

# SEPTEMBER 19

# NEWSLETTER

**Dear Parents/Carers,**

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

To those parents/carers who have just joined us we extend an especially warm welcome. We hope that you and your child/children will settle in well and quickly. We still have a few Owls left who are waiting to start school, but most have now flown the nest. We wish them all the very best and hope that they enjoy their respective schools.

## **Baby Room**

Throughout the month, as well as enjoying their beach party, the babies also had great fun exploring in the mud kitchen with various spoons and investigating the outdoor area. This allowed them to explore different textures and learn different vocabulary. They have also been very busy taking part in food tasting, trying various different foods (even lemons and limes!). The experience allowed the children to talk about senses, textures and smells. It also gave the children the independence to feed themselves, make choices and promote trying new foods. This month the babies have particularly enjoyed exploring in the home corner with a wide variety of real foods to play with, this enabled the children to act out their experiences at home, explore print and interact with each whilst doing this.

## **Baby Room Beach Party**

The Baby Room's Beach Party was a huge hit. The children thoroughly enjoyed playing in the sand and water in their swimming costumes, making decorations and playing beach-themed games. This annual event is always a favourite with both the children and staff alike.

## **Pre-School Room**

The older children have enjoyed textured play this month. They have explored in moon sand and lots of other different textures such as jelly, cornflour and also baked beans. This led to discussions about foods that the children are familiar with, what are their favourites as well as healthy and unhealthy options to help them understand the importance of a balanced diet and healthy lifestyle. The pre-school children have also had fun making people this month using wooden pegs, various materials and also paint. This allowed a great opportunity for self-representation and self-expression, talking about similarities and differences between themselves and their peers.

We have also been very busy exploring in coloured spaghetti where we were discussing all the different colours. The children used the tweezers and the scissors to manipulate the

spaghetti, working on their hand and eye coordination and fine motor skills. Rulers were provided to measure the spaghetti and talk about different numerals.

**Our Rhyme of the Month for the Babies is: “5 Little Ducks”**

**Our Rhyme of the Month for the Pre- School is: “1,2,3,4,5, Once I Caught a Fish Alive”**

**Our Book of the Month for the Pre-School is: “The Rainbow Fish”**

### **Under the Sea dressing up day – Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September**

To complement our books and rhyme of the month, we will be holding an Under the Sea dressing up day on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September. If your child attends nursery that day, we would love if they could come in dressed in line with the theme. If you would like any help coming up with ideas, please ask any of the staff.

### **Learning at home**

- **50 things to do before your five**

You may have noticed the poster on your way into nursery with some great ideas for children to enjoy new experiences. It can also be downloaded on either the App Store or Google Play for ease of reference.

- **Lending Library and resources**

We want to remind our parents/carers that we have a small lending library in the entrance foyer with books and other resources for you to borrow and enjoy with your children.

### **Cultural Capital**

So that we are able to understand any special events (family/cultural/religious) that are coming up over the next 6 months we will be sending home a calendar for you to record all these celebrations and return to nursery. This will enable us to use it both to support children and as a basis for sharing cultural differences. Please find this calendar attached to the newsletter and there will also be copies in the entrance lobby as well.

### **Facebook**

We hope that you are enjoying seeing the learning and development activities that Beth, our Early Years Professional and Deputy Manager, has been posting on Facebook, so that you know what your children are involved in at nursery. If you have not yet returned your Facebook consent form to Beth, please can you do so as soon as possible. If you need a new form, please ask Beth.

## **Parents/carers' information evening – Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> 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 monitor their development in the 7 areas of learning and how we monitor our effectiveness.

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

## **Harvest Festival**

Over the next few weeks we are continuing to collect for our Harvest Festival Hamper. Donations are coming along nicely and by the looks of things this will be one of our best collections so far.

As yet we have not decided which charity we are going to support. If any parents/ carers have any particular charity or cause which they feel would benefit from our collection, please let us know and we will consider all suggestions when making our final decision.

Last year, we had a lovely big box of everyday food items which we donated to Calderdale SmartMove, a local charity helping homeless shelters, where it was gratefully received.

## **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.

## **Birthdays**

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

Isabella D - 1 year old  
Milo - 1 year old

Roux FM - 3 years old  
Ava McG - 3 years old

Emily H - 4 years old

### **Dates for your diary**

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September - Under the Sea dressing up day  
Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October – Parents/Carers' Information Evening

### **And Finally**

It has been an emotional few weeks for staff, children and parents/carers as they have said their final goodbyes to children who 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 and ready to start "big school" in September.

It has been a huge privilege and pleasure to have been able to watch those changes take place and be part of their journey as they prepare for the next step in their little lives. 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 new Academic Year we look forward to working closely with all 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.

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