

November 17 Newsletter



Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome to our November newsletter bringing you up to date with all the latest news and events for the coming month here at Toy Box.

The new term is now well under way and all our new children/ parents/ carers are settling in nicely. The first couple of months of the new term are always a bit hectic with the new children getting used to being without Mummy and Daddy as they settle into nursery routine. As usual some children settle in straight away whilst others take a little longer. Usually by Christmas they have all settled into nursery life, acting as though they have been here forever.

Activities in the Baby Room and Early Years Room

Both the Babies and Early Years children have had great fun playing in the leaves outside, a resource we have no shortage of at this time every year.

All the children enjoy the sensory feel of the leaves and love to explore the different shapes, colours and textures. Autumnal activities such as leaf printing, conker rolling and Autumn hunts outdoors have been enjoyed by all the children throughout the month.

Hallowe'en and Bonfire activities, which included making decorations to hang in the nursery and baking spooky treats to eat also featured large in the children's play this month. These activities, combined with all the continuous provision available for the children to dip in and out of at will, ensured all the children have had very busy days.

Both our Hallowe'en and our Bonfire themed menus were a big hit with all of the children. They especially enjoyed making (and eating) their breadstick sparklers.

Our Rhyme of the Month for the Babies is:

"Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star"

Our Rhyme of the Month for the Pre- School is:

"Just Like an Owl"

Our Book of the Month for the Pre-School is:

"Owl Babies"

Hallowe'en Party

A huge thank you to all our parents/ carers for all the time, effort and imagination everybody put into the dressing up costumes for our Halloween dressing up day. The lovely costumes added to the occasion as the children made spooky Halloween pictures and decorations and baked ghoulish treats, which they ate at snack time.

All your efforts and involvement for our dressing up days are very much appreciated by all the staff.

Children in Need – Fundraiser

On Friday 17th of November we are having a pyjama dress up day to help raise funds for Children In Need. All staff and children who would normally attend Nursery on this day are invited to come to nursery dressed in their pyjamas.

If your child/ children would not normally attend nursery on a Friday don't worry as there will be plenty of opportunities throughout the week to take part in activities and to donate to this worthy cause.

Throughout the week all the children will take part in a sponsored obstacle course. Each day there will be obstacle courses set up in both the Pre-School and the Baby play areas. This activity can take place either indoors or out in the garden if the weather becomes less favourable.

To help raise funds, we will also be holding a "Decorate Pudsey Bear" competition. Entries will cost £1.00 and the winner of each age group will win a prize.

As usual, all the children, including the babies, will be baking buns and biscuits throughout the week which will be on sale in the entrance lobby every day.

A sponsorship form for the obstacle course is attached along with a picture of Pudsey Bear for your children to decorate for the competition. Copies of these can also be found in the entrance lobby.

It would be fantastic if we could smash our last year's total. To do this we will need everyone to fully participate so please ask family and friends to sponsor your child and don't forget to bring a pocket full of change for the treats in the lobby!

If you would like any further information or clarification on any of the events planned for the week please ask Anna, Helen or any member of staff.

Children's Christmas Party

Our children's Christmas party is scheduled to take place on Monday 4th December at 3.30 in Northfield Hall, Sheepridge. The party will finish at approximately 5pm depending on how the children are enjoying themselves.

As Northfield Hall is too far for the children to walk parents/ carers will need to collect their child/ children from nursery at around 3.15 on the day in order to get to the party for 3.30. Any child who has not been collected by their parent/ carer will have to remain behind at the nursery with staff as unfortunately staff are not insured to transport children in their cars. However, parents/ carers are free to make arrangements between themselves in order to help one another out with transport.

This arrangement has worked really well for the past couple of years. With parents/ carers' help and co-operation we have always managed to get every child to the venue in plenty of time before the party started.

A reply slip is attached to the newsletter for you to fill in stating whether you and your child will be attending.

This is very important as we will need to have an idea of numbers for both staffing and catering purposes.

Final details will follow in the December newsletter and as usual if you have any questions please do not hesitate to speak to Anna or Helen.

Christmas Closing Dates

The nursery will close for Christmas on Friday 22nd December at the normal time of 6pm.

The nursery will remain closed THROUGHOUT Christmas Week and will reopen as normal on Tuesday 2nd January 2018.

If you need any further clarification on our opening and closing dates and times for Christmas week please speak to Anna or Helen.

Christmas Nativity

The Owls and our eldest group of Tiggers will be performing our Christmas Nativity play on Tuesday 19th December at 2.15pm. Just as last year, we are asking parents/ carers to help supply their child/ children's costumes. Please do not spend money on creating these costumes. Just use items that you already have lying around at home. Items such as tea towels or old fabric used imaginatively will do just fine.

If you are stuck for ideas and need a little inspiration please ask a staff member and they will be very happy to help.

The Nativity Play will start at 2.15pm and will last for approximately 15 minutes. Due to space limitations, we can only allow one parent/ carer per child to attend. Anna and Helen will be giving out the letters and reply slips to the parents/ carers of the children involved later on this week. Please complete the reply slip and return to the office as soon as possible. Once we have all our numbers back we may be able to allocate further places on a first come first served basis.

We are currently encouraging all the children to try out all the different roles. This process can take a while before the children finally settle on their preferred role. Once all these big decisions have been made by the children, we will inform parents/ carers which role their child has finally settled on.

Parents/ Carers Day - 29th November.

We are holding a parents/ carers day on Wednesday 29th November between 9.30am and 5.15pm. A ten minute slot will be allocated to each parent/ carer where you can look through your child/ children's Learning Journey and discuss with your child's Key Person any queries or concerns you may have about your child/ children's development.

Please see Anna or Helen to make an appointment. If you cannot attend on the 29th November we will be delighted to make an alternative mutually convenient appointment for you.

"Beep Beep" Road Safety Week commencing Monday 20th November

As the darker evenings are creeping ever closer it is more important than ever to remind the children about the importance of road safety. Many of our pre-school outdoor activities already incorporate ideas on how to cross the road safely and what to expect when out and about in the local community however we will be focusing on this heavily during "Beep Beep Week".

As well as talking about importance of road safety, the children will take part in several activities including making their own traffic lights and road signs for use during their outdoor play at nursery.

Staff Member of the Month

Congratulations to Beth Smith who has been nominated Staff Member of the Month for October. Beth will receive a £20.00 gift voucher of her choice.

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

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.

Birthdays

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

Emaad B - 1 year old
Adam M - 1 year old

Eevee B - 2 years old
Thomas R - 2 years old

George L - 3 years old
George H - 3 years old
Nathaniel W - 3 years old
Theo Du - 3 years old

Maya A - 4 years old
Orla M - 4 years old

Dates for your Diary

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| Children in Need week | - Commences Monday 13 th November |
| Children in Need Pyjama Day | - Friday 17 th November |
| “Beep Beep” Road Safety Week | - Commences Monday 20 th November |
| Parents/ Carers Day | - Wednesday 29 th November 9.30am to 5:15 pm |
| Children’s Christmas Party | - Monday 4 th December 3:30 to 5:00pm |
| Christmas Jumper Day | - Friday 15 th December
(further news in December newsletter) |
| Children’s Christmas Nativity
(Owls and eldest Tiggers only) | - Tuesday 19 th December at 2:15pm |
| Christmas Dinner & Dress Up Day | - Wednesday 20 th December
(further news in December newsletter) |
| Nursery closes at 6pm | - Friday 22 nd December |
| Nursery re-opens as normal | - Tuesday 2 nd January 2018 |

And Finally

Unfortunately, our lovely summer days are behind us and we have reached the time of year where bugs of every sort are rife. This happens at this time every year in schools and nurseries up and down the country.

We would like to take this opportunity to inform you that here at Toy Box we take the health and wellbeing of all the children in our care very seriously.

If a child becomes unwell whilst in our care with any ailment that could be considered contagious (rashes, sickness etc) we contact the parents/ carers immediately and the child is sent home. We always follow the exclusion period guidelines provided to us by the Health Protection Unit.

We employ a General Assistant whose main role is to ensure that cleanliness and hygiene standards are always maintained.

Combined with our usual daily cleaning schedule, when a contagious illness is diagnosed we also carry out thorough deep cleans throughout the whole nursery, ensuring that all resources and surfaces are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected with Milton. Extra members of staff are drafted in at these times to ensure that the deep cleans take effect quickly and thoroughly without too much disruption to the children and their routines.

If your child/ children become ill and you are asked to keep them off nursery for the duration of their exclusion period, please understand that this is the best and quickest way to for us to combat the spread of infection. All nurseries and schools operate in this way and Toy Box is no different.

In the meantime it is important that your child/ children have good warm outdoor clothing so they can play outdoors every day to get fresh air. Staff also ensure that all the windows are opened daily to allow the nursery to air and help clear any potential germs lurking around.

If any parent/ carer would like further clarification on our cleaning routines please speak to Anna and she will be delighted to answer any queries you may have.

As always, thank you all for your continuing support. Your opinions and thoughts are really important to us. All your comments and suggestions, 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