**May 19**

**Newsletter**

**Toy Box Day Nursery & Pre-School**

**Dear Parents/ Carers**

Welcome to our May newsletter bringing you up to date with all the latest happenings here at Toy Box.

**Pre-School and Baby Room Activities**

**Baby room**

The babies have had lots of fun exploring in the garden in their new mud kitchen and sand pit. They have also been busy exploring the magnets building various structures and posting a variety of shapes in to the shape sorter buses. The babies have also been getting messy this month exploring in shaving foam and paint.

**Pre-School**

The children in the Pre-School room have also had lots of fun exploring in the garden in their new sand pit too. They have also been doing lots of large scale mark making outside on the ground and have enjoyed printing with various foods. The children have also used handprints to make a feelings blossom tree (on the wall next to the kitchen) which helped them to understand how they and their friends were feeling.

**Our Rhyme of the Month for the Babies is: “Peter Rabbit”**

**Our Rhyme of the Month for the Pre-School is: “5 Little Men in a Flying Saucer”**

**Our Book of the Month for the Pre-School is: “Aliens Love Underpants”**

**Easter Bonnet Competition Winners**

A huge thank you to all parents/carers who encouraged and helped their child/children to take part in our Easter Bonnet competition. The response was absolutely tremendous and it was really difficult to choose just four winners from all of the excellent entries.

In order to ensure absolute impartiality we invited the children from SOS to choose which they thought were the most creative hats. The winners picked were as follows:

**Jessica G** - Rabbit winner

**Roux F-M** - Piglet winner

**Emily H** - Tigger winner

**Heidi M** - Owl winner

So well done and huge congratulations to Jessica, Roux, Emily and Heidi.

**Comic Relief and Red Nose Day**

We have now collected all the money which was raised as a result of everybody’s efforts for Comic Relief.

This year, as a result of a fantastic effort by parents/ carers, children and staff, the final amount raised from the sale of our healthy treats and sponsorship was £157.30.

As usual, Toy Box matched the amount collected which brought the final sum handed to Comic Relief is:

£314.60!

Well done and thank you so much to all those parents/carers who both encouraged their child/children to make their faces funny for money and helped them with their sponsor forms. All your efforts are very much appreciated.

**Live at Home**

We have now had three visits from our Live at Home friends and both they and the children are really enjoying the activities together, which have included planting seeds, making Easter decorations, story telling and (most popular of all) singing nursery rhymes.

**Understanding the World – Potential Parent/Carer visits**

As part of Understanding the World we teach the children about the different types of jobs people do and about different cultures and religions. We would be delighted if any parents/carers could spare 15 minutes to come to nursery and tell the children about their jobs or about their culture and religion and what it means to them and their children.

**Fire crew and engine visit – Thursday 30 May at 2.15pm**

Following on about different jobs, provided there are no call outs on the day, we have arranged for the Fire Brigade to visit the nursery on the 30th May. We have deliberately chosen this date when the school is on half term holiday as car park will be quiet, making it much easier for the fire engine to park and safer for the children.

**Photographer**

The photographer will be coming to nursery on Friday 24th May.

If your child/children would not normally attend nursery on that day and you would like them to have their photo taken, then please see Helen or Beth and they will be delighted to make an appointment for you. Appointments can be arranged from 8.00am until early in the afternoon.

Hopefully we will have a little bit of spring sunshine and maybe even manage a couple of outdoor shots on the day.

As soon as your child/children’s photo has been taken, can we respectfully request that you leave the room. This is not only important from a Health and Safety viewpoint by avoiding congestion, but it also enables the staff to engage the children in their activities without distractions.

**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 13th May. Any items still remaining in the box after 13Th May will be taken to a local charity shop.

Could I respectfully remind all parents carers of the importance of **LABELLING** all items of clothing and footwear. Items of clothing without labels are becoming a big problem. Staff members cannot be held accountable for items which have gone missing especially when those items have not been labelled.

It creates problems with the younger children as several of them have similar items of clothing and footwear. If all items are clearly labelled it will help ensure that everything goes back to its rightful owners.

**Parents/Carers Questionnaire**

Attached to the newsletter this month you will find a questionnaire. The questionnaire is an extremely useful tool in letting us know how satisfied you, the parent/carer, are with the service which we provide here at Toy Box. You can sign or not sign your name to the completed questionnaire as you wish.

Please expand on any answers and opinions on the back of the questionnaire form. For example, if you tick a box marked unsatisfactory it would be very helpful if you could explain why and what you feel we could do to make it better. We strive to provide the best possible childcare but can only do this with your help and feedback.

All questionnaires are treated in the strictest confidence and are used only for the purpose of helping us improve the nursery.

**Future Plans Form**

The Future Plans form helps us with our planning for September. If you are not sure as yet the exact date your child/children will be leaving to go to school, if indeed they are, don’t worry. All we need is an approximate date so we can see how many spare sessions we have for new parents/carers as well as existing parents/carers who wish to increase or change their child/ children’s sessions.

Priority is always given to existing parents/carers so if you do wish to increase/decrease your child/ children’s current session or change days for September it is of the utmost importance that you let Helen know as soon as possible. We can then inform the parents/carers who would like these sessions for September so that they can go ahead and make their own future plans.

Your cooperation with completing and returning both the Questionnaire and the Future Plans Form will be greatly appreciated.

**Sun Cream and Sun Hats**

We have had some lovely sunny days already this year so once again I would like to remind all parents/carers of the importance of providing sun cream and sun hats for your child/children. We are not permitted to use any creams other than those provided by parents/carers. We want all children to be able to take advantage of every bit of good weather and sunshine. It would be a real shame if your child/children had to stay indoors simply because they didn’t have the correct clothing or sun cream.

**Aliens and Space Dress-Up Day – Tuesday 14th May**

On Tuesday 14th May we are having an Alien and Space dressing up day for children in the main room ONLY.

Children who would normally attend nursery on that day are invited to come dressed as aliens, spacemen or even stars or planets. Each year we get children turning up with some amazingly creative costumes, so we are looking forward to see what sort of crazy creations walk through the door this year.

**Staff Member of the Month**

Although we had quite a few votes this month for our “Staff Member of the Month” award, there is no outright winner so all votes will be rolled over towards next month’s award.

A huge thank you to all parents/carers who take the time to vote. It means a lot to staff to know that their efforts are appreciated.

**Birthdays**

We would like to wish the following children a big “Happy Birthday” for the month of May.

Pippa A - 1 year old

Charlie E - 2 years old

Vincenzo G - 2 years old

Georgia F - 2 years old

Raef E - 3 years old

Ella G - 4 years old

Jacob A - 4 years old

Adam H - 4 years old

Alfie G - 4 years old

Amber H - 4 years old

**Dates for Your Diary**

Nursery Closed (May Day Bank Holiday) - Monday 6th May

Alien Dress up Day (Main Room ONLY) - Tuesday 14th May

Nursery Photography Session - Friday 24th May

Nursery Closed (Spring Bank Holiday) - Monday 27th May

Fire Brigade visit - Thursday 30th May 2.15pm

**And Finally…**

As always thank you to all parents/ carers who participate in and respond to requests that we make. Your involvement is very much appreciated and all your suggestions and queries are always very welcome.

**Sam, Helen and all the staff at Toy Box Day Nursery**