

November 16 Newsletter



Toy Box Day Nursery & Pre-School

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our November newsletter bringing you up to date with all the latest news for the coming month here at Toy Box.

The new term is now well under way and all our new children, parents & carers are settling in nicely. The first couple of months of the new term are always a bit hectic with our new children getting used to their new environment as they settle into nursery routine. As usual some children settle in straight away whilst others take a little longer. Normally, by Christmas they have all settled well into nursery life and seem as though they have been here forever.

Pre-School and Baby Room Activities

Baby Room

The babies have had a very busy month with several activities which seemed to capture and hold their attention for long periods. Staff made a batch of lovely squishy green play dough and the babies had great fun using different shaped objects to make marks and shapes. They also had fun getting messy with rolling balls in paint and then using the ball to dab on paper to make a picture.

Other activities the babies enjoyed included building train tracks and pushing the trains along and also music making. Staff provided a selection of musical instruments which the babies could handle and they had great fun shaking, blowing and banging the instruments, making lots of lovely noise and music.

Pre-School

Pre-School activities included various Autumnal themes. At this time of year we have no shortage of leaves in the playground. The children have spent lots of time outdoors, collecting different shaped and coloured leaves which they then used for leaf painting and making autumn collages.

The Autumnal theme will continue this month with looking at what happens to plants and some animals at this time of year.

Halloween and Bonfire Night also feature largely in activities at this time of year. The children have been busy cutting out, painting, colouring and sticking and generally decorating the nursery with Halloween and Bonfire Night themed pictures.

**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:**

**“Tiny Turtle”
“Just Like An Owl”
“Owl Babies”**

Hallowe'en Party & Roald Dahl Dress-Up Day

A huge thank you to all our parents/ carers for all the time, effort and imagination everybody put into the dressing up costumes for both our Hallowe'en Party and our Roald Dahl Day.

The children made spooky Halloween pictures and decorations and baked ghoulish treats which they ate at snack time during our Hallowe'en Party.

They also thoroughly enjoyed experimenting with different substances to create magic potions and creating a wide variety of delectable chocolate treats in their 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' for Roald Dahl Day.

The lovely costumes that children wore all added to the sense of occasion.

All your efforts and involvement for our dressing up days are very much appreciated by all the staff.

Children In Need – "Show Your Spots and Raise Lots!"

On Friday 18th of November we are "Showing our Spots" to help raise money for Children In Need.

To help set the scene we are inviting all staff and children who would normally attend Nursery on this day to come to nursery dressed in spotty clothing. Please do not go out and buy anything special. Anything will do as long as it has spots, even if you draw or print them on yourself.

Throughout the week, both morning and afternoon, we are holding a sponsored dance. This will ensure that all the children, no matter which day they attend will have an opportunity to participate. A sponsorship form for the dance is attached to the newsletter.

There will also be a "Decorate a Pudsey" competition with the chance for one child from each age group to win a prize for the most creative Pudsey picture. Children are welcomed to paint, glue or simply colour their Pudsey in whichever way they see fit.

A copy of this picture is attached to the newsletter so each child can decorate the picture at home.

Please bring your child's completed picture with a £1.00 donation to the office in order to enter. If you misplace the picture please do not worry as there will be plenty of spares in the entrance lobby.

All the children, including the babies will be baking buns and biscuits throughout the week. All the goodies baked by the children will be on sale in the entrance lobby each day, so don't forget to bring your wallets!

It would be fantastic if we could smash our last year's total of £281.27. To do this we will need everyone to fully participate, so please ask family and friends to sponsor your child and don't forget to bring a pocket full of change on the day for the treats in the lobby!

If you would like any further information or clarification on any of the events please ask Anna, Helen or any member of staff.

Children's Christmas Party

Our Christmas Party is scheduled to take place on Monday 5th December at 3.30 at Northfield Hall, Sheepridge and will finish at approximately 5pm depending on how the children are enjoying themselves.

As Northfield Hall is too far for the children to walk, parents/ carers will need to collect their child/ children from nursery at around 3.15 on the day in order to get to the party for 3.30. Any child who has not been collected by their parent/ carer will have to remain behind at the 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 for the past couple of years. With parents/ carers' help and co-operation each year we have managed to get every child to the venue in plenty of time before the party started.

Yet another reply slip is attached to the newsletter for you to fill in stating whether you and your child will be attending.

This is very important as we will need to have an idea of numbers for both staffing and catering purposes.

Final details on the party will follow in the December newsletter and as usual if you have any questions please do not hesitate to speak to Anna or Helen.

Christmas Nativity – OWLS ONLY

Owls will be performing their Christmas Nativity play on Monday 12th December at 2.15. Just as last year we are asking parents/ carers to help supply their children's costumes. Please do not spend money on creating these costumes. Just use items that you already have lying around at home. Items such as tea towels or old fabric used imaginatively will do just fine.

If you are stuck for ideas and need a little inspiration please ask a staff member and they will be very happy to help.

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. Please complete the attached attendance form (this applies only to parents of Owls). Once we have all our numbers back we may be able to allocate further places on a first come first served basis.

We are currently encouraging all the children to try out different roles. This process can take a while before the children finally settle on their preferred role. Once all these big decisions have been made we will inform parents/ carers.

Parents/ Carers Day

We are holding a parents/ carers day on Friday 25th November between 9.30am and 5.15pm. A ten minute slot will be allocated to each parent/ carer where you can look through your child's Learning Journey and discuss with their Key Person any queries or concerns you may have about your child's development.

Please see Anna or Helen to make an appointment. If you cannot attend on that day we will be delighted to make an alternative mutually convenient appointment for you.

Christmas Closing Dates

The nursery will close for Christmas on Friday 23rd December at 6.00pm.

The nursery 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 week please speak to Anna or Helen.

Staff Member of the Month

Unfortunately this month we have not had a single vote for Staff Member of the Month. This is a little disheartening as staff work so hard on a daily basis and it would be lovely for them to know that their efforts are acknowledged. We fully accept that parents/ carers all lead very busy lives and are always rushing at pick up and drop off time. To make it easier for parent/ carers to vote, we always attach the voting form to the newsletter every month. That way parents/ carers can vote at home at their leisure.

Alternatively, there are always spare forms in the entrance lobby so maybe parents/ carers could pick one up if they so wish. Either way, it would be wonderful if we could have the biggest vote ever for the month of November!

Birthdays

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

Thomas R - 1 year old
Maisie C - 1 year old

George L - 2 years old
George H - 2 years old
Theo Du - 2 years old

Maya A - 3 years old

Dylan U - 4 years old
Charlie W - 4 years old
Amelia H - 4 years old

Payment of Invoices on Time

I would like to respectfully draw parent/ carers attention to the importance of prompt payment of your child's invoice at the beginning of each month.

Late payment and non-payment of fees create big problems for both our accounts department and for Anna. It is both time consuming and embarrassing for Anna to have to chase parents in order to try and get them to pay their child's invoice. After all if one goes to Asda or anywhere else to do the weekly shopping one cannot walk out with a full trolley and say I will come back and pay when I have the funds.

Furthermore, staff and bills have to be paid each month. I respectfully ask parents/ carers to remember this and pay your child's invoice promptly at the beginning of each month.

Persistent non-payment will result in your child's place being withdrawn.

A huge thank you to the vast majority of our parent/ carers who do pay regularly and on time each month. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Dates for your Diary

Parents/ Carers Day	- Friday 21 st October	
Children In Need Week	- Commences Monday 14 th November	
Children In Need Dress Up Day	- Friday 18 th November	
Children's Christmas Party	- Monday 5 th December	3.30 – 5.00pm
Children's Christmas Nativity (OWLS ONLY)	- Monday 12 th December	2.15pm
Nursery closes at 6pm	- Friday 23 rd December	
Nursery re-opens as normal	- Tuesday 3 rd January 2017	

And Finally....

The newsletter has a few attachments this month so please ensure you print them off and keep the safe. We are now approaching one of the busiest times of the year for staff here at Toy Box so your full co-operation and participation really helps make nursery life run more smoothly.

As always thank you all for your continuing support. Your opinions and thoughts are really important to us. All your comments and suggestions, be they good or not so good, are always listened to and acted upon if necessary.

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