

August 19 Newsletter

Toy Box Day Nursery & Pre-School

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our August newsletter. It hardly seems possible that it's August already and the summer holidays are once again upon us. Some of our Owls have already left us and it won't be long before the rest follow. We wish them all the very best and hope they will pop in to show us how smart and grown-up they look in their new school uniforms.

Nursery Activities

Baby Room

This month the babies have been having fun exploring in water in a variety of ways, exploring the paddling pool, filling and emptying containers and even building with ice cubes!

The babies have focused on different types of books, textured and mechanical. This involved the children using their fine motor skills to operate them, improving their balance and coordination. Reading them as a group allowed the children to engage with each other and enhance their cognitive development.

The babies have been exploring the small world animals, learning about the different animal sounds, movements and habitats. The children have taken part in printing activities with them and even hiding them for their friends to find.

Pre-School Room

This month the children in the Pre-School room have been very busy learning about different life cycles. We have been watching caterpillars change into chrysalis before emerging as butterflies, which were then released in the garden to much excitement. We have also seen tadpoles turn into froglets and then finally frogs.

We have introduced individual workbooks for all children, which they have also been using to further enhance their mark making and writing skills helping to encourage their hand and eye co-ordination. The children use their books within their free play and circle times, this helps the children develop in their interaction and social skills, showing their peers what they have drawn and giving explanations. This furthermore builds upon turn taking and understanding of others interests and opinions.

If you have not seen your child's workbook yet, then do ask one of the staff members to show you.

The children have also been taught about safety this month and have focused a lot on car safety, safety at home and how to stay safe on the roads.

Our Rhyme of the Month for the Babies is: "Wind the Bobbin Up"
Our Rhyme of the Month for the Pre- School is: "Teddy Bear's Picnic"
Our Book of the Month for the Pre-School is: "We're Going on a Bear Hunt"

Mini Beast Dress up Day – Wednesday 24th July

A huge thank you to all our parents/carers for the time, effort, imagination and creativity that everybody put into the dressing up costumes for our Mini Beast Dress up Day. The lovely costumes added to the occasion and both staff and children had great fun throughout the day with lots of silly games and activities.

Your efforts and involvement are very much appreciated by all the staff.

Baby Room Beach Party – Tuesday 20th August – BABY ROOM ONLY

The babies are having their annual beach party on Tuesday 20th August.

Fingers crossed for some nice weather on the day so the babies can spend most of the time outdoors, playing in the sand and splashing around in the water trays. As usual, staff will be helping the babies to prepare for the event by helping them make beach-themed props and wall hangings, which will be used to decorate the baby room on the day.

Please remember to bring a swimming costume, a sun hat and a towel for your child (baby room only). We will remind you again nearer the time.

Parent/Carer Questionnaire

Many thanks to everyone who took the time to complete one of our questionnaires. This year we had 19 responses and are pleased to report that 87% of all replies rated us as very good or excellent, across the 10 areas covered in the questionnaire. A copy of the analysis of the results is in a folder in the reception area, for anyone who would like to see it

Fee Increase

Our annual fee increase will come into effect on the first of September.

As usual we have made every effort to keep the fee increase to a minimum, but we are faced every year with increases in the national minimum wage. From the 1st of September a half-day session will now cost £29.00, a full day will cost £50.00 and a full week will be £220.00.

Funded hours

From the start of the new school year in September we are introducing a new, easy to understand cost structure covering meals and our wrap-around service where used. The times of the funded session aren't changing and the overall costs will be similar to what you would be or are currently paying.

The new structure is detailed in the attached document. In summary, meals are charged for as provided and the wrap-around service costs £5.80 per hour (the same hourly rate as our standard half-day session). If you have any queries on this then please let Helen or David know and they will be pleased to answer them.

Harvest Festival

Over the next month we will be collecting for our Harvest Festival hamper. We will be celebrating the Harvest Festival around the first week in September. A collection box will be placed in the entrance lobby for all food donations (tinned or packet only please – not fresh).

Last year we donated everything we collected to Calderdale SmartMove, a local charity helping homeless, where it was very gratefully received. However, should any parents/carers have a particular charity or cause which they feel would benefit from our collection please let us know and we will take all suggestions into consideration when making our final decision.

Staff Member of the Month

Although we had a few votes this month for our "Staff Member of the Month" award, there is no outright winner so all votes will be rolled over towards next month's award.

A huge thank you to all parents/ carers who take the time to vote. It means a lot to staff to know that their efforts are appreciated.

Staff News

Donna Wignall, an Early Years Consultant, who has a long history of working with the nursery, has been back working with us extensively over recent months, helping to ensure that the care, learning and development that we provide is first rate and that the staff are fully trained to deliver it. Donna is a former university lecturer in Childcare and Ofsted inspector.

Ellie and Dominic have both now left the nursery and we wish them well in their future careers. Sara Marewan is returning to university full time in September but will be undertaking her placement at the nursery and will also be back during holidays.

Beth Woolnough is back with us for the next three months until she starts a new job as a Teaching Assistant at the beginning of November.

Birthdays

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

Billy C - 3 years old

Edward M - 4 years old

Hafsah I - 4 years old

Dates for your Diary

Baby Room Beach Party (BABY ROOM ONLY) - Tuesday 20th August

Nursery Closed Summer Bank Holiday - Monday 26th August

Nursery re-opens as usual - Tuesday 27th August

And Finally

As always we thank you for your on-going support and please remember that all your views and comments are important to us. We hope that you have a relaxed and peaceful summer holiday, free from school dropping off and picking up schedules.

We look forward to working with all parents, carers and children both old and new at the beginning of the new Academic year.

Sam, Helen and all the staff at Toy Box Day Nursery