

# October 17

## Newsletter

**Dear Parents/ Carers,**

Welcome to our October newsletter and to the start of yet another Academic Year. Each year seems to fly by more quickly than the last, but this year in particular seems to have disappeared in a flash. It feels quite unreal that we are making our preparations for Christmas already.

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

### **Activities in the Baby Room and Early Years Room**

We have had several new children join us at the beginning of term this year, so staff in both rooms have spent lots of time helping them settle in.

The Babies have had fun getting messy playing with animals in shaving foam, exploring playdough and treasure baskets, as well as heuristic play and chalking outdoors.

The Pre-School children have been very busy making potions, filling and emptying containers in the water tray, bathing babies (dolls of course, not real babies), weaving card fish templates, decorating octopi, playing with under the sea small world in sand and water and following the theme of the book leading to discussions about sharing and being kind to others.

Toy Box is a member of the National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) which encourages children and their families to flourish through excellent Early Years Care and Learning. The NDNA has been working alongside the producers of Clangers, a much-loved CBeebies programme, to develop a range of educational resources to support kindness. This is an effort to spread kindness through the early years and beyond. We've been given a pack of practical activities written by NDNA's Early Years experts to support their Kindness with the Clangers campaign, which runs until 22 October. Each week, staff will talk to the children about a different theme, from 'What is kindness?' in week one to 'Kindness to family', 'Kindness to the environment', 'Kindness to our community' and 'Kindness to ourselves' in the following weeks. You can watch a video which explains the campaign and download lots of resources on their website: [www.ndna.org.uk/clangers](http://www.ndna.org.uk/clangers).

Staff have been talking to the children about the importance of being kind to one another, the environment and animals, as well as sharing, both at nursery and at home.

They also have continuous access to all the usual playdough, painting, cutting and sticking activities.

**Our Rhyme of the Month for the Babies is: "Spooky Spider"**  
**Our Rhyme of the Month for the Pre- School is: "Incy Wincy Spider"**  
**Our Book of the Month for the Pre-School is: "Room on the Broom"**

## **Harvest Festival**

A huge thank you to all those parents/ carers who have already contributed something to our Harvest Festival collection box. We are continuing to accept donations of food items (no fresh or frozen please) up until Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October.

If parents/ carers have any ideas about charities or organisations which they feel would benefit from our collection, please let Anna know and she will gladly add your suggestions to our list of possibilities.

## **Hallowe'en Party**

On Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> 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 which will of course include the baking of tasty treats. Julie, our cook, is currently working on a Hallowe'en-themed menu which will have a variety of exciting spooky treats for the children to choose from.

## **Cold Weather Clothes and Wellies**

Now that the cold weather is really beginning to settle in, please ensure your child/ children have suitable warm outdoor clothing and wellies to use on a daily basis whilst at nursery. Ofsted guidelines state that children must have continuous access to outdoor provision in all weathers. In order for this to happen, your child/ children will need suitable warm outdoor clothing. Please, please don't forget to label all of your child/ children'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/ children already have 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/ slippers which are left here at nursery, solely for use indoors. As well as ensuring the children's feet are kept clean, dry and protected whilst they play indoors, this will also prevent the children from slipping on wet floors. Indoor shoes can be another pair of shoes, pumps or even slippers. Please, please ensure that indoor shoes are clearly labeled as they can all look very similar and it is easy for children (and adults) to get them mixed up.

If your child/ children already have 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 please take them home with you. This will help staff to keep clutter to a minimum and make it easier to tidy up. All unnamed wellies and slippers/ indoor shoes are in the lost property box. If unclaimed, the contents of this box will be taken to the charity chop at the end of the month.

Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

## **Photographer**

The photographer will be coming to nursery on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October. This will ensure that your photos are ready in plenty 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.

As always, as soon as your child/ children's photo has been taken, can we respectfully ask 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.

## **Children's Fleece and Sweatshirt Sale**

We have a number of assorted sizes of children's nursery fleeces and sweatshirts for sale. Both the fleeces and sweatshirts are very good quality and wash well.

All the items are being sold at below cost price as we want to free up some space, something we are really short of here at Toy Box.

The fleeces cost £4.50 and the sweatshirts cost £3.00.

If you would like to purchase either of these items, please let Anna or Helen know and they will check if we have the size you want.

## **Staff Member of the Month**

Unfortunately there was no clear winner for the Staff Member of the Month during September. All votes will be carried forward to October.

As usual, attached to the newsletter you will find a form for you to submit your vote. Please feel free to return it either into the box in the lobby or pop it in an email. Fingers crossed we get a few more votes during the month of October.

## **Birthdays**

We would like to wish the following children a big HAPPY BIRTHDAY during the month of October.

Nora P - 1 year old  
Lewis U - 1 year old  
Harrison E - 1 year old  
Finley S - 1 year old

Aurora C - 2 years old  
Sebastian S - 2 years old  
Amina R - 2 years old  
Alfred E - 2 years old

Erin S - 4 years old  
Jenson Brody S - 4 years old  
Robin C - 4 years

### **Dates for your Diary**

Photographer – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October  
Halloween Party – Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October

### **And Finally**

The new term has got off to a flying start with 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 also had visits from some of the children who left to start school. They 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, thank you all for your 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**