



## September Newsletter 2016

### Dear Parents/ Carers

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

### Baby Unit

Throughout the month of August the babies enjoyed various activities involving healthy foods and healthy eating.

Staff introduced pieces of fruit from several different types of fruit and it was hugely amusing observing all the different reactions to the tastes. Some of the tastes they thoroughly enjoyed but others were definitely not a hit.

The children used the left over fruit to do fruit printing. They had great fun exploring the taste, feel and shape of the fruit before covering it in paint to create a piece of art.

Throughout August the Rabbits spent time learning all about themselves and self care. They used dolls to practice hygiene routines i.e. washing their faces and brushing their teeth.

Parents/ carers were asked to bring in family photos and the children really enjoyed looking at the photos and explaining who everybody was. Staff then took photos of the children to display around the room which they called our 'I can' photos. The photos show the children carrying out various activities which depict the children's independence.

### Early Years Unit

A big focus in the Tigger room has of course been on getting ready for "big school." Several teachers from local schools had already been to visit so the Tiggers who were still with us throughout the summer spent the time eagerly awaiting the day when they would be starting school. Our "Going To School Box" got well used

throughout the summer. We were of course all very excited for them too and it was with a mixture of joy and sadness that we watched them go.

Some of them have been with us for a very long time but we take comfort from the fact that we are confident they are all ready for school and their next big step into the big wide world.

Several of the Piglets are now of course be getting ready to become Tiggers and the whole process will start all over again. They have already started practising writing their names and learning their numbers and shapes. Some are already becoming very confident and proud that they are now going to be the big Tiggers!

The Piglets have also been looking at prepositions using baskets, boxes and small objects to carry out actions such as 'under', 'on top', 'in' and 'out. All the children really enjoyed this activity and continued to practice their new skills themselves by self initiating the game outdoors with their peers.

Both Tiggers and Piglets joined in with several of the extra activities which were on offer during Holiday Club. They had lots of free play, moving around from one activity to the next at will.

## **Birthdays**

Pooh Bears	Hayden 1
Rabbits	Jacob 2, Freddie 2, Alfie 2,
Piglet	Ebony 3, Joe 3, Maxwell 3, Liam 3,
Tiggers	Sofia 4, Oliver 4, Rudis 4, Elliott 4

## **Staff member of the month**

As from the beginning of September we will restart nominations for Staff Member of the Month.

Our staff team are very dedicated and hardworking and very much appreciate parents/ carers taking the time to vote. To make it easier to vote we have attached a voting slip to this newsletter. All you have to do is decide who you would like to nominate and place the completed slip into the box in the entrance lobby.

## **Summer Holiday Club**

Toy Box ran a School Holiday Club again this year throughout the summer holidays, which once again proved very popular. As a result of the take up of the service we

will once again be extending the holiday club to include half terms and Easter holidays.

During the first week of the holiday club the children spent their days settling into their new routine and partaking in the various activities which were on offer. Week two was a little more structured with the main focus being on science. All the children had great fun carrying out several different experiments which included creating a volcano using vinegar and baking powder, and a balloon rocket and a lava Lamp using food colouring, water and oil.

The theme for week three was Pirates and Princesses which included a dressing up day as pirates or princesses.

Week four had a healthy eating themed week which involved the children exploring different foods and looking at exercise and how we keep our body healthy.

Week five concentrated on all things bears with the children bringing their own teddies into nursery and having a Teddy Bear's Picnic during the week.

Last week, which was the final week of the summer holidays was just a week of fun and games, a slumber party on the last day and lots of talk about the forthcoming big event, getting ready for "big school".

The children have all had great fun throughout the six week holiday and for our part we cannot get over how quickly the summer has flown by. We all felt very sad on Friday as we not only said goodbye to our holiday club children but also to the last of our Tiggers who left to start school. We wish them all the very best as they embark on the next exciting chapter in their little lives.

### **Aliens Love Underpants**

The book of the month for September is "Aliens Love Underpants".

Staff has decided to concentrate on this book to celebrate Literacy Day which will take place on Thursday 8th September. Here at Toy Box we place lots of emphasis on books and story time so this is nothing new for us. Staff has enhanced all the areas of learning throughout the nursery which depict various aspects of the book, providing activities and learning opportunities which link to space, planets, self help skills and much more.

We look forward to sharing the changes and space themed activities with parent/ carers throughout the coming weeks.

### **Dates to remember**

Literacy Day

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September

**Reminders for Sun Hats, Sun Cream**

Even though the hottest summer days are now largely behind us it's still important to ensure that your child/ children bring a sun hat and sun cream to nursery every day. Hopefully we have several nice warm sunny days still to come before the cold weather sets in and we want to make sure the children are all safe to play outside at every opportunity.

We currently have children who bring bikes, scooters and prams to nursery and store them behind the gate at the side of the nursery each day.

We don't mind this as long as each item is stored carefully so as not to cause an obstruction and taken home at the end of each day. Unfortunately we now have so many items stored and left on a daily basis that it's causing our main fire escape route to become clogged up.

Could I respectfully ask all parents/ carers to check whether any unclaimed items belong to your child and if so please take them home? We will be carrying out a big clear out at the end of the week and items which have been there for a while will be removed and taken to the charity shop.

If your child does bring a bike, scooter or pram to nursery please ensure that it's stored neatly to one side. If our fire escape exit continues to get cluttered we will have no option but to ban the storage of such items.

A big thank you to the parents/ carers who already do this. It is greatly appreciated.

**Staff changes**

As parents/ carers will no doubt be aware by now Katy Peters is leaving us very shortly to start her maternity leave. We are all very excited for Katy and wish her all the very best as she awaits her new arrival. We look forward to meeting the new addition to her family.

Georgia is also leaving this month on adoption leave. Georgia and her partner Amy are adopting three siblings. We are all over the moon for them and their little family. I'm sure parent/ carers will want to join with us as we wish them all the very best of luck. We look forward to meeting their new little family when they have all settled in.

We already have Danielle and Ellie who are working here at Toy Box and are ready to step in and fill the shoes of both Georgia and Katy whilst they are off on maternity

leave. They are both very enthusiastic and have been training to take over these positions for some time now. They are both very excited about their new roles.

**And finally.....**

As usual we thank all parents/ carers for your continuing support. We look forward to working with all our parents/ carers, both old and new throughout the coming Academic Year.

Please remember that all your comments, concerns and suggestions are always welcome, taken seriously and acted upon if necessary.

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