



# October Newsletter 2014

## Dear Parents/ Carers

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

During September we had lots of visits from children who left us during the summer to start school. It was lovely to see them and hear about how well they have settled into school routine. They all looked so grown up in their school uniform and it's hard to believe that not so long ago they were at nursery.

We have taken photographs of them all, proudly showing off their shiny new uniforms. All the photos which we have taken so far are displayed in the hallway for all to see.

## Baby Unit

Staff have had a big change round in the Pooh Bear room over the last month, moving furniture around and introducing lots of lovely natural materials. These materials are so much more tactile and interesting for the babies to play with, stimulating both their senses and their natural urge to investigate. They thoroughly enjoying playing and exploring all the lovely new areas that have been created.

The Rabbits have also been busy over the last month, showing particular interest in building and fixing objects together. They have spent lots of time exploring bricks and blocks of various sizes as they attempted to stack them up to make a tower before knocking the whole thing down again. They have also had lots of fun with games and jigsaws that fix together.

All these activities encourage the development of gross motor skills as the children persevere with moving and twisting objects and pieces, trying to make them fit together. Once complete the babies show a great deal of satisfaction in their achievements, often clapping and cheering themselves.

## Early Years Unit

The start of the new Autumn Term has also seen changes to the Early Years Unit as we welcome back children from the summer break, as well as new children starting with us for the first time.

As well as new children starting, we also have children moving groups within the nursery, so this time of year is always a bit hectic for both staff and children alike.

Staff usually spend much of September helping the children get used to routines and boundaries within each of the rooms which, once established, will enable lots of fun and learning to take place.

The older children are being given the responsibility of helping new children with tasks and routines. This helps the older children to feel grown up and important whilst at the same time offering a different kind of support to the new children that the staff can't always offer.

### **Halloween – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October**

This year Halloween falls during half term and as usual we are having a dress up day, so get those costumes ready.

Staff and children who usually attend nursery on this day are invited to come to nursery in Halloween fancy dress. Sue is in the process of designing a special Halloween menu for the day, so we are all very excited about that.

More details will follow closer to the time.

### **Photographer – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October**

KCT photographers will be coming to nursery over two days to take lovely photographs of your children. These photos make ideal Christmas presents and are reasonably priced too. If your child normally attends on one of these days the staff will automatically take them to have their photograph taken, unless you stipulate otherwise.

If your child does not normally attend on either of these two days but you would like to have their photo taken, we will be delighted to make an appointment at a specific time for you to attend.

Similarly, if you have older siblings who are at school and you would like them to be included, we can arrange an after school appointment.

Please speak to either myself or Kerry and we will be delighted to make an appointment for you.

### **Birthdays**

We have nine 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.

Rabbits – Lily-Rose 2, Mollie 2.

Tiggers – India 4, Sasha 4, Ava 3, Janek 4, Olivier 4, Corey 3, Mia 3.

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

The award this month has gone to Louise Carr, Senior Nursery Nurse in the Baby Unit.

Louise is recognised for working hard and implementing lots of changes in the Baby Unit. In her role as Senior Nursery Nurse Louise always ensures that everything runs smoothly and is the driving force behind implementing new ideas. These ideas include the lovely changes to the Pooh Bears environment which have given the babies a whole new play space to explore.

So congratulations to Louise and well done.

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.

### **Dates to remember**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> – Photo days

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October – Halloween Dressing up day

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October – Last day of term (funded children only).

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November – First day of term (funded children only).

### **October Menu**

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

### **Fees Increase**

As detailed in Septembers newsletters the annual fees increase has now been implemented and will show in your October invoice.

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 October the fees structure will be as follows:

Full day session will increase by £1.25p

Half day session will increase by £0.75p

Full time, five days a week remains the same.

Early and late starts remain the same.

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

### **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**