

October 16 Newsletter

Toy Box Day Nursery & Pre-School

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our October Newsletter and to the start of yet another brand new Academic Year.

These years seems to fly by so quickly, it feels like there is someone in the background fast forwarding the weeks. This year in particular seems to have disappeared in the blink of an eye. It feels impossible to comprehend that we have already started making preparations for Christmas.

All our school leavers have now moved on and we have been joined by lots of new faces who, I am delighted to report, appear to be settling in very well.

Pre-School and Baby Room Activities

Both the babies and the Pre-School children are still managing to spend quite a bit time outdoors. As we have all seen, Autumn has definitely arrived but hopefully the weather will remain mild for a bit longer, helping to keep coughs and colds at bay.

As well as all the usual activities the babies have enjoyed activities aimed at promoting their gross motor movements by mark making in gloop, rolling cars in paint and rolling balls down tubes.

To complement our book of the month the Pre-School children had great fun making a submarine to play in. They also spent lots of time junk modelling, creating all sorts of different vehicles to sit and play in using cardboard boxes and tubes.

Another activity which was very popular this month was messy texture play. Staff provided lots of different textured resources including baked beans, jelly and pasta and the children got carried away exploring the different textures. They all thoroughly enjoyed getting messy far more than the staff enjoyed cleaning up once the activities were finished!

**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:**

**“I’m Driving in my Car”
“Spooky Spider”
“Room on the Broom”**

Under the Sea Dress-Up Day

A big thank you to all our parent/ carers who helped make our Under the Sea dressing up day such an enjoyable occasion. Most of our children took part and arrived at nursery dressed in exciting under the sea costumes, many of them with an added creative twist.

For both staff and children it was a very busy and enjoyable experience, full of fun and frolics. Dressing up got the children's imagination fired up and throughout the day they eagerly partook in a variety of creative experiences.

The day was thoroughly enjoyed by both children and staff alike. A huge thank you to all our parents/ carers who put so much time and effort into creating the costumes. Your efforts contributed greatly to the success of the day and are very much appreciated by all the staff.

Pre-School Family Portraits

Staff are continuously enhancing each of the areas of learning and 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 put them on the wall for us to keep 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.

Hallowe'en Party

On Monday 31st October we are inviting all staff and children who would normally attend nursery on that day to come in fancy dress to mark the occasion of Hallowe'en. No scary costumes or masks please as we don't want to frighten the children.

Throughout the day the children will be partaking in Hallowe'en themed activities and baking tasty treats. Julie, our cook, has created a Halloween themed menu which will have a variety of exciting spooky treats to choose from. Please find a copy of this menu attached to the newsletter.

Literacy Dress-Up Day – Celebrating Roald Dahl's 100th Birthday

As some of you may already know there have been recent celebrations of Roald Dahl's 100th birthday. As usual we wouldn't want to miss out on an opportunity to throw a party we will be marking the occasion by inviting all children who would normally attend nursery on Thursday 20th November to come dressed as one of his much loved characters.

During the day we will be making marvellous magic potions, developing our own whizzpopping adventures at storytime and creating wonderful chocolate treats in our own chocolate factory.

There are many characters to choose from but if you feel stuck in any way please feel free to speak to a member of staff for guidance.

Harvest Festival Box

Once again this year we donated our Harvest Festival Box to B.A.S.H. a shelter for the homeless in Brighthouse and surrounding areas.

The charity were very grateful for our donation and it's good to be able to support such a worthwhile cause.

A representative from B.A.S.H. collected the box last Monday and spoke to the children about the work they do and how they help people in our local community.

A huge thank you to all our parents/ carers who contributed food items. It's good for the children to learn that not everybody is as lucky as they are as well as the importance of looking out for those less fortunate than ourselves.

Photographer

The photographer will be coming to nursery on Friday 21st October. This will ensure that all the photos are ready in plenty of time for Christmas.

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 Anna or Helen 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 Autumn 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.

Cold Weather Clothes AND WELLIES

Now that the cold weather is no doubt on the way please ensure your child have suitable warm outdoor clothing and wellies to use whilst at nursery. Ofsted state that each child should have continuous access to outdoor provision in all weathers. In order for this to happen your child will need suitable warm outdoor clothing. Please, please don't forget to label all of your child's belongings. This is a great help to staff as children bring in similar coats, bags, shoes, hats, wellies, mittens and gloves.

If your child already has wellies at nursery please check that they still fit. We all know how quickly those little feet grow!

Similarly, we request that all children have an alternative pair of indoor shoes or slippers which are left here at nursery, solely for use indoors. This will help ensure that children are not slipping on wet floors, as well as ensuring the children's feet are kept clean, dry and protected whilst they play indoors. Indoor shoes can be another pair of shoes, pumps or even slippers. Please, please ensure that indoor shoes are clearly labelled as they can all look very similar and it is easy for children (and adults) to get them mixed up.

If your child already has indoor shoes/ slippers here at nursery please check that they still fit. If you find an old pair of indoor shoes/ slippers belonging to your child which no longer fit them please take them home with you. This will help staff to keep clutter to a minimum. Your co-operation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Staff Member of the Month

The winner of staff member of the month for October is Amy Newman. Amy has recently started with us and is studying towards her level 3 in Childcare. Amy works very hard every day and it is clear to see that she has already made a big impression on children and parents.

So well done and congratulations to Amy who will now receive a £20.00 gift voucher of her choice.

A very big thank you to all our parents/ carers who took the time to vote. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated.

Dates for your Diary

Roald Dahl Dress-up Day - Thursday 20th October

Photographer - Friday 21st October

Hallowe'en Party - Monday 31st October

Staff Announcements

That pesky old stork has been doing the rounds once again and as a result our Manager, Anna, will be having her third baby in February.

Helen has settled really well into her role as Deputy and will be taking over from Anna when she goes on maternity leave in January.

So congratulations to Anna and we wish her all the best!

Birthdays

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

Amina R - 1 year old

Gemma M - 3 years old

Elijah B - 3 years old

Grace D - 3 years old

Jenson S - 3 years old

Erin S - 3 years old

Robin C - 3 years old

James Mc - 4 years old

Harry H - 4 years old

And Finally....

Our new term has got off to a flying start with all our new children settling in well and quickly. We have had some tears but that is only to be expected. As usual it's the new parents/ carers who suffer far more than the new children.

We have already had visits from some of the children who left to start school. They all look so grown up and full of confidence in their school uniforms. It's been wonderful to see them and so amazing to think that just a few short years ago they too were in the baby room.

As always, we would like to thank everyone for their continuing support. We look forward to working closely with all our parents/ carers, both old and new throughout the coming Academic Year.

Please remember that all your comments, be they good or not so good, are always welcome and acted upon if necessary.

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