



September Newsletter 2014

Dear Parents/ Carers

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

The month of August has been very emotional for parents, staff and children as they all said their final goodbyes before the children left Toy Box to start school in September.

We wish them all the luck in the world and look forward to when they pop in to see us wearing their new school uniform.

Baby Unit

Our lovely summer weather has enabled all the children, right through from the babies to the older children, to spend lots of time outdoors, playing in the sunshine and hopefully topping up their vitamin D levels.

Activities for the babies which include lots walking, climbing, running and jumping help the children to develop gross motor skills which means that Lindsey is kept well and truly on her toes all day long.

Staff have tried to bring some of the seaside feeling inside Toy Box for the babies by using lots of sand and water play in large construction trays on the floor. This enabled the babies to have a good crawl around and explore the feel and texture of the sand as they used different parts of their bodies.

They all thoroughly enjoyed splashing and stamping in the water, attempting to build sandcastles and pouring and tipping the sand in and out of different containers.

Early Years Unit

Both Tiggers and Piglets have also enjoyed taking advantage of the good weather by going on several walks.

They took bats and balls and had great fun playing in the park, running around and rolling down the hill.

They also went on a bug hunt to see how many different creatures they could discover and were totally fascinated by each new insect they found scurrying around.. They used magnifying glasses to look at the creatures close up and collected several different

specimens in bug pots, which they brought back to nursery so they could observe them close up.

Once the children had finished observing the insects staff ensured they were all safely released under the hedge.

Both the Piglets and the Tiggers have also been talking about holidays, where they have been, what they have seen and done and how they got to their destination.

This topic generated lots of very interesting discussions as they talked about and compared their different experiences.

Staff in each room then helped the children to turn their ideas and thoughts into wall displays and pictures for everyone to see and admire.

Change 4 life!

During the summer holidays we decided to take part in the Government initiative Change 4 Life! The idea was to encourage children to be active for at least one hour per day in order to help them to stay fit and healthy.

As a nursery we decided to dedicate a week to this and chose a different event for every day. The whole nursery get involved and had great fun. We started off with an obstacle courses on Monday, Teddy Bears picnic on Tuesday, Dance-a-Size on Wednesday, Sports Day on Thursday, finishing off with a walk to the woods on Friday.

We all had tremendous fun and staff took lots of photographs which show exactly what we all got up to.

These photos are currently on display in the hallway. Please do have a look if you have time.

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.

Pooh Bears - Maxwell 1

Rabbits – Sofia 2, Elliott 2

Piglets – Mason 3, Macie-Lea 3

Tiggers – Elena 4, Charlotte 4, Lewis 4, Lilly 4.

Road Safety

We recently had a visit from Doncaster Council Safer Roads Partnership.

They brought a fun filled activity pack which is designed to help get across to the children the importance of road safety.

During the month of September we aim to use material from this pack to help make the children aware of how to keep themselves safe when out and about. Staff would greatly appreciate your support in getting the road safety message across by ensuring you take time to listen to any new songs or ideas your child may come home with relating to this topic..

Staff will take several photographs throughout the month so you will be able to see exactly what your children have been getting up to!

Staff member of the month

The award this month has gone to Georgia Tomlinson, who works in the Piglet room.

Although the parents who nominated Georgia have just left I felt that this recognition of Georgia's hard work and dedication should not go unnoticed.

So congratulations to Georgia 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.

Wear Grey for Brain Tumour Day - Wednesday 1st October

We have been asked to take part in this annual event which raises much needed funds and awareness of brain tumours.

This charity is very close to our hearts, as only a few years ago a child who attended our nursery became very ill due to suffering from a brain tumour. She is now doing well and just entering year 4 at school! Mum continues to keep us updated on how she is doing and invites us every year to take part in this event.

Therefore we would like to invite everyone who normally attends nursery on this day to wear something grey! We will also have a donation box for anyone who would like to donate money towards this very worthwhile charity.

Dates to remember

Wednesday 1st October – Wear Grey for Brain Tumours Day

I have had a request for the term dates for funded children.

I have now printed off these dates and they are clearly displayed in the entrance porch.

I have also printed off hard copies so please do take one and keep it for future reference.

September Menu

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

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 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

All our Tiggers have now flown the nest and are safely ensconced in their respective schools.

It has been a huge privilege and pleasure for all of us here at Toy Box to have been part of their lives. We have watched with amazement and awe throughout the year as they grew not just in stature but also in confidence as well, especially towards the end of the year. Suddenly they were no longer little nursery children but big boys and girls bursting with confidence and excitement about starting "big school" in September.

We wish them all every happiness and success for the future and hope that they are left with as many happy memories of us as we have of them.

We now have a whole new bunch of worried little faces, who in no time at all will be acting as though they have been here forever.

To all our new parent/ carers we extend an especially warm welcome and we look forward to working with all our parent/ carers ,and children, both old and new throughout the coming year.

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