

MAY 17

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.

So far this year the weeks and months are galloping by and it feels like there are never enough days or hours in the week to get on top of everything we need to do. April has been especially busy with visits from the photographer, Stan the Lollipop Man, the Police, Guide Dogs for the Blind as well as from Catherine Silver, one of our Mums, who gave a demonstration and a talk to the children about safety and safety equipment. All in all its been a pretty hectic week and it feels like it's impossible that we are into May already.

Pre-School and Baby Room Activities

Children in both the Pre-School and Baby Room have had lots of activities based around topics and themes from the various visits throughout the month. Safety related activities on crossing the road safely, role play dressing up, junk modelling emergency vehicles and den building as well as baking traffic light cookies, have kept all the children busy and engaged.

As well as these extra child led activities all the usual continuous provision is always accessible for both the babies and the pre-school children, so there's no time to get bored.

Our Rhyme of the Month for the Babies is: "Incy Wincy Spider"
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 entrants.

In order to ensure absolute impartiality we invited the children from SOS to come across and choose which they thought were the most creative hats. After much deliberation, the following children's hats were chosen as the winners.

Sebastian S - Rabbit winner
Theo De - Piglet winner
Ava K - Tigger winner
Melissa R - Owl winner

So well done and huge congratulations to Sebastian, Theo, Ava and Melissa and a huge thanks once again to all our lovely parents/ carers who encouraged the children to participate. They were in fact all wonderful and all the children got a chocolate Easter Egg just for making the effort.

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 £ 168.00. As usual, Toy Box matched the amount collected which brought the final sum handed to Comic Relief

£336.00

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.

Request from Tamara for Pre-School Family Portraits

Staff are continuously enhancing each of the areas of learning so in order to make our Home Corner space more interesting and homely for the children, Tammy would like parent/ carers to bring in a family portrait so that she can display the portraits on the wall as a permanent fixture.

As these photos will be displayed on the wall and no doubt taken down, handled, talked about and looked at, please make sure you do not send in any precious photos you may want back. Either an old photo that we can keep or an electronic copy will fit the bill perfectly. We will be happy to print them off and cut them out.

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. We regularly empty the lost property box but somehow it seems to fill up again in no time at all. We take all unclaimed items to the charity shop so please make sure you have a good rummage through before the box is emptied in the next two weeks. All items remaining in the box after the middle of May will be taken to the charity shop.

Could I respectfully remind parents/ carers of the importance of **LABELLING** all items of clothing and footwear. Items of both clothing and footwear 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 major problems with the

younger children as several 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 and Future Plans Form

Attached to the newsletter this month you will find a parent/ carer questionnaire and future plans form for your child.

The questionnaire is a 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 all like to think we are perfect but of course in reality there is always room for improvement.

All questionnaires are treated in the strictest confidence and are used only for the purpose of staff training, Quality Assurance and for keeping us all on our toes.

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 sessions 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 on our waiting list for September so that they can go ahead and make their own future plans.

It has been brought to our attention that some schools are telling parents/ carers that unless their child attends the school nursery they will not be allocated a place at the school. This is categorically not true and Early Years would like to hear from any parents/ carers who have been told this.

Please rest assured that the only criteria used by the local authority in determining which school your child will attend is the distance of your home from the school. Children who are eligible for funded sessions can carry on accessing that funding here at Toy Box right up until the term before their fifth birthday when they are due to start school.

Here at Toy Box we follow exactly the same curriculum as schools and we are all inspected by OFSTED using the same guidelines.

If you would like any further information or to discuss the matter further, please see Helen and she will be delighted to answer any queries you may have.

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 a couple of 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

On Friday 19th 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

Congratulations to Vikki Kendall who has been nominated Staff Member of the Month for April.

Vikki, will now receive a £20.00 gift voucher of her choice.

So well done to Vikki and a very big "Thank you" to all parents/ carers who took the time to vote. Your effort is much appreciated by everyone.

Birthdays

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

Beau W - 1 year old
Ella G - 2 years old
Logan W - 2 years old
Alfie G - 2 years old
Amber H - 2 years old
Isaak T - 3 years old
Amelia S - 4 years old
Erin B - 4 years old

Dates for Your Diary

Nursery Closed (May Day Bank Holiday) - Monday 1st May
Nursery Closed (Spring Bank Holiday) - Monday 29th May
Alien Dress up Day (Main Room ONLY) - Friday 19th May

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 and taken seriously.

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