

# April 17

# Newsletter

**Toy Box Day Nursery & Pre-School**

**Dear Parents/ Carers,**

Welcome to our April newsletter bringing you up to date with the news and events here at Toy Box.

## **Pre-School and Baby Room Activities**

Children in both the Pre-School and Baby Room have been able to spend more time outdoors recently as we have had a couple of nice days during March. It's so nice for both staff and children alike to be able to spend more time outdoors in the fresh air. As well as helping to blow all the cobwebs and germs of the winter months away, being outdoors enables the children to have lots of extra exercise as they chase around after one another.

The babies enjoyed racing around their outdoor space on cars and sliding down the slide. They also enjoyed rolling balls down tubes and watching with anticipation as the balls appeared at the other end. Activities including painting, cutting and sticking with a variety of different materials, also provided many happy moments for the babies throughout the month.

Children in the Pre-School Room also had outdoor activities throughout the month. Jess did lots of planting with the children and so far they have planted a variety of herbs, carrots, onions and potatoes. Under supervision from staff the children will now be fully involved in watering and generally looking after the plants.

The children also had a couple of cleaning sessions which involved cleaning all the toy cars in buckets of soapy water. This is another activity all the children enjoy as they love playing with the bubbles and making as much mess as they want as its outdoors. They also spent time exploring soil and insects in a large plastic tray, making textured worms and categorising colour, size and shape.

**Our Rhyme of the Month for the Babies is: "Five Firefighters"**  
**Our Rhyme of the Month for the Pre- School is: "999 Emergency Song"**  
**Our Book of the Month for the Pre-School is: "Emergency Rescue"**

## **Comic Relief and Red Nose Day**

A huge thank you to all those parents/ carers and staff who took part in dressing up for Red Nose Day.

Once again we are hoping that this year's Red Nose Day total is going to be at least as good as or maybe even surpass the final amount raised last year.

All the children had great fun with the sponsored dance and the make your face funny for money. Lots of sponsor forms went home so as a result of sponsor money collected, combined with money collected from our cake sales, we are hoping for a good result.

We fully realise that this would not have been possible without the full co-operation and participation of all our lovely parents/ carers. So a massive thank you to everyone for all your efforts. We couldn't have done it without you.

We are still collecting the sponsorship money so we don't have a final total as yet. As soon as all the sponsorship money has all been collected we will put a notice on the door and of course we will also publish the final total in next month's newsletter.

As usual Toy Box will match the final amount collected.

### **Easter Bonnet Competition**

As usual Toy Box will be hosting our Easter Bonnet Competition in the lead up to Easter. Every year the entries become more and more imaginative and this year I'm sure will be no exception. However, if you are a new parent/ carer and need a little help with ideas, please see any member of staff and they will be delighted to help inspire you.

Judging will take place on the afternoon of Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April. In order to ensure that judging is totally fair and impartial a member of staff from the SOS (Out of School Club) will pick a winner from each age group.

Three winners will be awarded a prize but every child will get a little something, just for taking part.

The results will be announced in our May newsletter.

### **Safety Awareness Week – 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> April**

This year our safety awareness week will start on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April and will run until Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April.

To kick off the week on the Monday we have arranged a visit from Stan the Lollipop Man. The visit is usually very interactive with Stan the Lollipop Man talking to the children about road safety and safety in general, asking them questions and giving them a number of activities to work together on.

Helen has also contacted the police, a doctor and a number of other organisations to see if they would be kind enough to come and visit the nursery and have a chat with the children. She has already heard back from Guide Dogs for the Blind and they have kindly agreed to bring a guide dog to nursery and talk to the children.

Do any parents/ carers have a job within the community which they would like to come and talk to the children about? If so we would very much appreciate your involvement. Just let Helen know and we will be delighted to include you and your profession in our Safety Awareness Week. Children love having their parents/ carers come to nursery and being involved in what they do. It makes them feel very proud to be able to show off what they have been doing whilst at nursery.

## **Photographer**

The photographer will be coming to nursery on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April.

If your child/ children would not normally attend nursery on that day and you would like them to have their photo taken, then please see Helen or Tammy and they will be delighted to make an appointment for you. Appointments can be arranged from 8.00am until early in the afternoon.

Hopefully we will have a little bit of spring sunshine and maybe even manage a couple of outdoor shots on the day.

As soon as your child/ children's photo has been taken, can we respectfully request that you leave the room. This is not only important from a Health and Safety viewpoint by avoiding congestion, but it also enables the staff to engage the children in their activities without distractions.

## **Staff Member of the Month**

A big thank you to all our parents/ carers who took the time to vote for staff member of the month for March. It is nice for the staff to feel appreciated and it means a lot to them that parents/ carers made the effort to vote.

The winner for March is Laura Standidge. Laura will now receive a £20 gift voucher of her choice.

Well done to Laura and thank you to all our parents/ carers who made the effort and took the time to vote. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

## **Change in funding rate and Thirty Hours Update**

I would love to be able to tell our parent/ carers that we are all up to date now as to how the government and Early Years intend rolling out the 30 hours funded childcare in September. Unfortunately I can't because, like Brexit, it all seems to be being made up as we go along, with nobody having much idea as to how it's all finally going to happen.

One thing we do know for certain is that instead of a rate increase in funding the amount is being decreased from the third week in April. The current funding rate is £3.97 per hour and from the third week in April that rate is being decreased to £3.92 per hour. How wonderful for everybody!!!!

We are attending another meeting with Early Years during April and we are all hoping for a bit more information then as to how this "free" childcare is going to be rolled out. We will pass on any further updates in our May Newsletter. Until then please bear with us because at the moment we are all in the same boat, waiting for the next announcement.

## **Dates for your Diary for April and May**

Nursery Closed (Bank Holiday)  
Nursery Closed (Bank Holiday)

- Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April  
- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April

Safety Awareness Week  
Photographer

- Monday 24<sup>th</sup> – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April  
- Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April

Nursery Closed (Bank Holiday)  
Nursery Closed (Bank Holiday)

- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May  
- Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May

### **Birthdays**

We would like to wish the following children a big HAPPY BIRTHDAY during the month of April.

Imogen H	- 1 year old
Alexander H	- 2 year old
Emma B	- 2 year old
Kailum B	- 2 year old
Lucia R	- 2 year old
Charlie S	- 2 year old
Ava S	- 3 year old
Ozan D	- 3 year old
Robbie S	- 4 years old

### **And Finally**

As usual thank you all for your continuing support. Please remember that all your suggestions, be they good or not so good, are always listened to and acted upon where appropriate.

**Noreen, Helen and all the staff at Toy Box Day Nursery**