

August 17 Newsletter

Toy Box Day Nursery & Pre-School

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome to our August newsletter. It hardly seems possible that it's August already and the summer holidays are once again upon us. Some of our Owls have already left us and it won't be long before the rest follow. With a mixture of pride and sadness we watch them fly the nest. We wish them all the very best and hope they will pop in to show us how smart and grown-up they look in their shiny new school uniforms.

Nursery Activities

Baby Room

This month the babies had fun exploring coloured spaghetti, rice and shredded paper, not all at the same time of course. They also spent time outdoors painting with bricks and generally experimenting with paint and shape. These activities allow the children to get lost in play and make a fine old mess for staff to clean up. The bigger the mess they make the more content they are!

Pre-School Room

During the past month all the children in the main room have been eagerly following the progress of our caterpillars. This week their patience was rewarded as the last caterpillar finally turned into a butterfly. All the children gathered round to watch as the butterflies were released outdoors to fly away.

The children have also spent lots of time painting, cutting, sticking and playing with moon sand and kinetic sand.

Our Rhyme of the Month for the Babies is: "The Wheels on the Bus"
Our Rhyme of the Month for the Pre- School is: "Teddy Bears Picnic"
Our Book of the Month for the Pre-School is: "We're going on a bear hunt"

30 Hours funded childcare starting in September 2017

Are you eligible to claim the 30 hours funded childcare starting in September? If you are not sure please go to the government website <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/> to check eligibility. If you are eligible you can register immediately and you will be given an eligibility code.

Once you have been given your eligibility code please bring it to Helen along with your National Insurance numbers. Once Helen has that information she can then go ahead and apply for funding.

Any funding claims must be submitted by Helen by 21st August so it is imperative that she has your eligibility code and National Insurance numbers before then otherwise we will not be able to claim funding for your child..

If you have any questions or need clarification on anything regarding the 30 hours funding, please speak to Helen and she will be delighted to answer any queries you may have.

Mini Beast Dress up Day – Friday 21st July

A huge thank you to all our parents/ carers for the time, effort, imagination and creativity that everybody put into the dressing up costumes for our Mini Beast Dress up Day. The lovely costumes added to the occasion and both staff and children had great fun throughout the day with lots of silly games and activities.

Your efforts and involvement are very much appreciated by all the staff.

Teddy Bears' Picnic – Monday 21st August - MAIN ROOM ONLY

On the afternoon of Monday 21st August the Early Years children are having a Teddy Bears Picnic. Weather permitting, the children will walk to the park just up the road from the school to have a little play and to try out the lovely new equipment. Afterwards they will return to nursery and have a teddy bears picnic on the school grass.

If your child/ children are in the Main Room and due to attend nursery on that day, please ensure they bring a teddy to nursery to join them on the picnic.

Baby Room Beach Party – Tuesday 8th August – BABY ROOM ONLY

The babies are having their annual beach party on Tuesday 8th August. Fingers crossed for some nice weather on the day so the babies can spend most of the time outdoors, playing in the sand and splashing around in the water trays. As usual, staff will be helping the babies to prepare for the event by helping them make beach-themed props and wall hangings, which will be used to decorate the baby room on the day.

Please remember to bring a swimming costume, a sun hat and a towel for your child (baby room only). We will remind you again nearer the time.

Baby Room Places and Availability in the Main Room

The baby room is practically full with places being booked not just for September 2017 but also into 2018 and beyond.

We always give priority to our existing parent/ carers, so if you are pregnant or planning to book your baby into nursery, please let Helen know and she will reserve a place for you before it is too late.

We also have a long waiting list in both rooms for places on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday every week. These days are very popular with working parents/ carers. If you want to increase, decrease or swap days please speak to Helen as soon as possible. We always endeavour to ensure that the needs of our existing parents/ carers are met before we allocate any new sessions.

Harvest Festival

Over the next month we will be collecting for our Harvest Festival hamper. We will actually be celebrating the Harvest Festival around the first week in September. A collection box will be placed in the entrance lobby for all food donations (tinned or packet only please – not fresh).

Last year we donated everything we collected to BASH, a local food bank and homeless shelter, where it was very gratefully received. However, should any parents/ carers have a particular charity or cause which they feel would benefit from our collection please let us know and we will take all suggestions into consideration when making our final decision.

Staff Member of the Month

Congratulations to Laura Standidge who has been nominated Staff Member of the Month for July. Laura will receive a £20.00 gift voucher of her choice.

So, well done to Laura and a very big thank you to all parents/ carers who took the time to vote. Your efforts are much appreciated by everyone.

Birthdays

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

Edward M - 2 years old

Preet S - 3 years old

Sienna W - 3 years old

Dates for your Diary

Baby Room Beach Party (BABY ROOM ONLY) - Tuesday 8th August

Teddy Bears Picnic (MAIN ROOM ONLY) - Monday 21st August

Nursery Closed Summer Bank Holiday - Monday 28th August

Nursery re-opens as usual - Tuesday 29th August

And Finally

As always we thank you for your on-going support and please remember that all your views and comments are important to us. We hope that you have a relaxed and peaceful summer holiday, free from school dropping off and picking up schedules.

We look forward to working with all parents, carers and children both old and new at the beginning of the new Academic year.

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