

May 2018 Newsletter

Toy Box Day Nursery & Pre-School

Dear Parents/ Carers

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

Baby Unit

Throughout April in the Baby Unit there was lots of focus on nature and the natural world. Staff brought soil, plants, herbs and a few basic gardening tools to nursery so the babies could experience filling the plant pots with soil and then putting a plant in to grow. The plants and herbs are now in the sensory corner in the Rabbit's room so the children can look after them and watch them grow.

A huge thank you to all those parent/carers who brought a family photo from home. Several of the photos are now displayed on the Key Person's notice board. Displaying photos is a great way to encourage the children to explore and communicate about their family members. It also makes it more personal for each child. Louise took copies of the photos which she made up into little books for the home corner. The children enjoy looking through the books at their leisure and picking out their own family.

Early Years Unit

Throughout April Piglets have been working on their independence skills with staff encouraging them to wash their hands before meals, after using the toilet or nappy change and putting their own coats on and zipping them up before going out to play. At the moment we have several children learning to use the potty. To further help and encourage the children in their efforts, staff incorporated books on learning to use the toilet and the potty into story time. Staff have also been teaching the children Makaton so the children can alert staff when they need to use the toilet.

As a result of a recommendation from our Early Years Consultant Teacher who recently came to visit the nursery, all the Piglets now eat in the conservatory. The reasoning behind the change was to remove the tables from the Piglet Room in order to have more toys and resources on the floor and make the space more accessible for all the children. The Piglets have adapted really well to the change, accessing and exploring the toys and resources more freely and in a calmer manner.

The Tiggers have enjoyed a variety of activities throughout the month of April. Two of our parents, Debbie and Heidi, very kindly came to nursery to do baking, Relaxation, Meditation and Reiki with the children. All the Tiggers really enjoyed the experience and got such a lot

out of the activities. Parents coming into nursery to do activities with the children is something we wholeheartedly encourage and would be delighted to welcome parents/ carers who feel they might have something to offer. Dad's who could do very basic carpentry activities with the children would be especially welcome.

If any other parents/carers or relatives would like to come into nursery to do activities with the children please see myself, Kirstie, or Louise and we will be delighted to accommodate you, health and safety permitting of course!

As we have had a bit more sunshine throughout April all the children have managed to spend more time outdoors. Kirstie and I went on a training course recently on Risky Play and Development, allowing the children to take supervised risks. We have put that training into practice and it's been very rewarding to see how the children have benefited. Staff provided the children with large crates and planks of wood. The children had great fun making their own balancing beams, which they tried to climb, fully supervised by staff of course. They also made dens under tables outside, using blankets and bits of materials. Let's hope the summer hurries up and we have a couple of nice months of outdoor play to look forward to.

Birthdays

We have 6 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.

Piglets	- Jujhar 2, Ava 2, Charlie N 3
Tiggers	- Alexis 4, Daniel 4, Owen 6

Staff member of the month

The award for Staff Member of the Month for May goes to Michelle Heysham.

Michelle is our fabulous nursery cook here at Toy Box. Michelle cooks lovely nutritious meals and always goes above and beyond when it comes to dietary requirements. She has meetings with parents/carers if their child has allergies and always caters to children's individual needs.

Michelle and I have recently changed the nursery menu and the children are enjoying all the new tastes and new foods on offer.

Michelle will now receive a £20 gift voucher of her choice. Congratulations to Michelle and well done. Your efforts are very much appreciated by all.

Staff Changes

We would like to welcome Sarah Butterfield back from maternity leave. Sarah started back at Toy Box this week along with her very own little Pooh Bear, Leo, who has joined the other Pooh Bears in the Baby Room.

Sarah is returning to work three days a week and will be based in the Tigger room. Sarah previously worked full time as a senior member of staff in the Piglets.

With Sarah returning as a Nursery Nurse this means that Lauren, who was covering for Sarah as a senior in Tiggers whilst she was on maternity leave, will now take on that position permanently.

Fees Increase

We have reached the time of year where we have to think about our annual fees increase.

Throughout the year most of our suppliers have increased their costs and we have already been informed about further impending increases for the coming year. This combined with the yearly staff pay rise leave us with no alternative but to increase our fees. Therefore, from the beginning of May the fees structure will be as follows:

Full day session will increase from £39 to £40

Half day session will increase from £24 to £25

Full time, five days a week from £173 to £185

If any parent/ carer would like further clarification on these increases please do not hesitate to come and see me.

Nursery Photographs

Tempest Photography are visiting the nursery on Friday 17th June. They will be taking photos of all the children who will attend on the day, unless parents/ carers specify otherwise.

If your child would not normally attend nursery on that day but you would like to have his/ her photo taken, please see either myself, Louise, Kirstie or Sarah and we will be delighted to book a time slot for you.

The photographer will also be taking our annual Tigger leavers photo. More information on this will follow in the next newsletter.

Parents Evening

I would like to say a big thank you to all those who attended our parents/ carers evening on 24th April. It was a great success and hugely gratifying for all the staff that so many parents/ carers made the effort to come along and meet their child's Key person.

If, for any reason, you were unable to attend on the evening and you would like a meeting with your child's Key Worker, please do not hesitate to speak to myself or any senior member of staff and they will be delighted to make a mutually convenient appointment for you.

Throughout the evening parent/ carers were given a questionnaire to fill out. If you have completed your questionnaire please return it to nursery. If you have misplaced it and would like another one, please do not be shy about asking. We have plenty spares here in the office. We value our parents/ carers views and comments on our nursery as we are always

self evaluating our practice. By completing these questionnaires parents/ carers not only help keep us on our toes, it also feeds nicely into our self evaluation and staff training.

OFSTED

As you may be aware we had our Ofsted inspection on the 9th April.

The dreaded visit from Ofsted is something none of us look forward to, but thankfully the whole day went really well. The inspector was very complimentary about the progress the children are making, the nursery environment and the staff and at the end of the inspection we were graded as "Good."

The report has already been emailed to parents/ carers and posted on our nursery Facebook page. It has also been posted on the Ofsted website by Ofsted.

Dates to remember

Last day of term for GRANT ONLY CHILDREN	Friday 26 th May
Bank Holiday Monday 28 th May	NURSERY CLOSED
First day of term for GRANT ONLY CHILDREN	Monday 4 th June
Nursery Photos	Friday 17 th June

Reminders for Sun Hats, Sun Cream and Spare Clothes

As the weather is starting to improve it is important that your child/ children bring a sun hat and sun cream to nursery on a daily basis. The hats and sun cream can be stored here at nursery if parents/ carers so wish. Staff cannot allow children who do not have hats or sun cream out when it's hot and sunny.

After our long cold winter we all need as much sunshine as possible so it would be a real shame if your child/ children had to spend the day indoors simply because they didn't have suitable outdoor summer protection.

I would also like to remind parents/ carers of the importance of ensuring your child/ children have a spare set of clothes in their bag on a daily basis. This applies whether your child/ children are potty trained or not. All the children have access to wet messy play every day and as our stock of spare clothing is severely depleted it can pose big problems if a change of clothing is required.

A big thank you to the 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, Noreen and all the Staff at Toy Box Day Nursery