

SEPTEMBER 17

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the start of a brand new Academic Year here at Toy Box Day Nursery.

To those parents/ carers who have just joined us we extend an especially warm welcome. We hope that you and your child/ children will settle in well and quickly. We still have a few Owls left who are waiting to start school, but most have now flown the nest. We wish them all the very best and hope they settle well and quickly into their respective schools.

Baby Room

Throughout the month, as well as enjoying their beach party, the babies also had great fun finger painting, potato printing, exploring in the sand and water as well as investigating in their outdoor area. Let's hope the weather continues to remain favourable so all the children can continue to play outdoors for as long as possible.

Pre-School Room

The older children enjoyed playing in our lovely new mud kitchen and waterwall. They have also had lots of fun with messy textured play, discovering the feel of different objects when mixed with sand, water and paint.

Our Rhyme of the Month for the Babies is: "1,2,3,4,5, Once I Caught a Fish Alive"
Our Rhyme of the Month for the Pre- School is: "The Waves in the Sea"
Our Book of the Month for the Pre-School is: "Rainbow Fish"

Harvest Festival

Over the next few weeks we are continuing to collect for our Harvest Festival Hamper. Donations are coming along nicely and by the looks of things this will be one of our best collections so far.

As yet we have not decided which charity we are going to support. If any parents/ carers have any particular charity or cause which they feel would benefit from our collection, please let us know and we will consider all suggestions when making our final decision.

Last year, we had a lovely big box of everyday food items which we donated to BASH, the homeless shelter in Brighouse, for which they were very thankful.

Baby Room Beach Party & Pre-School Teddy Bears' Picnic

The Baby Room's Beach Party was a huge hit. The children thoroughly enjoyed playing in the sand and water in their swimming costumes, making decorations and playing beach-themed games. This annual event is always a favourite with both the children and staff alike.

Unfortunately, this year the weather wasn't fantastic on the day so most of the event was held indoors. Nonetheless it was a fun filled day and all the children thoroughly enjoyed the occasion.

The Early Years children too had a great time on their Teddy Bears' Picnic. They left the nursery holding hands as they went on a short walk to the local park. They were all very well behaved and listened attentively to staff as they encouraged the children to take note of what they were seeing as they walked along.

Upon their return to nursery the children enjoyed a picnic on the grass near the school. Great fun was had by all on the day, including the teddies!

The children enjoyed their outing so much that we are now looking to introduce regular short walks into our weekly planning.

Photographer

The photographer will be coming to nursery on Friday 20th 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.

Staff Member of the Month

Congratulations to Kelly Gough who has been nominated Staff Member of the Month for July. Kelly will now receive a £20.00 gift voucher of her choice.

So, well done to Kelly and a very big thank you to all parents/ carers who took the time to vote. Your efforts are much appreciated by everyone.

Staff News

This month we have a few items of staff news, the big one of course being Anna's return to work after maternity leave.

Following her achievements as acting manager in Anna's absence, Helen has decided she would like to try a new challenge and will now be working full time in the main room. She will continue her role as Deputy Manager/ Room Leader and once all the cohorts of children have been finalised, Helen will also be responsible for her own cohort of children.

Tammy, who used to be Room Leader in the main room, is now taking on the role of Baby Room Leader. Tammy requested the change as she wants to gain experience in looking after the baby age group.

Due to her advancing pregnancy, Kylie will be stepping down from her role as Deputy Baby Room Leader and will now be based mainly in the main room. This is to ensure that she is not unnecessarily lifting children and will also support the transition of with the babies who are moving through to become Piglets.

That pesky stork has been doing the rounds again and as a result Vikki Kendall, who works in the Piglets, is pregnant. Vikki's baby is due in February 2018 and we all would like to wish her many congratulations.

Amy Newman, who joined us last year as a Level 2 Modern Apprentice has just completed and passed her NVQ Level 3 with flying colours. Amy is a dedicated, hardworking and valuable member of our staff team and it has been a real pleasure to support Amy throughout her studies.

During August we have also been joined by two members of staff, Alice Pickering and Bethany Hamilton. Both are qualified practitioners who hold degrees in Early Years. Alice and Bethany have joined us at this time to ensure that there is a smooth transition for when both Kylie and Vikki go off on maternity leave. We feel sure they will be a great asset to our existing staff team.

I realise that there is quite a bit of staff news to digest this month. If any parent/ carer wants clarification on any of the staff changes, please do not hesitate to speak to either Anna or Helen and they will be delighted to answer any queries you may have.

Birthdays

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

Ava M	- 1 year old
Joseph L	- 1 year old
Emily H	- 2 years old
Libby S	- 2 years old
Leon M	- 2 years old
Hettie S	- 3 years old
Finlay W	- 3 years old

And Finally

It has been an emotional few weeks for staff, children and parents/ carers as they have said their final goodbyes to children who left Toy Box to start school in September.

Each year it never ceases to amaze us all that between Easter and July our Owls not only grow in stature, but in confidence as well. Suddenly they are no longer little nursery children but big boys and girls, bursting with confidence and excitement and ready to start “big school” in September.

It has been a huge privilege and pleasure to have been able to watch those changes take place, and be part of their journey as they prepare for the next step in their little lives. We wish them all every happiness and success and hope that they take away with them as many happy memories of us as we have of them.

As we start a whole new Academic Year we look forward to working closely with all parents/ carers, both old and new.

As always thank you all for your continuing support and please remember that all your comments, 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