



## March Newsletter 2015

### Dear Parents/ Carers

Welcome to the March newsletter bringing you up to date with what has been happening here at Toy Box during the month of February and our plans for the month ahead.

### Baby Unit

Here at Toy Box during the last month we have all been feeling the love as we prepared for Valentine's Day.

Staff set up lots of painting and craft activities and using red and pink ink helped the children make lovely Valentine's Day cards to take home.

The Rabbits spent lots of time practicing counting and associating numbers with everyday activities. They soon got the hang of counting steps when coming down the stairs and counting shoes when putting them on their feet.

### Early Years Unit

The Piglets and Tiggers have also been carrying out lots of Valentine influenced craft activities.

A particular favourite this month with all the children has been creating an art attack. The children collected lots of red and pink objects such as flowers, hearts, shiny paper and anything else sparkly they could get their hands on. They then carefully and thoughtfully placed everything on to a background to create a picture. Staff took photographs of these creations before putting all the stuff away again, ready for the next lot of children to get creative.

Throughout the month of February both Tiggers and Piglets have spent lots of time being creative, partaking in activities including bubble painting, printing and roller painting.

Examples of their lovely art work is displayed in the rooms for everyone to see.

### Birthdays

We have four 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 - Cassidy 1, Riley 1.

|         |                                |
|---------|--------------------------------|
| Rabbits | – Piotrek 2, Hallie 2, Henri 2 |
| Piglet  | – Finley 3, Bria 3, Harry 3    |
| Tiggers | – Nevaeh 4, Sophie 4, Kaci 4   |

### **Staff member of the month**

This month's award is slightly different as it recognises the good work carried out by student Danielle-----who has been on placement here at Toy Box since last year.

Danielle is currently studying for her Nursery Nurse qualification and is on placement here at Toy Box two days per week.

Outside of nursery one of Danielle's passions is dancing and she has very kindly incorporated this into her day to day routine here at nursery, giving dance lessons to Piglets and Tiggers who show interest.

These dance lessons have become very popular with the children who in turn are going home and talking about Danielle to their parents. As a result Danielle has been nominated for the big interest and enjoyment in dance she is generating amongst the children.

This is the first time a student has ever been nominated so well done Danielle, keep up the good work!

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.

### **Nursery Restructure**

Staff have been putting lots of thought into finalising how the nursery will look after Easter once each of the rooms have been restructured.

They have already decided on and ordered several new resources which will gradually be put in place throughout the coming month. Much discussion and thought has gone into ensuring that each room is appropriately resourced and laid out to reflect the age and stage of development of the children who will be using it.

This restructure is taking place as a result of meetings and research on how best we as a nursery ensure we are meeting the needs of every child who attends our setting.

Should any parents/carers have any concerns what so ever please do not hesitate to come and speak to myself or a senior member of the staff team.

I know I explained how the nursery will be restructured in my last newsletter but I am including it again just, to refresh memories.

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Baby Unit,                   | 1 room (upstairs) 3 months to 18 months     |
| Early Years Unit , 2 rooms – | room 1 (upstairs), 18 months to 2 ½ years.  |
|                              | room 2 (downstairs), 2 ½ years to 3 ½ years |
| Pre-school Unit –            | 1 room (downstairs) 3 ½ years to 5 years    |

Watch out for the changes!

## **Red Nose Day – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March**

Red Nose day falls during the month of March and as usual we plan to support this very worthwhile charity through fundraising and a dress up day.

The theme this year is Funny Faces. Staff have decided it would be fun to have a dress up day and are inviting all staff and children who would normally attend nursery on the day to come to nursery in funny fancy dress.

Staff have planned lots of fun activities including face painting, craft activities and decorating biscuits and buns which will take place throughout the day.

All we ask in return is that you give a donation of £1.00. As usual Toy Box will match the total amount collected.

### **Dates to remember**

Red Nose Day – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March

Last day of term for **GRANT ONLY CHILDREN** – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March

Bank Holiday Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – NURSERY CLOSED

Bank Holiday Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April – NURSERY CLOSED

First day of term for **GRANT ONLY CHILDREN** – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April

## **Allergens**

Parent/ carers may or may not be aware of recent changes in legislation regarding food allergies and intolerances.

This means that every establishment which provides food for public consumption must identify the fourteen common allergens which can cause problems for anyone with food allergies or intolerances.

Our cook, Sue has already been on a course and we now have all the required documentation in place.

For us, as a children's nursery, the issue of allergies has always been a priority. Initial problems are always highlighted during the enrolment process so we are already aware of any potential problems before a child starts nursery.

The only thing that has to change for us is the introduction of new and extra paper work.

If any parent/ carer would like any clarification on this new legislation please do not hesitate to come and see me and I will be delighted to answer any queries you may have.

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

It is with great sadness that I announce my intention to leave Toy Box at the end of April.

I have spent nearly eight fantastic years here at Toy Box and during that time I have had the privilege of meeting many lovely parent/ carers and children, not to mention our amazing lovely staff.

Toy Box will always hold a special place in my heart and I will carry with me many fond memories. I will no doubt reminisce with my future colleagues and students about my time spent here with a big smile on my face.

I am not leaving childcare completely as I am taking up a full time post at Doncaster College lecturing in Childcare Studies. This is a big new opportunity for me and even though the decision to leave Toy Box was a very difficult one, I know that if I want to progress my career I have to grasp the opportunity that has presented itself.

In the meantime we have begun our search to recruit a new manager to take my place. Toy Box is a special nursery and we intend to take our time in ensuring the person we finally employ will be the right person for the role.

In the meantime Kerry and Louise, our highly experienced Senior team will take over the running of the nursery. Both Kerry and Louise have many years experience working in childcare and in particular here at Toy Box.

We would all love for Kerry to take over the position as she is more than capable of carrying out the role, but Kerry is happy as she is. However, she along with Louise are happy to hold the fort until we find the right person for our very special nursery.

I have no doubts at all that the Toy Box will be safe in their hands until a new manager can be found.

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.

**Joanne and all the Staff at Toy Box Day Nursery**