



March Newsletter 2014

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to our March newsletter bringing you up to date with everything that has been happening at Toy Box over the last month.

Baby Unit

Throughout February the babies in the Pooh Bears room spent lots of time exploring paint, colours and shapes. Using both their hands and a variety of different shaped objects they created some lovely colourful pictures.

We also have a few babies learning to stand and walk in the Pooh Bears room during the past month. In order to encourage the children further in their new skill staff always ensure they are given several opportunities to show off how clever they are, with lots of praise and clapping at end of each attempt. It has been wonderful watching the babies as they have grown in confidence as well as to witness their obvious pride in their achievements.

The Rabbits have also had great fun exploring mark making using crayons and felt pens. Some of the children got quite carried away and used their own body to see how felt tip marks would look and feel on their tummy, hands and face.

As well as experimenting with paint and felt tips the Rabbits have also been experimenting with lots of different sounds. Several of the children have suddenly become very vocal and take great pleasure in imitating animal sounds the staff make whilst reading them a story. In order to extend the activity further staff also introduced lots of vehicle noises. The children loved the activity and continuously rose to the challenge.

Early Years

As staff have now moved all the areas around down stairs, especially in the Piglet room, the children have spent their time familiarising themselves with the new areas and experimenting with how many different ways each area can be used.

In order to encourage the children to use their imagination staff now place lots of equipment on the floor. This allows all the children limitless space to build and construct their small worlds which on many occasions snake all around the room. The children are so very creative and have constructed some brilliant buildings, which on occasions have been as tall as they are wide.

Alongside moving the play spaces around, staff have also changed the routine in the Piglet room. This enables the children to have a longer period for free play during both the morning and afternoon sessions. As a result of this new routine staff have observed that the children

display greater concentration during play which regularly results in some very interesting language exchanges between all the children.

The Tigger room has also seen some changes over the last month. The craft trolley is now continuously kept topped up with a selection of craft equipment including paint, glue, crayons, pens and play dough to which the children have free access throughout the play session. All the children are encouraged to choose their own resources, take them to the tables and play with them for as long as they want. Once they have finished playing they are then encouraged to tidy their own equipment away. Up to now this is going really well with the children loving their new found independence.

Staff have also tried to make play in the home corner more realistic for the children with the introduction of real fruit and vegetables. They all thoroughly enjoy cutting, stirring and smelling the vegetables before placing the end result in the pretend oven to cook. When asked what they were making, one Tigger explained "Im making a apple pie just like Mummy!"

Birthdays

We have eight 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.

Pooh Bears – Piotr 1, Hallie 1, Henri 1.

Rabbits – Harry 2.

Piglets – Finley 2, Sophie 3.

Tiggers – Laiton 4, Kaelan 4.

Sports Relief – Friday 21st March

As usual everyone at Toy Box will be taking part in Sports Relief Day on Friday 21st March. The theme this year is 'jumping' so lots of jumping themed activities for the children to take part in on the day are currently being planned. The children from all the rooms will be taking part so look out for the posters displaying the event.

As usual everybody will be dressing up on the day. As it's sports relief day we thought it would be good if everyone who would normally attend on the day came to nursery dressed in sports clothes. This could be as a footballer, tennis player or even a dancer. The choice is yours.

Requests

Staff would be very grateful for donations of any old ribbon and button you may have lying around at home. Any size, shape and colour would be greatly appreciated.

They are also short of small boxes and containers which the children can use for junk modelling.

All your donations will be greatly accepted.

Staff member of the month

This month the award goes to Sarah Butterfield. Sarah works in the Piglet room and over the last two months Sarah has had to work very hard to help settle some new children who have started. She played a big part in ensuring they settled in well and as a result Sarah is the first person they want when they come in on a morning.

As parents we are all aware how difficult it is to leave your child when they are upset. Knowing they have made a good bond with a familiar member of staff make it so much easier to leave them behind.

Well done Sarah!

Please continue to nominate staff for this award as it means so much to them to know that their efforts are appreciated.

March Menu

Sue has planned a lovely menu for March which you will find attached to this newsletter. Any feedback on the menu and ideas for any future menus are always welcome.

Dates for your diary

Monday 3rd March – Grant children only----First day back after half term.
Friday 21st March - Sports Relief Day --- Dressing up day and sponsored Jump.

And finally

Thank you for your continued support. As ever please remember that all your comments, concerns and suggestions are welcome, taken seriously and acted upon if necessary.

Joanne and all the Staff at Toy Box