



Newsletter

Issue 3 Spring 2019

Welcome

Welcome to our new term in John Bears Nursery, and a special welcome to our new families joining us. We are very pleased by how well the children are settling into our Nursery routine. 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. We hope that everyone feels part of our Nursery community, and we want you to feel free to come in and talk to us if you do have any concerns or worries. If we know about something then we can help to sort it out before it becomes an issue.

Dates for your Diary

Term time only children

15.02.19 Nursery finishes for half term holiday

25.02.19 Nursery term re-starts

05.04.19 Nursery finishes for Easter holidays

23.04.19 Nursery Summer term starts

All year round children

Nursery remains open apart from bank holidays and Christmas holidays

Planning In the Moment

Since September we have adopted a new way of working in the Nursery called 'planning in the moment', based on the work of Anna Ephgrave.

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.

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.

Spare Clothes and Wellies

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

We encourage the children to explore outside in most weathers so please can you make sure that your child comes with appropriate clothes for going outside in this cold weather including a warm coat, hat and gloves.

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. As you may have noticed our peg areas are now very crowded so ideally a small drawstring bag would help with this. Please can you name all items of clothing and footwear.

Lunches

Lunches are now a very busy time in Nursery! Please can you ensure your child's lunch box is named on the outside to help our staff and that all drinks bottles and other containers are named too.

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. If you include grapes in their lunches, please can you cut them in half because whole they can also be a choking hazard. We are part of a healthy eating school so please do not include any sweets, chocolate bars, fizzy drinks etc. Please also provide a spoon to go with yoghurts.

When booking hot dinners in advance, via Mrs Nutt, please remember to specify which option your child would like. The school meal menu can be found here www.johngaunt.norfolk.sch.uk/parentscarers/school-meals/

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.

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

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.
- * Please remember that if your child has suffered from diarrhoea or vomiting they need to stay away from the nursery for 48 hours after they last showed any symptoms.
- * Please can we ask you not to use your mobile phone whilst in the Nursery building.

Parking

Just a reminder that the nursery car park is for the use of parents with children at John Bear's Nursery. Many of our parents have younger babies so are managing car seats, pushchairs or toddlers, and we ask that you be considerate of that when choosing where to park. **Please park in the allocated spaces only** and not along the nursery entrance road. The car park at the Jubilee Family Centre is usually available for parking too. Please can you remind your children that no scooters or bikes should be ridden inside the school gates. For reasons of safety, this includes the paths in the nursery car park too.

Books

We love reading and sharing books in Nursery. Please see our separate letter coming soon about borrowing books and our story sack library.

Tesco Tokens

We have been selected in January and into February to be one of the token charities at Tesco. The money that we receive from Tesco will be used this time to update some of our old furniture in the nursery, buy a new wooden garage and hopefully buy some lovely large blocks for the children to play with outside. We can only buy all of this if we win the maximum amount of money from the scheme. Please ask all your family and friends who shop in Tesco to pop their blue tokens in the John Bears Nursery slot so that we can win the biggest prize!

Nappies

If your child is in nappies, please can you send in sufficient nappies, a named pack of wipes and nappy sacs to be used during the sessions. Please remember to check and replenish stocks regularly.

Diaries

Don't forget we love to hear your news or any 'wow' moments from home via your diary.

Donations

We currently need some items to develop different areas in the Nursery. If you have any of the items below that are old or not needed anymore then we would make very good use of them.

- Kitchen roll inner cardboard tubes or wrapping paper cardboard tubes
- Old picture frames big/medium/small (without the glass or back part)
- Kitchen items such as: hand whisks, large metal or wooden spoons, potato masher, garlic press, sieves or colanders, cupcake tins, funnels, measuring scales, pestle and mortar, wooden bowls.
- Tree stumps
- Wooden cable reels of any size
- Bread crates
- Traffic cones
- Feathers
- Guttering

A big thank you for the generous donations we have already received of tyres, tree stumps and gravel.

Helping in Nursery

Do you have a particular interest, skill or job that you could come and share or help us with in Nursery? We love having visitors and learning new skills or finding out about different roles. Please do speak to a member of staff if this is something you may be able to help us with.