

Welcome to John Bear's Nursery. If your child is starting with us for the first time then we hope that they will have a wonderful time here with us, and if your child is already with us at the nursery, then welcome back.

We have put together a list of things that are important for you to know. Some will be new to you, some of them you will already be aware of, but even for returning families, things have changed a little.

😊 A member of staff will welcome your child either at the main entrance if they are in Panda Bear room or at the side gate if they are in Polar Bear room. We understand that this may well be difficult during their first few days but we will do all we can to support you and your child to settle in or return to nursery. If your child is coming to Breakfast Club then please come to the main door.

😊 We are pleased to be able to welcome you back into the nursery to collect your child at the end of their session.

* If your child is leaving at 12.00 then you will be invited in through the front door to Panda Bear classroom to collect them.

*If your child is leaving at 3.00 then you will be invited into their room to collect them through the same entrance you used to drop them off. That means if your child is in Panda Bear then you be let in through the front door, and if your child is in Polar Bear you will be let in through the gate to the side of the nursery.

*If your child is staying to Tea Club then please come to the front door.

😊 If your child is not going to be in nursery for their usual session then please leave a message on the answer machine or call Claire Nutt on 01263 734028 before 9.30am.

😊 Your child will need to bring in a small bag, a drawstring one would be ideal, with complete sets of spare clothes in (including socks please!) to leave on their peg. Please make sure the clothes are appropriate for the weather and named.

😊 If your child is still in nappies, please can you bring in a weekly supply of nappies and wipes which we will keep in a basket by the changing table.

😊 Please can you make sure your child is wearing sensible clothes and footwear so that they can climb and play comfortably and safely. They will also need clothes which are appropriate for the weather, and all the activities we have on offer at nursery.

😊 The children will be sharing the 'muddy puddle' over trousers and jackets again for outside play. Please bring in a named set for your own child, if you would prefer them not to use the communal ones.

😊 Your child will need a named pair of wellies to keep at nursery as they will change into them every time they go outside to play.

😊 It is therefore really important that they wear shoes that they can get on and off independently if possible. This means no laces unless of course they can manage to tie them themselves. The adults will support them especially in their first days, but we would rather be supporting your child's learning across all areas, rather than teaching them how to put their shoes on. If it is something they find challenging then perhaps it could be a task you can work on together at home.

😊 All children will need to bring a packed lunch in a named lunchbox or lunch bag. This includes children who are starting at 12.00. All children will also need a named water bottle with water in, not juice. Milk will be available at snack times when they will also be provided with some fruit. We know that children can have quite challenging likes and dislikes when it comes to food but we do ask that you try to provide as healthy a lunch as possible. We ask that their lunches do not contain any sweets, limited amounts of chocolate and no fizzy drinks. Please could you provide any cutlery they need for yoghurts etc and can you cut grapes in half so that they are not a choking hazard.

😊 We ask that children do not bring in any toys from home. Ideally we would ask for no soft toys or comforters from home too but we understand that the children may need something special to help them settle in the first few weeks. If your child does need a soft toy or comforter then they need to be smallish in size so that can fit in their bag when not being used...and named.

😊 All children are allocated a key worker who will manage their online learning journey and meet with parents termly. But at John Bear's Nursery all the staff will care for, observe, interact and teach each child.

😊 Your child should already have received a book bag. They will be able to choose books regularly to take home. We will also use them to send any pictures or anything they have made home to you, so if they could bring them in every day we would be grateful. There will be a box for the book bag to go in as they come into nursery.

😊 Every term your child will have a focus week. During this week all the practitioners will make focused observations of your child during their play and exploration. These will be recorded to create an in-depth picture of your child's current interests, skills, knowledge and progress. It also allows us to identify any areas they may need further support in. Your child's key worker will then arrange a time to discuss what we have observed and answer any questions you may have in a way that is mutually convenient.

😊 The office will remain closed in a morning so If you have any concerns or questions first thing then please feel free to phone on 01263 734028, or email either Claire Nutt, our administrator, on office@johnbearsnursery.org.uk or Stephanie Firth, the Nursery Manager, on manager@johnbearsnursery.org.uk and we will do our best to answer as soon as we can.