



November Newsletter 2016

Dear Parents/ Carers

Welcome to the November newsletter bringing you up to date with all the latest news for the month ahead here at Toy Box.

The new term is now well under way with all our new parent/ carers and children settling in nicely. The first couple of weeks of the new term are always a bit hectic with our new children getting used to being without Mum and Dad as they settle into nursery routine. As usual some children settle in straight away whilst others can take a little longer. Normally, by Christmas they have all settled into nursery life and act as though they have been here forever.

Baby Unit

During the month of October the babies have been very busy enjoying activities related to our book of the month "Funny Bones," which tied in nicely with our Halloween celebrations. Pumpkin carving was a particular favourite as the children scooped out the pumpkin and explored the seeds, which provided a great sensory experience for all.

The babies also enjoyed walks to the woods to collect autumn leaves, sticks and pine cones which they later used for leaf printing. The pine cones proved particularly interesting for the children as they explored the different shapes and sizes as they dipped the cones into paint to make different patterns.

The children have also had lots of fun with a Small World Train Table which has been kindly donated by one of our lovely grandparents. The children love it as it is low level and they can all get around it and explore everything on it. They have used it for play dough, painting, small world play and much more. It has presented endless play opportunities for all the children.

Request from Louise for empty bottles of bubble bath, shampoo, boxes of various shapes and sizes for the children's home corner area.

Early Years Unit

As with the babies the children in the Early Years Unit have also been looking at the book "Funny Bones" and the links it has to our Halloween celebrations.

We have also spent time discussing The Festival of Light also known as Diwali which took place on the 30th October. The children enjoyed looking at the artefacts and books which we sourced from our local Multicultural Centre.

At the evenings are now getting dark early staff thought this would be a good time to remind the children about the importance of road safety. Staff also spoke to the children about internet safety, stranger danger and bonfire night safety.

The importance of car seats was discussed and the children used our large puppets to practice strapping them into a car seat, which had been brought in by a member of staff. Children also played games based around traffic lights and what each colour meant ie red-stop, amber-get ready and green-go. This was then reinforced during playtime outdoors with our nursery traffic light game.

The importance of safety on bonfire night and how to be safe around fireworks was also discussed. All the children seemed animated and interested and had great fun with all the discussions. Hopefully they will all have listened well and taken at least some of the information on board.

Parents Evening – Wednesday 23rd November 2016

We would like to invite you to a parents evening on Wednesday 23rd November beginning at 6pm. The aim of this evening is for you to have the opportunity to discuss with your child's key person their developmental progress.

The whole nursery will be set up with samples of activities and equipment used in each specific area. This is to give you the opportunity to have a wander around the whole nursery and see what each room has to offer. This is especially important for you if your child is due to be moving rooms in the next few months. Staff will be on hand should you have any queries or questions relating to the different rooms.

In the conservatory there will be refreshments on offer and I will be around should you want to discuss anything else or just have a chat.

If you would like to book an appointment please speak to your child's key person so that a time slot can be allocated. In order to ensure everyone can be allocated an appointment, each time slot will be for 10 minutes each.

Due to space we can only allow 2 adults per child and unfortunately we will not be able to accommodate any children during the evening.

Children in Need – Friday 18th 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	–
Rabbits	– George 2
Piglet	– Ella 3, Gracie-Mai 3, Morrison 3
Tiggers	– Mollie 4, Charlie 4

Staff member of the month

The award for staff member of the month for November goes to Jenny Moore.

Jenny now works in the Tigger room alongside Kirstie Jackson. Kirstie has nominated Jenny as she feels that Jenny has really supported her with the new children who have joined us this term. She says that Jenny is never without a smile on her face and is always ready and enthusiastic to think of and incorporate new ideas and activities for the children.

So congratulations to Jenny and well done. Jenny will now receive a £20 gift voucher of her choice.

Children's Christmas Party – Wednesday 7th 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 along with a reply slip will be sent out shortly. Please fill in the reply slip and return it to nursery ASAP. This is very important as we need to have an idea of the numbers attending for both staff and catering purposes.

Toy Box Christmas Fayre - Saturday 3rd December

We will be holding our annual Christmas Fayre here at Toy Box on Saturday 3rd December. The Fayre 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!

Dates to remember

Children in Need	– Friday 18 th November
Parents Evening	- Wednesday 23 rd November
Toy Box Christmas Fayre	- Saturday 3 rd December
Children's Christmas Party	– Thursday 7 th December

Christmas Closing Dates

The nursery will close for Christmas on Friday 23rd December at 6pm.

THE NURSERY WILL REMAIN CLOSED THROUGHOUT CHRISTMAS WEEK AND WILL REOPEN AS NORMAL ON TUESDAY 3rd JANUARY 2017

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 and all the Staff at Toy Box Day Nursery