

September 16

Newsletter

Toy Box Day Nursery & Pre-School

Dear Parents/Carers,

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

Once again, we all find ourselves bemoaning how quickly the six week summer holiday has flown by, and with it, no doubt, the best of our summer weather.

To those parents/ carers who have just joined us we extend an especially warm welcome and hope that you and your children will settle into nursery life well and quickly.

We still have a few Owls left who are waiting to start school, but most have now flown the nest. A couple have already been back to see us, wearing their lovely sparkling new school uniforms. They already look and act so grown up that it's hard to believe they only left us a few short weeks ago.

We wish them all the very best. It was really lovely to see them and to know that they are settling well into school life.

Pre-School and Baby Room Activities

At this time of the year, weather permitting of course, all the children get to spend as much time as possible outdoors.

Staff ensure that different toys and activities are set out, both indoors and outdoors, and the children take the lead in deciding how play will proceed.

The babies have had great fun getting messy and making lots of different marks in shaving foam, sticking and making pictures with coloured pasta shapes and building large train tracks for the trains.

The Pre-School children have had several bug hunts in the garden, an activity at which they have all become quite adept.

They have also spent time junk modelling, making houses and other wonderful creations.

As a result of reading the Three Little Pigs story, the children decided they wanted to hold a 'Three Little Pigs tea party'. Staff dutifully obliged and ensured the children had all the resources they needed to make the tea party a success.

All the usual continuous provision activities are always available, both indoors and outdoors, with the children free to pick and choose at will.

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:

“Miss Polly”
“Waves in the Sea”
“Rainbow Fish”

Baby Room Beach Party

The Baby Room Annual Beach Party which took place over two days on August 24th and 25th was a big hit as usual.

All the babies thoroughly enjoyed changing into their swimming costumes, playing on the ‘beach’ in the sand and water, making decorations and playing beach-themed games.

Unfortunately, this year the weather wasn’t fantastic so some of the event had to be transferred indoors on the Thursday. Nonetheless, it was a fun-filled two days which was thoroughly enjoyed by both staff and children alike.

Harvest Festival

A huge thank you to all those parents/ carers who have already contributed something to our Harvest Festival collection box.

Unfortunately the box still looks a little empty, so we are once again appealing to parent/carers to please contribute a single item per family. It could be a box of tea bags or a packet of rice or even a tin of fruit. If everyone contributes just one item we will soon fill the box. We will leave the box in the lobby until the end of September, by which time it will hopefully be overflowing.

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

Under the Sea Dress-Up Day – Main Room only

We are holding an Under the Sea dress-up day on Tuesday 20th September. All children in the main Pre-School room who would normally attend nursery on that day are invited to come to nursery dressed as their favourite under the sea creature.

This is a great opportunity for parents/ carers and children to get together and let their imaginations run riot.

If, by any chance, you are stuck for ideas please do not hesitate to speak to any member of staff and they will be delighted to help with a few suggestions. Each year the costumes become more and more inventive so we are looking forward to seeing what surprises are in store for us this time.

Parking

Now that we are starting a new term, I would like to respectfully request that all parents/ carers, especially new parents/ carers who have just joined us, respect the school's request that the school car park be used for school staff, SOS staff and Toy Box staff parking ONLY.

The car park is not to be used by any parents/ carers of children either from the school, the SOS club or the nursery between the hours of 8.30 – 4.30. Parent/ carers may use the car parking facilities outside of these hours as well as throughout the school holidays. As the school holidays are now over and the school is open as usual, everybody please take note.

A huge thank you to all our existing parents/ carers who already adhere to the car parking rules and park on the road.

Your full co-operation will be very much appreciated by both the school and Toy Box.

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.

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 September.

Dates for your Diary

Under the Sea dress up day - Tuesday 20th September
(MAIN ROOM ONLY)

Staff Announcements

Helen Henderson, who currently leads the Baby Room, is taking over the position of Deputy Manager. Helen will still be leading the Baby Room but will also be supporting Anna in the office when necessary and running the nursery in Anna's absence.

Tamara Smith is taking over the Room Leader position in the Pre-School room and will be responsible for ensuring that the Pre-School room runs smoothly on a daily basis.

Jessica Ellis, who re-joined our team last month, is taking on the role of EYP (Early Years Professional). Jessica successfully completed her BA Honours this summer and we are delighted that she is going to be our full time EYP.

Jessica's main role will be ensuring that the EYFS curriculum is delivered to a high standard throughout the nursery. Both Jessica and Tamara will be supporting one another to ensure that all the staff and children in the Pre-School room get the support they need.

We are still retaining the services of our Early Years Consultant, Donna Green. Donna will be available as and when we need her in order to ensure that all our staff training is up to date and providing an alternative viewpoint for development throughout the nursery.

We would also like to congratulate our apprentice, Beth Smith for achieving her Childcare level 2 qualification. She is awaiting to start her Childcare level 3 in October. Well done Beth!

Birthdays

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

Emily H -1 year old

Hettie S -2 years old

Rohan R -2 years old

Finley W -2 years old

And Finally....

It has been an emotional few weeks for staff, children and parents/ carers as they have all said their final goodbyes before their children has 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 about starting "big school".

It has been a huge privilege and pleasure to have been part of their lives and to watch those changes take place throughout the year. 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 children/ 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