

# February 2020

# 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.

All the children throughout the nursery celebrated Chinese New Year on January 25th. which this year is the year of The Rat. They had lots of fun making lanterns and decorations to mark the occasion. These decorations complimented all the lovely resources we managed to borrow from The Multicultural Centre, which included a dragon head, which we were allowed to keep for a week. No Chinese celebration is complete without a Chinese meal and an attempt at using chopsticks. For lunch the children enjoyed Chinese Curry Noodles, Prawn Crackers and Spring Rolls whilst attempting to eat everything with chop sticks. All in all it was a lovely occasion which all the children enjoyed.

Pooh Bears have also spent lots of time, with help and encouragement from staff of course, trying out activities which help with the development of new words and sounds. They have been looking at photo books of photos from home and photos of themselves at nursery, which always result in lots of interaction and interest from the babies as they recognise themselves and their family.

The children in the Rabbits Room have also had lots of fun throughout the month experimenting with mark making, both on paper and in the sand. Using lots of different resources which included felt pens, chopsticks, sticks, and chalks and various sized containers they had endless fun.

## **Early Years Unit**

We have had a few new children start in the Tigger room after Christmas, so staff and children have all been getting to know one another and learning all about nursery routines and rules. The existing children are all very good at welcoming new comers and helping them settle in.

The Tiggers have also been looking at fruit and how it decays and changes when left out on the side. After observing the fruit and how its appearance changed after being left to one side for a while, the children discussed what they thought were the reasons behind this.

The Piglet room have also been busy welcoming and settling in new children who have moved from being Rabbits upstairs to being Piglets downstairs in the Piglet Room. This can be a little bit of an ordeal for some children, but, without fail they all settle in and adapt to the new routines and boundaries in no time

## **World Book Day Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March ADVANCE NOTICE**

To celebrate and mark the occasion of World Book Day on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **Sport Relief 9<sup>th</sup> March to 13<sup>th</sup> Sports Gear week ADVANCE NOTICE**

Sport Relief will take place for the entire week commencing on Monday March 9<sup>th</sup>. Staff will be wearing sportswear throughout the week and all the children who attend nursery are invited to do so as well. Staff are already planning lots of sport themed activities which will take place throughout the week and all the children will be encouraged to participate.

We will be charging a £1 donation to raise as much money as we can throughout the week for this very worthwhile charity.

## **Birthdays**

We have five 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

Rabbits          Hope 2,

Piglets          James 3, Daniel B 2, Jackson 3

Tiggers          Heidi 4

## **Staff member of the month**

Our staff member of the month for January is Michelle Heysham. Michelle is our nursery cook who works tirelessly on a daily basis to ensure that the children have delicious and nutritious meals. Whenever we have a themed occasion Michelle goes to great lengths to ensure the children have as authentic an experience as possible. Our Christmas Dinner and Chinese New Year meals this year were totally wonderful.

So well done Michelle and thank you for all your hard work in the kitchen. All your efforts are greatly appreciated by children and staff alike.

Michelle will now receive a £20 gift voucher of her choice.

## **Dates to remember**

Last day of term for	<b>GRANT ONLY CHILDREN –</b>	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
First day of term	<b>GRANT ONLY CHILDREN-</b>	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2019
World Book Day		Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2019
Sport Relief		Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> 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.

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

We had an incident in the nursery car park in January which could have been extremely serious. A parent was reversing to get out of the car park and nearly knocked a parent and child over. Luckily another parent was walking out of the nursery at the same time and managed to avert the near disaster.

We all fully understand that life these days for working parents is very busy and stressful but please please be careful when parking and reversing in the nursery car park. Also, parking on the grass verge directly in front of the nursery is not only illegal, but downright dangerous as well.

There is a big car park opposite the nursery and more often than not there are several empty spaces at any time throughout the day. Please try and use that car park in order to ensure parents/ carers leaving the nursery have a good clear view of traffic coming both ways. If you must park on the road then please park thoughtfully, well back from the nursery entrance.

A huge thank you to everyone who does park thoughtfully. 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, Noreen and all the Staff at Toy Box Day Nursery**