



Newsletter

Issue 1 Autumn 2018

Welcome

A warm welcome to everyone from all the staff at John Bears Nursery. We are very proud of our new Nursery building and so impressed by how quickly the children have settled into their new space. There has been some great learning going on this half term both inside and outside.

As in the main school it is also our intention to send out a newsletter regularly to keep you updated with things that are going on in the nursery. However, we are aware that questions or concerns may arise, especially with everything being so new. We hope that everyone feels part of our new Nursery community, and we want you to feel that you can come in and talk to us at any time about anything. If you do have any concerns or worries please feel free to pop in. We will do our best to answer your queries and if we don't know the answer straight away then we will do our best to find out. If we know about something then we can help to sort it out before it becomes an issue.

We are all really excited about the new year ahead and

Dates for your Diary

Although it does feel a little early to be talking about Christmas we are aware it is a busy time and it is good to get those dates in your diaries.

- 23.10.18 - "In the air" holiday club activity day
- 8.11.18 Open Event at John of Gaunt School
- 9.11.18 Nursery and School photos
- 12.12.18 - Christmas Celebration am (time to be confirmed)
- 13.12.18 - John Bear's Nursery Family Learning Morning
- 14.12.18 - Christmas Celebration pm (time to be confirmed)

18.12.18 - Nursery closes for Christmas and reopens on 3:01:19

John Bear's Nursery Who We All Are

We are very fortunate that for many of the children there has been continuity of staffing with Mrs Godbold as our morning nursery teacher and Mrs Athill taking that role in the afternoons. Also Mrs Howes still works alongside them as our teaching assistant from Monday to Thursday, with Miss Garrard supporting the children at lunch time each day and on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday morning.

Ms Firth is our Nursery Manager and she will be at nursery everyday from 10.15am until nursery closes at 6.15 pm. Miss Seals is our Deputy Manager and she is at nursery everyday from 7.15 am until 3.15 pm. Miss Riches is our new teaching assistant in the nursery and she works everyday from 12.45pm until nursery closes and is also around on a Friday morning. Finally we welcome Mrs Nutt as our nursery administrator and she is in the office everyday from 8.45am until 3.15pm to answer all your nursery questions. We do hope that you will make all our new members of staff feel welcomed and please be patient while they learn new things.

Planning In the Moment

Since September we have adopted a new way of working in the Nursery called 'planning in the moment'. It is based on the work of Anna Ephgrave and both Mrs Godbold and Mrs Howes attended some training with her before the summer holidays.

Rather than planning activities for the children in which the adult takes the lead, in 'planning in the moment' the adult watches the children's play, identifies how to move the child's skills or learning on and then supports them to do this in that moment. As a result the teaching is more closely matched to the children's individual needs and interests.

As part of our 'planning in the moment', each week we have a number of children whose play and learning we focus on in particular. You will be given a letter the week before and invited to tell us more about your child's interests and learning at home. It is also an opportunity for you to ask us about anything you would like to know about their progress and development. Your child's key worker will also arrange to meet with you after your child's focus week to discuss what has been observed and answer any questions you may have.

All the children also have their Learning Journey in which we record their many achievements with observations and photographs.

Lunches

We seem to be getting the hang of lunches now, with lunch boxes going on the trolleys in the foyer and hot dinners being booked in advance via Mrs Nutt.

Please can you not put any nuts in the children's lunch boxes as they can be a choking hazard, but also because of potential allergies.

Also if you include grapes in their lunches, please can you cut them in half because whole they can also be a choking hazard.

The school meal menu can be found here

www.johngaunt.norfolk.sch.uk/parents/carers/school-meals/

Finally please remember to name lunch boxes, drink bottles and any containers.

Breakfast and Tea Club

At John Bear's Nursery we also run a breakfast and tea club which is proving to be both useful to parents and popular with the children. It is available to all children from the nursery and John of Gaunt School.

Breakfast Club starts at 7.30am through to 9.00am with a range of breakfast foods on offer. The children from John of Gaunt are accompanied down to school for the start of their school day.

Tea Club 1 starts as soon as nursery and school finishes and again the children from school are accompanied up to the Nursery by an adult. There is a small snack available for all the children at about 3.30pm.

Tea Club 2 starts at 4.30pm and runs through until 6.00pm. There is a more substantial snack at about 5.00pm. Children joining us at the end of after school clubs are again accompanied by an adult up to the Nursery.

Open Event at John of Gaunt School

On Friday 8th November there is an Open Event at John of Gaunt. From 9.45am until 10.15am there is an opportunity to see the school in action with an informal tour. There is then a formal open evening from 5.30pm until 6.30pm with curriculum taster activities for prospective pupils and parents, which also includes a talk by the Head of School at 6.00pm.

Gates

Please note that the gates will all be open everyday until 9.15 am to allow parents to go out towards Norwich Road or come back through to Hungate Street. However, nursery afternoon parents you will need to access the nursery only from the Norwich Road side as the gates will be locked to ensure the safety of our main school children. These will then be opened again just before 3.00 pm. Please feel able to come and remind us though as we sometimes forget.

In the Air

On Tuesday 23rd October we are holding a holiday club activity day at John Bear's Nursery based on the theme of 'In the Air'. We will be exploring a range of STEM activities like kite making, parachutes and balloon tennis.

9am –12pm cost £10

12pm –3pm cost £10

Or stay all day from 9am-3pm cost £18

It is available for all children from Nursery to Year 2

See Mrs Nutt in the office for more details

Nursery and School Photos

Individual photos will be taken on Friday 9th November by Tempest. We will walk the children down to John Bear's room and all the children who attend either session that day will have their photo taken. Any children who don't usually come to nursery on a Friday are welcome to make their own way to John Bear's room for 9.00.

There will also be an opportunity for any of the children with siblings in the main school to have their photos taken together.

As in previous years, the company are happy to stay after school, for you to pop along to have photos taken of your children and their siblings from other schools or younger siblings too. Please could you see Mrs Lord in the office to put your name on the list. There will be no formal booking system and on the evening it will be a queue and wait system to have photos taken.

On the day you should receive a proof of your child's photo in their book bag ready for ordering.

Spare Clothes and Wellies

Thank you for bringing in a pair of wellies for your child to use as outdoor shoes. They are all becoming increasingly independent about changing them.

We have been very lucky with the weather so far but as we encourage the children to explore outside in most weathers, please can you make sure that your child comes with appropriate clothes for going outside.

We also require all the children to have a spare set of clothes in a small bag on their peg which will need to be replenished when used, and again appropriate for the time of year.

Please can you name all items of clothing and footwear.

Reminders

* John of Gaunt, including the Nursery and the new car park, is a non smoking site and this includes vaping

* As you are aware there is not a lot of room in our entrance way so please can you continue to leave buggies and car seats outside, in the covered area.

* Please check your child's book bag regularly as there may well be letters in there for you. Also, feel free to change their book with them as often as possible.

For further updates then please see the John Bear's Nursery Facebook page.