

TRINKET BOX NEWSLETTER

A U T U M N 2 0 2 4 / 2

THE SCORE ON THE DOOR.....it's a 5!!!



FIVE OUT OF FIVE

Here's some of our children showing us their five digits to represent our score

We never know what's in store for us at Trinket Box but we do know that we do our very best to make it a safe and welcoming environment for the children.

Who came knocking at our door last week?it was the Food Safety Inspector. As you probably know, all food preparation establishments receive a food safety rating based on their hygiene practices, cleanliness and condition of their premises.

We are pleased to announce that we scored 5 which is the highest rating that can be achieved. So at the moment after securing an 'outstanding' Ofsted rating last year, we are feeling extremely proud of the service and experiences that we offer.

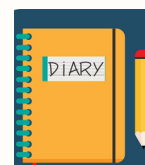
Nobody is perfect though and we strive to improve, so if you have any thoughts or feedback you'd like to give us please either drop us an email or use the following link to our website

<http://www.thetrinket.org.uk/feedback.php>



BREAKFAST & AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

We offer breakfast club from 7.45am, early start from 8.30am and after school club until 4pm every day! Got an early start? Never fear as we can take ad hoc bookings too! Natalie runs these so please email us for more information. Yoga, arts and crafts, games, stories, nature walks and lots more are on offer!



UPCOMING EVENTS

26TH NOVEMBER - PARENTS EVENING

Staff are here from 6.30-8.30pm so please book in if you would like an appointment

FRIDAY 13TH DECEMBER - CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY

The party will take place from 9.30-11.30am (email to follow)

WEEK COMMENCING 16TH DECEMBER

We are running a Christmas Cupcakes Fundraiser....more details to follow shortly

REMINDER: 2025 Primary School Admissions

If your child is 4 years old before 31st August 2025, then they will start school in September 2025.

Primary school admissions are open and you must apply for your child's school place before the deadline of 15th January 2025.

Please use this link to apply:

<https://www.southend.gov.uk/school-admissions/primary-school-admissions-1>

What's Forest School All About.....



Turn taking on the swing



Using a flint and steel



Clay work....making a hedgehog



Toasting marshmallows, the highlight of the last session!



Pond life



Bug hunting and getting a closer look!

With Natalie Newt and Julia Jaguar

As part of your Enhanced Provision fees, your child in the year before they go to school will access a 6 week Forest School programme. They will spend one of their sessions over in our Forest School area learning a wealth of skills and facts about nature!

The learning opportunities are endless and there is a buzz of excitement in the pre school as the children get ready in their waterproof suits, collecting their snack and drink on route in their own drawstring bag.

Once over in the area, ground rules are laid and children are expected to follow and respect these to stay safe. They soon learn new skills like using a saw, how to use a flint and steel, pond dipping, natural art, clay work and so on.....

You do have the facility to book extra Forest School sessions at a cost once your child has completed the initial programme. We do also offer Forest School taster sessions for children over 3 years and we'll advertise when these are available to book.

Presents Under the Tree

As the 'sleeps' get less we are busy behind the scenes preparing for the run up to Christmas.

What happens at Trinket Box I hear you ask.....WELL.....

At the beginning of December we normally have a special delivery in the form of our 'Elf on the Shelf'. Yes, Elvis will be in the building folks! ("Uh huh huh") Daily the children will be able to find our mischievous friend and see what he has been up to. He plays all sorts of tricks so be warned!

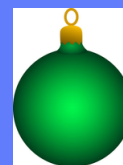
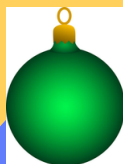
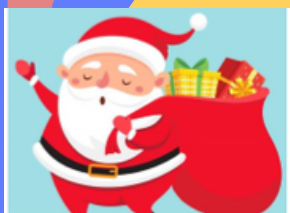
On Friday 13th December (no superstitions here!) we will be having the children's Christmas party. If they are very good, the man in the red suit will make an appearance. Whilst the children are waiting, they will join in the fun with Cheeky Charley as she entertains them. An email will be sent shortly and if your child doesn't attend on a Friday morning, they will of course be able to join us for the FUN!

At Trinket Box we like the children to be able to join in with the whole experience of 'giving' at Christmas. How lovely to have your child choose a gift for you and to be able to wrap it and bring it home. We run a very low cost idea called 'Presents under the Tree' and this is how it works:

1. Parents donate any unwanted gifts (for adults) and we put them under the tree (unwrapped please)
2. Children bring in £1.50 per gift required (max 2 gifts per child due to restricted supply)
3. Child chooses gift (completely on own so be warned! DO NOT from now on say I really need..... as you will get your child's perception of this!)
4. Child wraps gift with key person and brings gift home.

If you have any unwanted gifts please send them in now. WE NEED these for this to work! Typical items would be socks, books, photo frames, pens, toiletries, jewellery, scarves. We endeavour NOT to send home the unwanted gift you have donated but sometimes the child's choice is so funny so be prepared!

If you would like your child to participate, please start bringing in the money for your child to buy from 2nd December.



Feeling Festive - Christmas Jumpers



Christmas is a truly magical time for the children so we like to make it as festive as we can. We therefore encourage everyone to wear festive clothing/jumpers throughout December

Coming From the Heart

As you know we have our Trinket Box House Rules to promote appropriate behaviour and we also have our 'Super Manners Song' to help with being courteous to others.

We know the children love to feel rewarded for their actions so our lovely and very talented Natalie has been crocheting a new little incentive for the children! They will now be able to earn 'Kindness Hearts'.

A 'Kindness Heart' will be awarded to any children who have gone over and above and shown kindness towards others.



Committee Focus

You have no doubt noted the Budget and the changes that the Government propose will have a massive impact on us as a charity. We aren't here to make money but as you can appreciate we do at least need to break even to remain sustainable. The proposed changes to the minimum wage, employers NI contributions, the unknown with regard to funding rates next year, plus increased running costs fill us with apprehension!

Will we sit on our laurels as April draws nearer? No we will not! Our Management Committee will review our costings and we will rack up our fundraising to try and help! In a time when money is tight we thought we'd like to get a 'pre-loved' sale up and running as we do have regular donations of clothes, books and toys. So watch this space as we launch this idea over the coming weeks. If you have good quality items that you can donate, please email Annabel or Natalie.

Thank you
Trinket Box Committee

Can You Help?

We are often requesting many weird and wonderful things that we can use here at Trinket Box. Here's the list so please let us know if you can help:

- Old towels (as we use these for wiping down things in the garden)
- Halloween/Christmas decorations
- Any collage materials like different papers, wallpaper, sequins, buttons etc
- Paper and Card
- Boxes/packaging for junk modelling (that haven't contained nut products)
- Ice cream scoops

BBC TINY HAPPY PEOPLE

The BBC have a really informative website aimed at helping to support parents with a whole range of parenting questions. Here's the link incase you are interested: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people>

STAFF MEMBER OF THE MONTH

If you feel that a member of staff has gone over and above the norm, please nominate them for 'Staff Member of the Month'.

The Committee takes into consideration all the nominations and then awards staff members with the title.

Staff at Trinket Box take pride in their work and endeavour to work with you for the benefit of your child. They do have a job role but we feel that often they go over and above that. Your input DOES count.

ALL nominations are read and shared. Nominations can be made by email to annabel@thetrinket.org.uk or natalie@thetrinket.org.uk

Thank you

