



Christmas 2016 Newsletter



Toy Box Day Nursery & Pre-School

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our final newsletter of 2016. As per usual we are all left standing with head in hands asking ourselves how it can possibly be that Christmas is here already! It has been a very hectic term here at Toy Box with new children starting and changes to the layout of the rooms, which also involved lots of staff training. We are all now looking forward to the Festive Season and a nice well-earned rest.

On Wednesday 21st December staff and children will all sit down together to share a traditional Christmas dinner. Staff will be in Christmas themed fancy dress and we are inviting all the children attending Nursery on the day to come in fancy dress too, if they so wish of course.

For your information the nursery festive menu is now displayed on the front door.

Pre-School and Baby Room Activities

The babies have had lots of fun playing peek a boo with a variety of materials from the fabric box as well as mark making with lollipop sticks in shaving foam and thick crayons on paper. Staff set out the activity and let the babies loose to explore as they please. They all thoroughly enjoy getting messy as they create lots of lovely interesting shapes.

The children in the Pre-School Room have been busy junk modelling robots and rockets. They have also experimented with lemonade and baking soda in their attempts at making a rocket. Even though the weather is much colder now all of the children are still encouraged to be outdoors to have a good run around in the fresh air. They all enjoy having a quick scoot around on the bikes and scooters and they especially enjoy helping staff clear up leaves.

Our Rhyme of the Month for the Babies is:
Our Rhyme of the Month for the Pre-School is:
Our Book of the Month for the Pre-School is:

“The Lights on the Tree”
“Christmas Pudding”
“Jolly Christmas Postman”

Christmas Closing Dates

The nursery will be open as normal until 6.00pm on Friday 23rd December. We will remain closed THROUGHOUT Christmas Week and will reopen as normal on Tuesday 3rd January 2017.

If you need any further clarification on our opening and closing dates and times for Christmas please speak to Anna or Helen or indeed to any member of staff. Alternatively have a look on the entrance lobby door as all the information on our Christmas opening and closing dates is clearly displayed and has actually been on display since the beginning of November.

Children's Christmas Party

Just a quick reminder about our Children's Christmas Party which is being held at Northfield Hall at 3.30pm on Monday 5th December.

As Northfield Hall is too far for the children to walk parents/carers will need to collect their child/ children from nursery at around 3.15pm on the day in order to get to the party for 3.30pm. Any child who has not been collected by their parent/carer will have to remain behind at nursery with staff, as unfortunately staff are not insured to transport children in their cars. However, parents/ carers are free to make arrangements between themselves in order to help one another out with transport.

This arrangement has worked really well in previous years and with parents/carers' help and co-operation we have managed to get every child to the venue in plenty of time before the party started.

We have also had several requests from parents as to whether there is space for siblings to attend. As luck would have it we have a few children on holiday next week so there will be space for a limited number of siblings. If you would like Father Christmas to present a sibling with a gift please ensure you provide a small wrapped gift, clearly labelled with the child's name. This must be handed into the office to Anna or Helen ASAP.

Siblings who attend must remain seated at a table with a parent/ carer for the duration of the party. Staff are responsible ONLY for those children who would normally attend nursery on the afternoon of Monday 5th December.

We are once again enclosing the address and directions for the venue. Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact Anna and she will be happy to help.

Christmas Nativity

If your child is taking part in our Christmas Nativity this year you will have already received a letter identifying the part which they have been chosen to play. Our budding thespians can be a bit temperamental and roles have been known to change several times before the event. However, at the moment all the actors appear happy, so fingers crossed this will remain the case.

The Nativity Play will start at 2.15pm and will last for approximately 15 minutes. Because of space limitations we can only allow one parent/ carer per child. Once we have had all our reply slips back we may be able to allocate further places on a first come first served basis.

If your child does not usually attend nursery on that day please bring them to nursery, dressed in their costume for 2.15pm.

As last year, we are asking parents/ carers to help supply their child/ children's costumes. Please do not spend money on creating these costumes. Just use items that you already have at home. Items such as tea towels or any old fabric which you may have lying around will do just fine.

If anybody needs any help with ideas please ask a staff member and they will be very happy to help.

Last Funding Date and January Invoices

The last week for Early Education Grant Funding is week commencing Monday 12th December. Funding will recommence for the Spring term on Tuesday 3rd January 2017.

If this will be the first term that your child is entitled to claim the Early Education Grant Funding please ensure you bring your child's birth certificate to nursery for Anna to verify and photocopy. Once Anna has verified that your child is eligible to claim the funding she will fill out all the necessary paperwork with you and give you back your child's birth certificate.

Without seeing the birth certificate Anna cannot apply for the funding.

January invoices will be in your child/ children's drawer on the first day back which will be Tuesday 3rd January.

We cannot prepare the invoices any earlier as we have to wait until the end of the month for all the childcare vouchers to appear in our bank account.

Children In Need – “Show Your Spots and Raise Lots!”

A massive thank you to all those parents/ carers and children who took part in our fundraising for Children in Need week.

Both staff and children all got into the spirit of the occasion and came to nursery dressed in spots.

They all had great fun baking and selling buns and biscuits and the children did a sterling job in talking their Mummies and Daddies into buying the buns they had baked throughout the week.

The winners from our Children in Need “Decorate a Pudsey” competition are as follows:

Owls -	Joshua G
Tiggers -	Rita H
Piglets -	Alexander G
Rabbits -	Emily H

The winners have bagged themselves a lovely story book.

So far we have raised £360.85. We are waiting for more sponsor forms to be returned so hopefully that total should be even greater. The remaining monies should all be in soon and we will publish the final figure collected in our January newsletter.

As usual Toy Box will match the final amount collected.

Many thanks to all parents/ carers who took part. Your input and efforts are very much appreciated by everyone here at Toy Box.

Christmas Jumper Day in aid of “Save the Children” Friday 16th December

On Friday 16th December we are holding a Christmas Jumper Day to help raise funds for "Save the Children".

Staff will all wear a special "Christmas Sweater" on the day and all children attending on Friday 16th December are invited to come to nursery wearing a special "Christmas Sweater" as well. All we are asking for is a £1 donation to this very worthy cause.

Staff Changes

Lisa Saunders who joined our team last year will be leaving us at Christmas. Lisa has decided the time is right for her to move on in order to gain further experience at a different type of setting. We would all like to wish Lisa all the very best in her new quest.

Replacing Lisa in the Pre-School room is our new member of staff Laura Standidge. Laura is fully qualified and has been working in childcare for 8 years. Laura will be working closely with Lisa and the rest of the team in order to ensure continuity for the children. We are very glad to welcome Laura to our team.

Show & Tell and Book Day

Unfortunately we have reluctantly decided to put a stop to our Show and Tell and Book Day. This is due to the upset caused by children bringing in the same or similar items on both days. These items are usually unmarked and quite regularly go missing. It is impossible for staff to remember who brought in what item, especially if the item does not bear the child's name. We have had occasions recently where parents/ carers have become upset with staff and children have left the nursery really upset because their toy or book is no longer in the box.

To this end we are also asking all parents/ carers to ensure that their child does not bring any toys, books or unnecessary belongings with them to nursery at any time. We accept fully that children of a certain age will require a dummy or comforter for them to use during naps and by no means are we suggesting that these should not be allowed. However staff will be insisting that all other toys or books be taken away with parents/ carers when dropping off their child to avoid the unnecessary upset that we see on a daily basis.

To compensate for the loss of Show and Tell and Book Day, we are setting up our own activities with teddy bears from nursery that children will be encouraged to take home for short visits. Hopefully this will still encourage the same level of involvement from the children and give them something to look forward to taking part in whilst at home.

Lost Property Box

Could we please ask all parents/ carers to check the lost property box in the entrance lobby. 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.

The box will remain in the lobby until Christmas Eve. Any items still remaining in the box after Christmas Eve will be taken to the charity shop.

Christmas Card Post Box

This year we are placing the Christmas card post box in the entrance lobby. If your child/ children would like to send a Christmas card to their friends please help them to post their card into the post box.

All cards posted into the box are distributed by a different group of children each day at Circle Time.

Staff Member of the Month

The winner of staff member of the month for November is Kylie Madden.

Kylie will now receive a £20.00 gift voucher of her choice, so congratulations to Kylie and well done.

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

Birthdays

Throughout December we would like to wish a big "Happy Birthday" to the following children.

Kaspar Y - 1 year old

Jax S - 1 year old

Theo De - 2 years old

Alexander G - 2 years old

Noelle E - 2 years old

Ibrahim A - 2 years old

Rita H - 3 years old

Dates for your Diary

Children's Christmas Party - Monday 5th December 3.30 – 5.00pm

Children's Christmas Nativity - Monday 12th December 2.15pm

Christmas Jumper Day - Friday 16th December

Christmas Dinner & Dress-Up Day - Wednesday 21st December

Nursery closes at 6pm - Friday 23rd December

Nursery re-opens as normal - Tuesday 3rd January 2017

And Finally....

As we close the book on 2016 here at Toy Box we would like to thank all parents/ carers for your continuing support throughout the year.

We feel very privileged indeed that you have placed your precious children in our care and would like to reassure you that each day we endeavour to make their time here at Toy Box both as enjoyable and productive as it could possibly be.

We wish you all a very happy, peaceful and restful Festive Season and look forward to working closely with you all again in 2017.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYBODY!

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