

August 16 Newsletter

Toy Box Day Nursery & Pre-School

Dear Parents/ Carers

Welcome to our August Newsletter. It hardly seems possible that I am actually writing the August Newsletter and the summer holidays are upon us. Some of our Owls have already left and it won't be long before the rest follow. Everybody is feeling a little nostalgic and sad as some of these children have been with us since they were babies and it feels like a member of the family is leaving. What a privilege it has been to watch them grow in both size and confidence as the years have progressed. We wish them all the very best and hope they will pop in to say 'hello' when they are passing by on their way to 'big school'.

Pre-School and Baby Room Activities

The lovely warm weather during the past couple of weeks has enabled all the children to spend lots of time outdoors. It's so lovely for both staff and children when the weather is nice. No time is wasted on putting on hats, coats and scarves and indoor activities can be taken outdoors.

As well as all their usual activities, the babies have been playing with green play dough, having pretend tea times playing with dolls, cups, spoons and bowls and of course lots of sand and water play outdoors. They all enjoy filling and emptying different sized containers with sand and water and just generally getting messy.

The older children for most of the time, apart from when it's been too hot and sunny, have also been freely moving from indoors to outdoors. They have been on bug hunts, made caterpillars with play dough and caterpillar masks using paper, paint and glue. They too have had lots of sand and water play, filling and emptying different sizes containers. A couple of the children came up with the idea of having a boat race using different sized plastic containers. Staff duly obliged and it turned into a child led activity with some children bringing in their own plastic containers from home.

Our Rhyme of the Month for the Babies is: "Hickory Dickory Dock"
Our Rhyme of the Month for the Pre-School is: "This Little Piggy went to Market"
Our Book of the Month for the Pre-School is: "The Three Little Pigs"

Baby Room Beach Party – Wednesday 24th August – BABY ROOM ONLY

The Baby Room will be having their annual beach party on Wednesday 24th August. Please remember to bring a swimming costume, hat and a towel for your child. The babies are preparing for the event by making beach themed props and wall hangings which will be used to decorate the Baby Room on the day.

We will put a notice on the main door nearer the time.

Harvest Festival

Over the next few weeks we will be collecting for our Harvest Festival hamper. We will actually be celebrating the Harvest Festival around the second 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 the local food bank, 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.

Lost Property Box & Wellies

Once again we seem to have accumulated a lot of “lost property” and it would be really nice if it could all be returned to its rightful owners.

There are still some wellies left which have also been placed in the lost property box. Could we please ask all parents/ carers to check the lost property box in the entrance lobby and to take home items that belong to your child.

The box will remain in the lobby until Friday 29th August. Items still remaining in the box after this date will be taken to the charity shop.

Staff News

Gemma Nuttall, who works in the main room is leaving us in September to start her training as a paramedic. Gemma informed us last September of her intentions to go into nursing this September, so we have been aware of her intentions for the past year. Gemma has been attending college two afternoons a week for the past year and we are delighted for her that she has now got all her qualifications to enable her to follow her dreams.

We are very sorry to see Gemma go but as always she has to follow the path which she feels she wants her career to take. So good luck Gemma. We all wish you all the best and look forward to hearing all about it.

Gemma is being replaced by a fully qualified and experienced nursery nurse called Jessica Ellis.

Jessica worked here at Toy Box for a year after qualifying about three years ago. At the end of that year she felt she needed to move on and experience different settings whilst she continued studying. She has now completed her BA Honours in Early Years Practice and we are delighted that she has chosen to come back to us once again.

We look forward to having Jessica back on board and feel sure she will settle back into nursery routine in no time.

Saeeda Bi, another ex-member of staff, whom I'm sure several parents will remember, will also be doing some cover for us during the summer holidays.

Staff Member of the Month

The winner of staff member of the month for July is Beth Smith. Beth has recently successfully completed her NVQ Level 2 and will shortly be starting NVQ Level 3.

Well done to Beth who will now receive a £20 gift voucher of her choice.

Thank you to all parents/ carers who take time to vote. It means a lot to the staff that their efforts are recognised and appreciated.

Birthdays

We have three birthdays in August and I'm sure you will all join with me in wishing the following children a very big Happy Birthday.

Preet S - 2 years old

Sienna W - 2 years old

Ruby G - 4 years old

Dates for your Diary

Babies Beach Party - Wednesday 24th August
(BABY ROOM ONLY)

And Finally....

We have now collected all the questionnaires which have been returned to the nursery and are currently in the process of correlating the results. The final number returned was 17, very disappointing considering we sent out 96 questionnaires just after Easter.

Thank you so much to all those parents/ carers who took the time to complete and return the forms. We will publish the results in the next two weeks. All the completed questionnaires will be in a file in the lobby, available for parents/ carers to view at their leisure.

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/ children both old and new throughout the coming Academic year.

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