**April 19**

**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**

**Baby Room**

Children in both the Pre-School and Baby Room have been able to spend more time outdoors recently enjoying the sunny weather. 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 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 have enjoyed exploring their new mud kitchen in the outdoor area, getting very messy. They have also enjoyed playing with balls in the water tray, splashing lots and getting very wet. Other activities have included painting, dressing up clothes and making lots of music with all of the instruments.

**Pre-School Room**

Children in the Pre-School Room also had outdoor activities throughout the month. We followed their interests …..and found worms! They spent a lot of time searching for them in the garden, counted them, painted worm pictures and made a worm habitat for the ones that they found. The Pre-School children then decided to go on a mini beast hunt to see what other creatures they could find. The children have also had lots of fun exploring with our new torches shining the lights and exploring shadows as well.

**Our Rhyme of the Month for the Babies is: “The Wheels on the Bus”**

**Our Rhyme of the Month for the Pre- School is: “Five Firefighters”**

**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 children 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 silly dance and wearing our clothes backwards. Lots of sponsor forms went home, so with the sponsor money collected, combined with the money raised from our cake sales, we are hoping for a good result.

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

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**

We 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 18th 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 for taking part.

The results will be announced in our May newsletter.

**Live at Home – Monday 8th April**

We have joined with the Live at Home Charity in order to bring together our children in the Pre-School room with the elderly from our local community who still live independently. The charity will be bringing a group of 5 or 6 people to see us for an hour or so a each week and they will be assisting the children in various activities such as helping to plant seeds in the garden, reading stories, baking and taking part in creative activities as well as sharing some of the rhymes/games/stories that they enjoyed as children. All activities will be supervised by our staff.

**E – Safety**

We have produced some leaflets for you on E-Safety for your children which are in the entrance lobby. Please do take one.

**Photographer**

The photographer will be coming to nursery on Friday 24th May.

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 Beth 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 Beth Smith. Beth will now receive a £20 gift voucher of her choice.

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

###### Staff News

We are in the process of recruiting a new Deputy Manager following Helen’s promotion. In the meantime our EYP, Beth Hamilton will be covering as acting Deputy Manager.

We have a new Nursery Practitioner, Samantha Blackie, joining us on 8th April. Samantha is level 3 qualified and has many years’ experience in this role.

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

Live at Home - 1st Visit - Monday 8th April

Easter Bonnet Competition Judging - Thursday 18th April

Nursery Closed (Bank Holiday) - Friday 19th April

Nursery Closed (Bank Holiday) - Monday 22nd April

Nursery Photography Session - Friday 28th May

**Birthdays**

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

Roman H - 1 year old

Raya L - 1 year old

Alexa S - 3 year old

Imogen H - 3 year old

Kailum B - 4 years old

Lucia R - 4 years old

Ethan L - 4 years old

**And Finally**

As usual thank you all for your continuing support. Please remember that all your suggestions are always listened to and acted upon where appropriate, so please let us know your thoughts and ideas.

##### Sam, Helen and all the staff at Toy Box Day Nursery