

February 2018 Newsletter

Toy Box Day Nursery & Pre-School

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 activities which included dancing and singing to the Barney CD and playing in the Small World area, identifying various farm animals and the sound each animal makes.

They also spent lots of time in the sand tray, filling and emptying various containers with sand. Playing in the sand, filling and emptying different containers is a very good activity for children as it helps develop their fine and large motor skills.

Early Years Unit

Tigger room children have had an interesting time learning all about healthy eating and dental hygiene, a very apt topic after the Christmas period of excess!

The children have been discussing the foods that they feel are good and bad for our health as well as discussing the importance of brushing our teeth twice a day. Using our large scale models of teeth and toothbrushes, the children had great 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.

In the Piglet room the main focus during the month has been on independence. Staff have been demonstrating to the children new ways of putting on their coats themselves by putting the hood on their head first and then putting their arms in one at a time. Staff then help the child with the zipping up. It would really help the children if parent/ carers could continue this practice at home.

Piglets have also had a new water tray and the children have had great fun experimenting with how they can pour water and slide animals down the tube. Staff also re introduced small pouring jugs for the children as these jugs hold just enough liquid for one cupful rather than a huge jug.

Disney Dress up day

Our Disney dress up day in aid of the children's charity Crackerjacks proved a very enjoyable occasion for both staff and children alike. All the children enjoyed coming to nursery in their lovely princess dresses and superhero costumes. Staff made Disney frozen play trays which provided interesting mark making opportunities for the children, as well as paper plates which the children turned into minions. It was hard to tell who had the most fun, the staff or the children!

We raised a total of £41 on the day for this very worthwhile charity. Thank you all so much for donating.

World Book Day----- Thursday 1st March

To celebrate and mark the occasion of World Book Day on Thursday 1st 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.

Holiday Club

Toy Box Day Nursery will be offering our usual half term Holiday Club for children already attending school.

Sessions start each day at 8am until 5.30pm Monday to Friday, at a cost of £20 per day, payable in advance on booking.

Each day will include a snack and refreshments. Children can bring a packed lunch each day if they so wish. However, if you would like your child to have a cooked two course nursery lunch; this can be purchased at a cost of £2.00.

Holiday Club will commence on 12th February for one week.

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.

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| Piglet | Alice 2, Izabelle 3, |
| Tiggers | Mia W 3 Maisie 4, Georgia 3 |

Staff member of the month

Our staff member of the month for February is Danielle Nicholas. Danielle will now be awarded a £20 gift voucher of her choice.

Danielle works in our Baby Unit and has been nominated by parent/carers who say 'She's always cheery and caring and we all like her in our house.' So well done to Danielle. Keep up the good work! Your efforts are very much appreciated by all.

Staff Changes

As parents/ carers will no doubt have already noticed, we have had a new cook, Michelle Heysham, join our Toy Box family.

Unfortunately, Karen, our previous cook, wanted to work shorter hours, but, as we are a very busy nursery we are unable to accommodate her wishes.

Michelle is a very experienced cook with nine years experience of working in a busy kitchen. We are delighted to welcome Michelle on board and even though she has only been here a very short time she is already proving a big hit with all the children.

Dates to remember

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| Last day of term for | GRANT ONLY CHILDREN – | Friday 9 th February 2018 |
| First day of term | GRANT ONLY CHILDREN- | Monday 19 th February 2018 |

Plastic Carrier Bags

Due to a recent directive which has come to us from OFSTED we have to ensure the entire nursery is clear of plastic carrier bags. Plastic carrier bags can pose a massive health and safety risk for the children; therefore it makes sense that we take steps to eradicate that risk. Another risk which has been identified is pull cord bags i.e. the old fashioned pump bags with strings.

Please ensure that any bag you bring for your child's belongings has short handles and is not of a light plastic nature. In future, items brought to nursery in plastic carrier bags will be handed back to the parent/ carer.

We realise fully that parent/ carers will need a bit of time to source a new bag, therefore we will not be putting this new rule into practice until the first day back after half term, which will be Monday 19th February.

Parent/ carers compliance with this new rule is essential. If something has been identified as a risk to the children then its incumbent upon each and every one of us to ensure the risk is eradicated immediately.

Thanking you in advance for your co-operation.

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.....

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