



July Newsletter 2015

Dear Parents/ Carers

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

Baby Unit

Throughout the month of June in the baby unit staff spent lots of time encouraging the children to further develop their personal, social and emotional skills. Meal times and getting ready to go out to play have started to take on a whole new meaning with the babies trying hard to feed themselves, wipe their own faces, pour their own drinks and put on their own coats.

The children also took particular interest in the home corner, using a large mixing bowl and wooden spoon which staff introduced to the area. They all enjoyed taking turns at filling the bowl with pretend food as well as various other resources, stirring and mixing everything together.

Louise brought in an old mobile phone which proved a source of great fascination for the children as they used it to pretend to take photos and make phone calls.

Children love playing with and exploring household items like old mobile phones, cameras or remote controls. If you have any of these items at home which you no longer use please bring them into nursery and staff will add them to our existing resources.

Early Years Unit

A big focus this month in the Tigger room has been on getting ready for going to school. The children have had visits from teachers from our local schools which all added to the excitement of what is about to happen. Staff put together a "Going to Schools Box" which contains items of uniform, PE kit and Prospectus from the surrounding schools which staff used to help the children prepare for the next exciting step in their life.

The children have also been concentrating on further developing their literacy skills by practising writing their names. They have also really enjoyed playing in the different areas within nursery i.e. home corner, construction area and outdoors as staff have made them little booklets to write in lists, and take orders for food.

In the Piglets room this month the main focus has been on ICT. The children loved playing with the Bee-Bot, making it move around the mat in different directions. With supervision and guidance from staff the children have also been using the paint programme on the nursery computer to help extend their knowledge of ICT

Another exciting addition to nursery life for the children has been the arrival of the Nursery Bears.

The bears magically appeared one day in the nursery playground and the children have decided that Santa must have brought them. The Bears names are Kipling, Archie, Cedrick, Timber and Bert and all the children absolutely love them. You may have heard the children talking about having turns at taking the bears home. Staff are doing their best to ensure that all the children get a turn but as there are only five bears it will take time to get around all the children having a turn. If your child still has not taken a bear home please as yet tell them not to worry as staff are slowly working their way around all the children.

Also this month Rabbits, Piglets and Tiggers had a visit from Zoo Lab, a company which visits schools and nurseries and introduces the children to several different creatures.

After looking at everything the company had to offer staff decided that a mini beast handling and fact finding session would be the best choice for our children. As a result all the children got to handle a rat, a snake, a frog, giant a millipede, and have a good look at a tarantula close up. The staff as well as the children absolutely loved the experience and we are hoping to get them back later in the year for another visit.

Birthdays

We have five 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.

Piglet	– Theo 3, Amelia 3, Bella 3, Skye 3
Tiggers	– Reyyan 4

Staff Member of the Month

The award for staff member of the month for July goes to Sue. Sue has been nominated by staff for making the best cakes in the nursery and cooking amazing dinners for the staff and children.

Well done Sue!!

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

Summer Holiday Club

Starting on 21st July this year Toy Box Day Nursery is offering a summer holiday club for children who are already attending school, children who do funded only hours and children who are about to start full time school.

Sessions are for children aged 4 years to 6 years, 8am until 5.30pm Monday to Friday. Each day will include a snack and refreshments with children bringing their own packed lunch. However, should parents/ carers wish their child to have a cooked lunch, which includes a main meal and a pudding, this can be purchased for an additional cost of £3.00.

Summer holiday club will start on 21st July for the six weeks holiday, the cost is £20.00 each day, payable in advance on booking.

If this holiday club turns out to be successful we will look at running the club throughout all the school holidays, including half terms.

Dates to remember

Last day of term **GRANT ONLY CHILDREN** Monday 20 July 2015

Summer Club starts on Tuesday 21st July for school children.

Requests and Reminders

Lastly, as summer has now supposedly arrived, please ensure your child/ children come to nursery every day with a sun hat and sun cream.

If your child/children have sun cream left over from last year please be aware that most sun creams have a shelf life of twelve months.

Also we currently have several children who bring bikes, scooters and prams to nursery and store them behind the gate at the side of the nursery each day. We don't mind this as long as each item is stored carefully so as to not cause an obstruction and taken home every day. Unfortunately we now have several items which never seem to be taken home at all and it seems as if their owners have forgotten all about them. These items are now cluttering up our fire escape exit which must be kept clear at all times.

If one of these items belongs to your child/ children can you please ensure it is removed by the end of next week. Any items not claimed by the end of next week will be taken to the charity shop.

Staff changes

I'm sure by now everyone is aware that since Joanne left us in April I have been carrying out the role of nursery manager, an experience I have thoroughly enjoyed and had my children been older, a role I would have gladly taken on permanently.

In our quest to find the right person to fulfil the role of manager on a permanent basis we have carried out several interviews. As a result I am delighted to announce that finally we have found the person whom we feel fulfils all our criteria.

Our new manager, Lisa Holding took up her position two weeks ago and I'm sure that by now most parent/ carers have already met Lisa. Lisa is doing her best to try and introduce herself to as many parent/ carers as possible. If she hasn't had a chance to catch you and introduce herself as yet please feel free to pop into the office to say hello.

Lisa has had lots of experience of nursery life having worked as a childminder, nursery nurse, nursery manager as well as area nursery manager. We are all very excited about having Lisa on board and look forward to all the new ideas she will no doubt bring with her.

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