

October 19 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our October newsletter and to the start of yet another Academic Year. Each year seems to fly by quicker than the last, but this year in particular seems to have disappeared in a flash. It feels quite unreal that we are making our preparations for Christmas already.

All our school leavers have now left us and we have been joined by a number of new faces who, I am delighted to report, appear to be settling in very well.

Baby Room

The baby room have been focusing on edible textures. They have done this by setting up village and farm tuff trays and encouraging the children to explore with their full bodies! This helps the children recognize textures, introduces new vocabulary and promotes the use of interaction between one another.

Filling and emptying have been extremely popular this month. We have done this with porridge oats, sand, soil and water, this helps develop the children's hand and eye coordination and control!

The children have been creating their own masterpieces through junk modelling; this gives the children choice, independence and a sense of achievement with their finished product. This has given opportunity for counting, discussing language of size and gross motor skills.

Pre-School Room

This month the children have been exploring the Curiosity Cuboid. This involves putting different objects in the cuboid each week and encouraging the children to guess what they are! As the leaves have been falling and Autumn is upon us we took this opportunity to add different autumn objects. The children used their exploratory impulse to explore, smell and feel the objects. The children then used the objects to complete some observational drawing, creating their own representations.

Road Safety activities have been taking place in the outdoor area, including learner driving! The children have been learning about crossings, signs and safety measures to take by the roadside. This led to discussions of own experiences and ideas.

The children have been getting messy this month, using different materials to paint with, including leaves, string and pine cones! This helps children progress within their fine motor skills and recognize patterns, similarities and change.

Our Rhyme of the Month for the Babies is: “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star”
Our Rhyme of the Month for the Pre- School is: “Incy Wincy Spider”
Our Book of the Month for the Pre-School is: “Room on the Broom”

Under the Sea dress up day

Thank you to everybody that dressed up for our “Under the Sea” day. There was a range of great costumes and we had a wonderful day.

Nursery Manager

The handover between Helen and Claire has been going well and hopefully you have all now had chance to meet Claire.

Helen is currently away on holiday this week and will be back next Monday and Tuesday, with Tuesday being her last day at Toy Box. We would again like to thank Helen for everything she has done over the past six years and wish her all the best in whatever she decides to do next.

Parents/carers’ information evening – Wednesday 9th October at 6.15pm

We will be holding an information evening at nursery to explain to parents about the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework. The Framework:

- sets the standards that all early years’ providers must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well.
- ensures children are kept healthy and safe.
- ensures that children have the knowledge and skills they need to start school.

We will explain how we use the Framework at Toybox. The main emphasis will be on learning and development – including how we plan activities to maximise development opportunities in line with childrens’ interests, how we track their development in the 7 areas of learning and how we monitor our effectiveness.

Please let Claire or Helen know if you will be attending and we hope to see as many parents as possible.

Harvest Festival

A huge thank you to all those parents/ carers who have already contributed something to our Harvest Festival collection box. We are continuing to accept donations of food items (no fresh or frozen please) up until Friday 11th October.

If parents/ carers have any ideas about charities or organisations which they feel would benefit from our collection, please let Claire or Helen know and they will gladly add your suggestions to our list of possibilities.

Photographer – Wednesday 23rd October

The photographer will be coming to nursery on Wednesday 23rd October. This will ensure that your photos are ready in plenty 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 Claire 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.

As always, as soon as your child/ children's photo has been taken, can we respectfully ask 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.

Hallowe'en Party

On Thursday 31st October, we are inviting all staff and children who would normally attend nursery on that day to come in fancy dress to mark the occasion of Hallowe'en. No scary costumes or masks please, as we don't want to frighten the children.

Throughout the day the children will be partaking in Hallowe'en-themed activities which will of course include the baking of tasty treats. Julie, our cook, is currently working on a Halloween-themed menu which will have a variety of exciting spooky treats for the children to choose from.

Cold Weather Clothes and Wellies

Now that the cold and wet weather is really beginning to settle in, please ensure your child/ children have suitable warm outdoor clothing and wellies to use on a daily basis whilst at nursery.

Ofsted guidelines state that children must have continuous access to outdoor provision in all weathers. In order for this to happen, your child/children will need suitable warm outdoor clothing. Please, please don't forget to label all of your child children's belongings. This is a great help to staff as children bring in similar coats, bags, shoes, hats, wellies, mittens and gloves.

If your child/children already have wellies at nursery, please check that they still fit. We all know how quickly those little feet grow!

Similarly, we request that all children have an alternative pair of indoor shoes/slippers which are left here at nursery, solely for use indoors. As well as ensuring the children's feet are kept clean, dry and protected whilst they play indoors, this will also prevent the children from slipping on wet floors. Indoor shoes can be another pair of shoes, pumps or even slippers. Please, please ensure that indoor shoes are clearly labeled as they can all look very similar and it is easy for children (and adults) to get them mixed up.

If your child/children already have indoor shoes/ slippers here at nursery please check that they still fit. If you find an old pair of indoor shoes/ slippers belonging to your child which no longer fit please take them home with you. This will help staff to keep clutter to a minimum and make it easier to tidy up. All unnamed wellies and slippers/indoor shoes are in the lost property box. If unclaimed, the contents of this box will be taken to the charity chop at the end of the month.

Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Parking

Now that we are starting a new term, we would like to respectfully request that all parents/carers, respect the school's request that the school car park be used for school staff, out of school 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 out of school club or the nursery between the hours of 8.30am – 4.30pm. You may use the car parking facilities outside of these hours and also throughout the school holidays. As the school holidays are now over and the school is open as normal, 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.

Staff Member of the Month

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

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 October.

Birthdays

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

Eryx C	- 1 year old
Rosa J	- 2 years old
Lewis U	- 3 years old
Harrison E	- 3 years old
Finley S	- 3 years old
Aurora	- 4 years old
Sebastian S	- 4 years old
Amina	- 4 years old
Alfred	- 4 years old

Dates for your Diary

Parent/Carers' Information Evening	- Wednesday 9 th October
Photographer	– Wednesday 23 rd October
Halloween Party	– Thursday 31 st October

And Finally

The new term has got off to a flying start with our new children settling in well and quickly. We have had some tears, but that is only to be expected. As usual it's the new parents/carers who suffer far more than the new children.

We have also had visits from some of the children who left to start school. They look so grown up and full of confidence in their school uniforms. It's been wonderful to see them and so amazing to think that just a few short years ago they too were in the baby room.

As always, thank you all for your continuing support. We look forward to working closely with all our parents/carers, both old and new, throughout the coming Academic Year.

Please remember that all your comments, be they good or not so good, are always welcome and acted upon if necessary.

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