

July 2016 Newsletter

Toy Box Day Nursery & Pre-School

Dear Parents/ Carers

Welcome to our July newsletter. Once again this year has flown by so quickly, leaving us all spinning in its wake as we try to keep pace with this very busy time of year.

Our Owls are now well and truly ready to fly the nest and very shortly the first few will be leaving us. Some have been with us since they were babies, so it is with a mixture of joy and sadness that we watch as they prepare to take their next step into the new and exciting world of "big school". We are going to miss them all and wish each and every one of them the very best of luck as they start this new phase in their little lives. We hope as many as possible will keep in touch and we look forward to catching glimpses of them as they go back and forth to "big school," looking all grown up in their school uniforms.

Pre-School and Baby Room Activities

As usual throughout the month of June, all the children took part in both child led and adult led activities. On fine sunny days all the children spent lots of time outdoors, even having snacks outdoors when possible.

Baby Room activities included ball rolling across the room, an activity which the babies thoroughly enjoy, finding different objects which staff had hidden under materials, group dancing and printing with dinosaurs dipped in paint.

Activities in the Pre-School Room were based around the book of the month "We're Going on a Bear Hunt".

The children made bear dens and explored different textures such as grass, soil and water. They even had a Teddy Bears Picnic, which unfortunately, because of the weather, they had to have in the conservatory.

They also had a go at making bird feeders as well as trying their hand at construction messy play, using wet sand as cement to stick objects together.

All the continuous provision activities are always on offer and the children dip in and out of different activities at will as the day progresses.

Our Rhyme of the Month for the Babies is: "Peter Rabbit"
Our Rhyme of the Month for the Pre-School is: "There's a Tiny Caterpillar on a Leaf"
Our Book of the Month for the Pre-School is: "The Very Hungry Caterpillar"

Sports Day- Monday 4th July

Once again a huge thank you to all our parents/ carers who came along to sports day this year. Luckily the weather was kind to us and the sun continued to shine throughout.

The children were all wonderful and all the hard work put into rehearsals by both staff and children was evident.

Below is a list of winners, but the mere fact that they all felt confident enough to take part means they are all winners in our eyes.

Backwards Race:

1st Place: Maryam
2nd Place: Phoebe
3rd Place: Lila

Egg and Spoon Race:

1st Place: Phoebe
2nd Place: Lila
3rd Place: Tavleen

Sack Race:

1st Place: Phoebe
2nd Place: Ruby
3rd Place: Zachary

Relay Race: The GREEN team won!

Ruby Oscar L
Tavleen Zachary

Mummies Race:

1st Place: Noah C's Mummy
2nd Place: Isabelle's Mummy
3rd Place: Tavleen's Mummy

Daddies Race:

1st Place: Ruby's Daddy
2nd Place: Leo's Daddy
3rd Place: Isabelle's Daddy

Staff Three-Legged Race:

1st Place: Beth & Tammy
2nd Place: Amy & Gemma
3rd Place: Tania & Lindsey

Congratulations to all of our winners and a huge thank you to all those parents/ carers who came to support our budding athletes.

Graduation Party

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 stage in their little lives.

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 those parents/ carers who have already returned both forms but unfortunately at this point there are still several forms outstanding.

If you have misplaced one or both forms, please do not be shy about asking Anna or Hannah for a replacement. There are several spares in the entrance lobby.

Out of 120 questionnaires handed out we have only had 16 completed and returned at this moment in time. The questionnaires are very important as they help us to know how you really feel about our nursery and the service we provide.

Mini Beast Dress up Day

Due to popular demand we will be having another Mini-beast Dressing up day on Thursday 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.

Staff Member of the Month

The winner of staff member of the month for June is Helen Henderson.

Well done to Helen 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.

Staff News

Our staff news this month is that Hannah Wilson is leaving.

After several years working in nurseries Hannah is rethinking the direction she wants her career in childcare to follow. She has decided that she no longer wants to follow the path of management as it takes her too far away from what she came into childcare to do.

To this end Hannah has secured a position as a nanny and will be leaving Toy Box early in August to take up her new position. This will give her the time and space away from a busy nursery environment and paperwork to have a good long think about the future direction she wants her career in childcare to follow.

Hannah has been with us here at Toy Box for the past 4 ½ years and we are all very sad to see her go. However, we appreciate that Hannah has to follow the path which she feels will take her career in childcare in a direction which is best suited to her future prospects and happiness.

I'm sure you will all want to join in with me in wishing Hannah Bon Voyage and good luck.

We are currently carrying out interviews to fill Hannah's position.

Amy Newman, a student who has been on placement with us since last October has recently completed her Level 2 childcare qualification. She did so with flying colours and proudly achieved the prestigious "Student of the Year" award from her college.

On completion of her course we decided to offer Amy the opportunity to gain her Level 3 qualification whilst working as an apprentice for us here at Toy Box. Amy very gladly accepted and is now a permanent member of staff in our nursery.

We also have another new member of staff joining our team this month, Tamara Calliste. Tamara will be supporting us during our busy dinnertime periods as well as covering for staff holidays and absences.

I hope you will all join me in welcoming them both onto our permanent staff team.

Throughout the next couple of weeks there will also be one familiar face providing cover for staff holidays. Saeeda Bi, who left last year to work in a school after achieving her degree, will be doing some holiday cover for us throughout the summer.

Birthdays

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

Zayna B - 1-year-old

Max H - 2 years old

Darcy D - 3 years old

Henry W - 3 years old

Orla H - 4 years old

Zachary D - 4 years old

Will S - 4 years old

Noah C - 4 years old

Dates for your Diary

Mini-beast Dress Up Day -
(MAIN ROOM ONLY)

Thursday 21st July

And Finally....

For all the staff here at Toy Box this is always an emotional time of year as we watch the children prepare to leave, especially those who have been with us since they were babies. It has been an enormous privilege watching them grow in size and stature as the years have progressed. We hope the children who are leaving take away as many happy and fond memories of us as we have of them. We already have new children and families gearing up to start between September and January so we won't be very quiet for long!

So Bon Voyage and Good Luck and thank you to all our parents/ carers and Owls who are leaving us. 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 who are remaining or who have just joined our family here at Toy Box, we look forward to working closely with you all throughout the new Academic Year.

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