



November Newsletter 2014

Dear Parents/ Carers

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

Baby Unit

Pooh Bears have had lots of fun during the last month as they explored the new equipment which staff have introduced. A particular favourite have been the mug trees and curtain rings. On the face of it these items seem very simple but they have provided endless enjoyment for the children as they sat on the floor, placing the rings on to the arms of the mug trees. This activity is excellent at helping the children develop hand eye co-ordination with the added bonus that they all appear to thoroughly enjoy it.

Pooh Bears have also been exploring animal noises and had great fun as they listened to and tried to imitate animal sounds made by the staff. They all found this activity hilarious which regularly finished with everyone in fits of giggles!

During the month the Rabbits also had great fun with a food tasting activity. They pulled some wonderful faces as they tasted exotic fruits such as papaya, dragon fruit and a passion fruit, all of which were received with mixed reactions accompanied with some very funny expressions.

Photographs of the activity are on display in the Rabbit room.

Both Pooh Bears and Rabbits have been taking advantage of our continuing lovely weather and been out and about for walks in the park, collecting leaves and generally observing all the changes that take place at this time of year.

Early Years Unit

Piglets have all just about settled into nursery routine now and are rapidly learning to become more independent.

Staff have spent lots of time encouraging the children to put on their own coats and shoes before going out to play and to put on their own aprons for painting. They are all trying really hard and are very proud when they manage to accomplish the task. Throughout the coming weeks and months staff will continue to help, support and encourage the children as they strive to master these new life skills

The Piglets have also been exploring simple shapes and learning to recognise their names. Staff set up lots of painting activities involving different colours, shapes and printing. These activities play a big part in helping the children learn as they are playing. They are all very clever and already some of the older children can recognise several shapes and colours.

The Tiggers are also settling in nicely and have already started learning the alphabet, counting and number recognition.

Some of the older children have mastered these activities really well and can already identify different objects and name the letter sound the object begins with. These activities, combined with Numicon and the Phonics programme we follow here at nursery, sees the children gaining confidence on a daily basis.

We recently purchased some space hoppers for the outdoor area and the Tiggers have all thoroughly enjoyed bouncing around the place. They created their own games, bouncing up down and sideways and generally having lots of fun. It has been amazing watching them as they manoeuvred around the outside play area.

During half term the children in all the rooms had lots of fun preparing for Halloween. They all made decorations, carved out pumpkin lanterns and played with jelly and spiders. The week ended with a spooky Halloween meal prepared by our lovely cook Sue, with everybody in fancy dress. We all had lots of fun and can't wait until next year to do it all over again!

Children in Need – Friday 14th November

As usual all the staff and children here at Toy Box will take part in fundraising for this worthy cause.

We are inviting all the children who would normally attend nursery on that day to come to nursery in their pyjamas. Children In Need is usually a fun packed day with all the children and staff getting into the spirit of the occasion, baking and decorating buns, taking part in craft activities and just generally having lots of fund raising fun throughout the day.

As usual, staff will come to work in their best pyjamas and all we ask is that everybody donates at least £1 to this very worthwhile charity.

Birthdays

We have ten 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	– Elliot 1, Morrison 1
Rabbits	– Aaron 2, Lucy 2
Piglet	– Mollie 2
Tiggers	– Willow 4, Marshall 3, Ollie 4, Summer 4. Lucas 4

Staff member of the month

The award for staff member of the month for October goes to Shauna Griffin. Shauna works in the Tigger room and is a very popular member of staff with both children and parents/ carers alike.

Shauna was nominated for being friendly, approachable and always having time to chat or explain events. So well done Shauna and 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 put in.

Children's Christmas Party – Friday 12th December

The children's Christmas Party will take place at the usual venue of St. Paul's church hall which is directly opposite the nursery.

The party is scheduled to start at 3.30pm and will finish at approximately 5pm depending on how the children are enjoying themselves.

We have booked an entertainer to come along and entertain the children during the party and I have heard a whisper that towards the end of the party, if he is not too busy, Father Christmas will be putting in an appearance!

As usual staff will be in Christmas fancy dress outfits and all the children are invited to come along in fancy dress as well.

All parents/ carers are invited to come along and join in the fun. Unfortunately, for Health and Safety reasons we have to limit numbers to a maximum of two adults per family and NO OLDER SIBLINGS .If the hall becomes too overcrowded it makes it impossible for the children to spread out and enjoy the entertainer and the activities.

Also, depending on final numbers we may have to say no to prams being parked in the hall. Last year the hall became so congested, that had there been an emergency, it would have made it very difficult for everybody to get out in a hurry.

Children over the age of two who would normally attend nursery during the afternoon of the party can be taken across to the party by staff. Please note that this applies ONLY if staff are made aware well in advance that parents are unable to attend.

THESE ARRANGEMENTS CANNOT BE MADE ON THE DAY.

Children under the age of two MUST be accompanied by a parent/ carer.

All children who would not normally attend nursery during this afternoon session MUST also be accompanied by a parent/ carer for the duration of the party.

Invitations will be sent out during November along with a reply slip so that we can get an idea of the numbers of people attending.

Toy Box Christmas Fayre - Saturday 29th November

We will be holding our annual Christmas Fayre here at Toy Box on Saturday 29th November. This particular event is always well attended and everybody has a lovely time.

Staff and children are already planning decorations and games for the event! As usual we are requesting donations for prizes for both the games and the tombola. Any and all donations will be gratefully received.

More details will follow nearer the time so look out for the posters. Everyone is invited so be sure to tell friends and family as well. The more the merrier!

Ebola Precautions

I'm sure that by now just about everyone will have heard about the Ebola crisis. Last week, in light of the crisis, we received guidance from the NDNA to help us ensure that our childcare environment eliminates the risk of cross infection as far as is possible.

Bedding, face cloths and soiled clothing can potentially be the biggest source of cross infection in any childcare setting. In order to minimise this risk we have been advised to ask parents/ carers who have babies who sleep in cots, to bring their own cot sheet to nursery at the beginning of the week. Each child's sheet will be stored separately throughout the week and sent home for laundering on the child's last day each week.

It is also recommended that soiled clothing is not laundered at nursery but immediately put into a plastic bag and sent home. Again, from now on we will be following these guidelines.

We have also put a new laundry policy in place for dealing with facecloths. As facecloths are small items we can safely manage the risk ourselves here at nursery. From now on all facecloths will be soaked in Milton before being washed at a very high temperature and put outside in the fresh air to dry, which is the recommended method for drying.

We would also like to remind parents/ carers to use the hygienic hand rub when entering the nursery. This hand rub contains active ingredients to help kill bugs and germs that could spread infection.

If you have any queries or would like clarification on any of the measures being put into place please do not hesitate to come and see me.

Your co-operation in helping us adhere to the above guidelines is very much appreciated.

Dates to remember

- Children in Need – Friday 14th November
Toy Box Christmas Fayre - Saturday 29th November
Children's Christmas Party – Friday 12th December

November Menu

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

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.

Joanne and all the Staff at Toy Box Day Nursery