

# October Newsletter 2017

## 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.

## Baby Unit

We have had a few new babies start in the Baby Unit lately so staff have spent time helping our new arrivals to settle into nursery routine. Lots of activities which involved talking, sound making, singing, sharing and turn taking kept the babies busy and helped them to get to know their little nursery friends.

Throughout the month of September the theme in the Baby Unit has been based on sea life, recognising and naming creatures which live in the sea. This topic links to understanding of the world and encourages the babies to make links to experiences they have had outside of nursery.

The children have also enjoyed silly soup which is a circle time activity where children have a choose of objects and the objects are animals. The children choose one and are encouraged to make the noise of the animal. This activity is the first stage of introducing letter and sounds to children.

## Early Years Unit

Throughout September our existing Tiggers had a great time welcoming our Piglets who became Tiggers, as well as our new Tiggers who have just joined us at the beginning of September. The children really enjoyed role modelling daily routine and did a great job of making the entire new Tiggers feel settled and part of the group.

Our nursery belongs to a membership association National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) that encourages children and their families to flourish through excellent early years care and learning. NDNA has been working alongside the producers of Clangers, a much-loved CBeebies programme, to develop a range of educational resources to support kindness. Together we want to spread kindness through the early years and beyond. We've been given a pack of practical activities written by NDNA's early years experts to support their Kindness with the Clangers campaign, which will take place between 18 September - 22 October. Each week we'll look at a different theme, from 'What is kindness?' in week one to 'Kindness to family', 'Kindness to the environment', 'Kindness to our community' and 'Kindness to ourselves'. You can watch a video which explains the campaign and download lots of resources on their website [www.ndna.org.uk/clangers](http://www.ndna.org.uk/clangers).

The piglets and tiggers have had lots of fun being kind to their friends, giving them hugs, sharing and playing turn taking games. They also enjoyed walks in the environment and staff spoke to the children about being kind to nature animals and living things.

All children were also given a kindness reward chart to fill in at home, once complete we have asked for them to be returned so we can present the children with a certificate for all the kind things they have done.

## **Birthdays**

This month we have 5 birthdays I'm sure you will join us in celebrating their special day with us.

Pooh Bears	Leo 1
Rabbits	Teddy 2,
Piglet	Ryley 3
Tigger	Elijah 4, Mia 4

## **Staff member of the month**

The award for Staff Member of the Month for September goes to Shauna Griffin. Shauna has been a big support to Lauren in her new role as senior nursery nurse in the Piglet room, Shauna has shown Lauren the ropes and has made her transition from Tiggers to Piglets a breeze.

So well done to Sarah who will now receive a £20 gift voucher of her choice.

## **Photographer – Monday 16<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 17<sup>th</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 either of these days they will automatically have their photograph taken, unless parent/ carers 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. This year the photographers have specified if parents/carers do bring their child in for photos that staff take them into the room and parents/carers wait in the staff room. Similarly they have said if an older sibling is to be photographed with a sibling of a younger age they will only do so if the older sibling can confidently hold the baby.

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 Louise and we will be delighted to make an appointment for you.

## **Toy Box Christmas Fayre - Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**

We will be holding our annual Christmas Fayre here at Toy Box on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. 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!

## **Dates to remember**

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October** ----- Last day of term (funded children only).  
**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November** -----First day of term(funded children only).  
**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October**----- Halloween Dress Up Day

### **Late pickups from nursery**

Once again I find myself having to remind parents/carers to ensure they pick up their child/ children within their booked session times. For health and safety reasons we have specific numbers of staff based on the number of children booked in for each session. Children arriving at nursery before the start of their session or being picked up late after the end of their session has an impact on the ratios.

It not only has an impact on ratios it also has an impact on staff, especially if parents/ carers are late on an evening. Some of our staff have children of their own and if they are late picking up they have to pay extra. Also some of our staff have a bus to catch and parents not picking up on time means they can miss their bus.

All our staff work long hard hours and some have families of their own to look after. We have had several instances recently where parents have been arriving at 6pm and later and then expect a full hand over. Of course we all want to give parents a full account of what their child has been doing throughout the day but not at the moment when staff are supposed to have finished their shift and need to be walking out the door to catch a bus or pick up their own child.

In order to have a full hand over parent/ carers need to arrive five to ten minutes before the end of your child's session time. As well as ensuring we are always adhering to our staff/child ratios this will also ensure all our staff get off on time, enabling them to sort out their own families.

Charges for late pick up, either afternoon or evening are £5

Parents/ carers will be asked to sign a late pick up form and the charges will be added to your monthly invoice.

A huge thank you to all those parent/ carers who always pick up on time. Your efforts are greatly appreciated

### **And finally.....**

Our new term has got off to a flying start with all our new children settling in well and quickly. We have had a few tears but that is only to be expected. As usual it's our new parents/ carers who suffer far more than the new children.

As always, we would like to thank everyone for their continuing support. We look forward to working closely with all our parent/ carers, both old and new throughout the coming Academic Year so that together we can achieve the best possible outcome for every child who attends Toy Box.

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**