in the Baby Unit have had an exciting month with lots of Play Tray activities which included playing with animals, food, shiny materials, painting, gloop and play dough to mention just a few.

The Rabbits have been acting very grown up throughout the month, making their own choices about which resources they wanted to play with in the sand tray. They too had lots of fun filling, emptying, scooping and mark making in the sand.

Both Pooh Bears and Rabbits really enjoyed story time throughout the month, actively choosing and listening to stories read to them by staff.

Early Years Unit

Tiggers have had an interesting time learning all about healthy eating and dental hygiene, an apt topic after the Christmas period of excess!

There has been lots of discussion around foods which are good or bad for our dental health and our health in general, as well as the importance of brushing our teeth twice a day. Using our large scale models of teeth and toothbrushes, the children had fun practising the correct way to brush their teeth.

Other activities included mark making with paint using fruit and vegetables, bubble wrap, cotton buds and different sized paint brushes. This in turn led to discussions about the differences between the marks each of these tools made, as well as the reason why.

In the Piglet room the main focus throughout the month has been on the story "Whatever Next" The book tells the story about a bear who goes on a journey to the moon. Staff provided the children with a large cardboard box which they very quickly turned into a rocket. Using props from the book, wellies for space boots and colanders for space helmets the children were off to the moon in no time. The children have also done some wonderful messy activities from the story. Using foil and glitter they made moon rocks as well as some lovely artwork which is all displayed in the Piglet room.

All the children throughout the nursery celebrated Chinese New Year on February 5th with a special Chinese meal cooked by our lovely cook, Michelle.

World Book Day Thursday 7th March ADVANCE NOTICE

To celebrate and mark the occasion of World Book Day on Thursday 7th March we are inviting all the children who would normally attend nursery on that day to choose their favourite character either from a book or a nursery rhyme. They are free to choose a book from home or from nursery and then come to nursery on the day, dressed up as their favourite character.

Please do not go to any expense buying materials for costumes. The children themselves are hugely imaginative and given a few basic resources can come up with some very creative designs all by themselves.

However, should any parent/ carer want help with inspiration or ideas please speak to any member of staff and they will be delighted to help.

Red Nose Week 10th March to 15th March Dress up week ADVANCE NOTICE

Since its launch in 1988, Red Nose Day has become something of a British institution. It's the day, every two years, when people across the land can get together and raise money at home, school and work. There's a fantastic night of TV on the BBC, with comedy and entertainment to inspire the nation to give generously. Comic Relief spends the money raised by Red Nose Day to help people living tough lives across the UK and internationally.

As usual, we too will be celebrating the occasion here at Toy Box. Throughout that week we are inviting staff and children to come to nursery in their favourite fancy dress, pyjamas or simply wearing something red.

To help raise funds we will charge £1 donation per child for the week. The children will also be baking lots of buns which will be on sale each day to help raise funds for this worthwhile charity.

Birthdays

We have four birthdays this month here at Toy Box. I'm sure you will all want to join with us as we wish each one of them a very Happy Birthday.

Pooh Bears	Daniel 1
Rabbits	James 2
Tiggers	Mia W 4, Izabelle 4

Staff member of the month

Our staff member of the month for January is Katie Welch. Katie will now be awarded a £20 gift voucher of her choice.

Katie has recently moved back upstairs and will be predominantly working with the babies. Katie has settled really well and has had a huge positive impact on all the babies. She has got to know all the children very quickly and now has Key Children of her own in the Baby Unit. Louise is delighted to have Katie upstairs with her as part of her Baby Unit team.

Well done Katie. Keep up the good work. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

Staff Changes

As parents/ carers will no doubt have already noticed, we have had two new staff members join our team, Sophie Thompson and Chloe Amess.

Sophie has a BA honours degree in Sports Coaching and Primary PE.

Chloe has worked at the hospital on the children's outpatients ward and has volunteered at Plover primary school for the last few years.

We hope you will all join us in welcoming them as part of the team.

Unfortunately Sarah Butterfield has now left. Sarah was based in the Tigger Room with the 3 to 5 year olds. Sarah has moved house, miles away from nursery. Unfortunately the commute would have been too far for her to continue working here at Toy Box. Sarah has been with us 8 years and will be greatly missed. We wish her all the very best for the future.

Dates to remember

Last day of term for	GRANT ONLY CHILDREN –	Friday 15 th February 2019
First day of term	GRANT ONLY CHILDREN-	Monday 25 th February 2019
World Book Day		Thursday 7 th March 2019
Red Nose Week		Monday 10 th – 15 th March 2019

Parent/Carer Occupations

Tiggers are currently looking at "occupations" as their new topic. Staff are interested to find out if any of our parent/carers have an exciting or unusual occupation i.e. driving an ambulance, a police man or woman, a doctor, dentist or in fact any occupation which you feel the children would like to learn more about. The children are aged between 3 and 5 years old and hearing directly from real people who carry out a specific role would very much enhance the children's learning.

If you feel you could help staff enhance and expand this topic please speak to Kirstie or Kerry and they will be delighted to include you in their planning.

Reminders

Can I please remind parents/ carers to bring in a bag for their child/children on a daily basis containing everything the child may need throughout the day (DEFINATELY NOT A PLASTIC CARRIER BAG)

Even if your child is potty trained, they may spill a drink or get messy in the creative areas, so spare clothes for every child is a MUST. Those children still in nappies should have enough nappies, wipes and cream in their bag or box to last them throughout the day, with supplies being replenished each time they attend nursery.

Lastly, if your child is potty training please ensure you send in enough clothing so that they can be changed numerous times. This should include items such as socks and shoes as these items often get forgotten.

A big thank you to all our parents/carers who already do this. It is greatly appreciated.

And finally.....

Please continue to park thoughtfully, well away from the nursery entrance. A huge thank you to everyone for your efforts. It is incumbent on all of us to ensure the safety of all our children.

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.

Kerry and all the Staff at Toy Box Day Nursery