

November 19 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.

Face Book

We hope that you are enjoying Beth's posts on the open face book page.

We are keen to be able to share even more pictures of your children enjoying themselves at Toy box and are intending to set up a closed facebook group to enable, but we still do not have permissions back from several parents. If you have not already done so, please can you complete the form attached and hand it to Claire. She also has blank forms in the office if that is easier.

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.

The children have been focusing on Diwali the Hindu festival of light. The Pre-school children have been creating their very own tea lights, moulding them with clay and using various media and materials to decorate them. This helped the children use their fine motor skills, discuss colours and textures and use new vocabulary. This led to discussions about light and dark, nocturnal animals and the changes of season.

The babies have been focusing on their physical development, hand and eye coordination and sensory impulses. They have done this by body painting which helps the children identify their own bodily features, have an awareness of others, make connections between the marks they make and explore the different textures. Real food play has been a hit in the baby room; it's allowed the children to explore with all of their senses!

Both the babies and preschool children have been taking part in lots of Hallowe'en activities which included slime play, mask making, spooky role play and baking tasty treats! Our Hallowe'en menu was a big hit with all of the children.

**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:**

**"Little Miss Muffett"
"Five Little Leaves"
"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 15th 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.

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.

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

Children's Christmas Party

Our children's Christmas party is scheduled to take place on Monday 9th December at 3.30pm 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 3.15pm on the day in order to get to the party for 3.30pm. 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 few 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 Claire or Beth.

Christmas Closing Dates

The nursery will close for Christmas on Tuesday 24th December at the earlier time of 4pm.

The nursery will remain closed THROUGHOUT Christmas Week and will reopen as normal on Thursday 2nd January 2020.

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

Christmas Nativity

The Owls and our eldest group of Tigger's will be performing our Christmas Nativity play on Wednesday 18th 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 two parents/ carers per child to attend. Claire and Beth 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.

Staff Leaving

This month we say goodbye to Becky, Sarah and Beth Smith. Becky is leaving us for a change in career to be a post lady. She has promised to pop in to see us in her uniform and to talk to the children about her new job! We wish them all good luck in their new jobs and hope they come and see us soon.

We have some fantastic new staff members joining us over the coming weeks:

- Sophie who joined us in October will be working in the baby room. Sophie is level 3 qualified with lots of experience of working with children 0-5years.
- Lucy who is also level 3 qualified will be working with the piglets, tiggers and owls.
- Rebecca will take over as preschool room leader. Rebecca joins us from a children's centre where she has worked for the last 17 years and is currently the Deputy Manager.

In addition Helen will be joining us again to help us out over the next two weeks to cover holidays.

Staff Member of the Month

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

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 November

Birthdays

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

Rey E	- 2 year old
Eva D	-2 year old
Deen	- 3 year old
Emaad B	- 3 year old
Jacob W	- 3 years old
Thomas R	- 4 years old
Alfie B	- 4 years old

Dates for your Diary

Children in Need week	- Commences Monday 11 th November
Children in Need Pyjama Day	- Friday 15 th November
Children's Christmas Party	- Monday 9 th December 3:30pm to 5:00pm
Christmas Jumper Day	- Friday 13 th December (further news in December newsletter)
Children's Christmas Nativity (Owls and eldest Tiggers only)	- Wednesday 18 th December at 2:15pm
Nursery closes at 4pm	- Tuesday 24 th December
Nursery re-opens as normal	- Thursday 2 nd January 2020

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 throughout the nursery 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.

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.

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 appropriate.

David, Sam and Claire all the staff at Toy Box Day Nursery