

July 17 Newsletter

Toy Box Day Nursery & Pre-School

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome to our July Newsletter, the last newsletter of this Academic year.

I'm sure, like all of us here at Toy Box, you are asking yourself where this year has disappeared to. It really does feel like it was only yesterday that we were rehearsing for our Nativity play and now here we are with Sports Day and Graduation for 2017 behind us. Everything feels like it's back to back these days with little time in between to contemplate, or to give much thought to what is happening in our lives on a daily basis.

Nursery Activities

Once again all the children in the nursery have been able to spend lots of time outdoors enjoying the lovely weather.

The babies had great fun making foot prints by walking in paint, making marks in shaving foam and exploring the sand pit and mud kitchen in the outdoor play area.

The Pre-School children enjoyed lots of doll and doll equipment role play, making and modeling Alien masks, exploring various messy activities both indoors and outdoors as well as making lots of Jelly fish and fish pictures.

All the usual continuous provision activities are always accessible to all the children, keeping them busy and occupied throughout the day.

Our Rhyme of the Month for the Babies is:

“Peter Rabbit”

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

“Fuzzy Wuzzy Caterpillar”

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

“The Very Hungry Caterpillar”

Sports Day

Thank you so much to all our parents/ carers who took the time and made the effort to come along to our Sports Day.

All the children who participated had great fun and it was a pleasure watching them all take part. They put a lot of effort and practice into preparing for the day and I'm sure you will agree, that considering they are just three and four years old, they all did exceptionally well.

The winners of each race were as follows:

Sack Race:

1 st Place:	Melissa R
2 nd Place:	Isla J
3 rd Place:	Amelia S

Egg and Spoon Race:

1st Place: Isla J
2nd Place: Orla M
3rd Place: Dylan U

Backwards Race:

1st Place: Dylan U
2nd Place: Leah I
3rd Place: Henry W

Relay Race:

The YELLOW team won!

Amelia H	Orla M
Isla J	Riley W
Dylan U	

Mummies Race:

1st Place: Robin C's Mummy
2nd Place: Dylan U's Mummy
3rd Place: Melissa R's Mummy

Daddies Race:

1st Place: Maya A's Daddy
2nd Place: Robbie S's Daddy
3rd Place: Amelia S's Daddy

Staff Three-Legged Race:

1st Place: Tamara C & Sarah
2nd Place: Beth & Amy
3rd Place: Jess & Tammy D

Congratulations to all the winners and well done to everybody who took part!

Photos of the event are now displayed in the entrance lobby. Please do have a look if you have the time.

Graduation Party - Saturday 1st July 10.30am OWLS ONLY

Thank you so much to all our parents, carers and children who made the effort to come along to our graduation party last Saturday. It was a lovely morning and luckily the weather wasn't nearly as bad as had been forecast.

As always it's a bittersweet occasion as it reminds us that the children are all getting older and moving on. Staff get very attached to the children, especially if they have been here with us for a long time. We wish them all the very best as they move onto the next exciting stage in their little lives.

Friday 21st July Mini Beast Dress up Day – Main Room ONLY

Due to popular demand we are having another Mini-beast Dressing up day on Friday 21st July. All children in the main Pre-School room who would normally attend nursery on that day are invited to come to nursery dressed as their favourite mini beast or creepy crawly. This is a great opportunity for parents/carers and children to get together and let their imaginations run riot.

If, by any chance, you are stuck for ideas please do not hesitate to speak to any member of staff and they will be delighted to help with a few suggestions. Each year the costumes become more and more inventive so we are looking forward to seeing what surprises are in store for us this time.

Future Plans and Questionnaires

Have you returned your Future Plans and Questionnaire Forms? If not we would really appreciate it if you could return both forms ASAP. Thank you to all those parents/ carers who have already returned both forms but unfortunately at this point there are still several forms outstanding. So far from nearly one hundred Future Plans and Questionnaires sent out only a very small handful have been returned.

Once again I would like to remind parents/ carers that these questionnaires are totally confidential and are used only to help us gauge what you as parents/ carers think of the service we provide. We truly do welcome your thoughts and frank feedback which, where relevant, we use as part of our ongoing staff training.

If you have misplaced one or both forms please do not be shy about asking Helen or any member of staff for a replacement. We keep several spares in the lobby to cover that eventuality.

We really do need to have the forms returned by the end of this month so we can collate all the information and get it ready in time to publish before some of our children leave at the end of July.

Birthdays

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

Abi D.H	- 2 years old
Bridget A	- 2 years old
Zayna B	- 2 years old
Max H	- 3 years old
Darcy D	- 4 years old
Henry W	- 4 years old
Oliver D	- 4 years old

Staff Member of the Month

Congratulations to Tamara Dennison who has been nominated Staff Member of the Month for June. Tamara will receive a £20.00 gift voucher of her choice.

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

Dates for your Diary

Mini Beast Dress-Up Day – Main Room Only - Friday 21st July

30 Hours funded childcare starting in September 2017

Finally, after several meetings and lengthy discussions with Early Years, we are happy to announce that we will be offering the 30 hours funded childcare from September 2017.

The model we are using is the stretched model where instead of being paid term time only, the funding will be for 22 hours per week stretched over 51 weeks. Parents who wish to only access the current 15 hours offer will be able to continue to do so. There is no obligation to take up the full 30 hours.

If you are thinking about taking up the offer of the 30 hours it is really important that firstly you log on to the government childcare choices website www.childcarechoices.gov.uk to check if you are eligible. If you are eligible please bring your eligibility code and national insurance number to Helen as soon as possible. If you would like to increase your child's sessions please make arrangements to discuss our availability with Helen straight away as we will be allocating the extra 15 hours strictly on a first come first served basis.

This note is just to inform parent/ carers that we will be offering the funding. A full explanation of how the funding is broken down and what it does and does not cover will follow in the next couple of weeks.

In the meantime if parent/ carers have any questions or concerns please speak to Helen and she will be delighted to answer and queries you may have.

Staff News

That pesky stork has paid us another visit resulting in yet another member of staff announcing their pregnancy.

The staff member with the exciting news this time is our Baby Room Leader, Kylie Madden.

Kylie's baby is due at the beginning of January so congratulations to Kylie. We wish her a happy and healthy pregnancy.

And Finally

Also we would all like to take this opportunity to wish all our Owls the very best of luck as they leave us to begin the next exciting phase of their little lives. As usual, some of the children who are leaving us this year started off in the baby room and it is quite amazing to see them now, all grown up and independent and ready to fly the nest. It has been a privilege to watch them grow in confidence, size and stature as the years have progressed. For all the staff here at Toy Box it is an emotional time as they have developed strong bonds with all the children in their care. We hope all the children who are leaving will take away as many happy and fond memories of us as we have of them.

So Bon Voyage, Good Luck and Thank You to all our parents/ carers and Owls who are leaving us for the last time. We shall miss you all. Please do call in and say hello if you are passing by.

In the meantime for all those parents/ carers and children who are remaining or have just joined our family here at Toy Box, we extend a very warm welcome to you all. We look forward to working closely with you all throughout the new Academic Year.

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