



6 Guntons Road, Newborough  
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enquiries@thetteddybearsinn.co.uk

Dear Parents,

We hope you are enjoying all the half terms and bank holidays. Touch wood we have been fairly lucky with the weather, but I would still give the same advice that we might need wellies and coats or sun hats and sun cream, so feel free to leave spares here.

### School leavers

If your child is going to school this September, please could you email in the school's name and contact details so we can touch base with them regarding their developments and anything that is likely to help your child's transition. Likewise, if you have any concerns or questions you feel we could help you with, then please feel free to ask one of the pre-school team, Bryn or Michelle for advice. If you have not got a school place or aren't planning to send your child to school, you will need to apply to the local authority school administrators directly.

We have already had two schoolteachers in, one from William Law and the other from our local school, Newborough. They echo the messages we try and send out at this time through START (please see attached booklet and information can be found [here](#)). These are to concentrate on confidence, independence and speaking out when they need to. In our last annual monitoring visit all these skills were praised in our setting.

If, like a lot of parents, you want to help your child with some of the more academic side of the EYFS, then please remember to ask advice before teaching letters or numbers. We are currently finding a lot of children are being taught the alphabet and letter names which in turn makes it harder for staff to introduce phonics (letter sounds). We will be sending a small report on each school leaver, but we will share this with you first.



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Recently, a couple of parents have inquired as to if they need to take their children to a pre-school before school. The short answer is no: we use the same EYFS curriculum as any pre-school and the reception class your child will enter at school. Also, we have two fully qualified teachers: Michelle, an EYPS/ Early Years teacher, and Siobhan, who worked at Northborough primary school. In addition to this, Bryn holds an undergraduate degree in Early Years and has enrolled to complete his post graduate degree. We have a combined team with nearly 60 years of early years childcare experience between us in the pre-school. Also, Maxine is extremely experienced in childcare and has deputised a pre-school setting for a number of years.

We hope this helps a little to answer your questions.

### **Recent Local Authority monitoring visit**

We have recently had an annual monitoring visit from our early years local authority team.

They were delighted with what they saw. They commented that they had never witnessed such a high level of self-care and independence skills. They also commented they would have loved to stay and enjoy Linda's homemade ratatouille and rice.

As always, they provide us with areas of development which this time was to provide more inside climbing opportunities in the lower nursery. So we are investing in a community play activity gym and some small platforms to encourage climbing in the areas they are allowed. Although I'm sure they won't find this as entertaining as climbing where they shouldn't be.

### **News from lower nursery**

We are getting our little ones ready to move up for the summer: Toddlers for moving up into the pre-school, and babies moving into the toddler room. Please ensure that we have summer hats and sun cream for those hotter days. We are doing lots of singing and stories to help aid communication and language.

Pauline, Lucy and team

### News from pre school

We have been busy looking at the book 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen.

We have made tuff trays to explore the different stages of the book and the textures involved on each page.



[Here](#) is a wonderful video you can watch with your child where Michael performs his story.



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The children are being encouraged to label their own drawing using their name cards, we are working lots in the mark making areas (drawing and writing) both inside and out. We are looking at what the marks the children are making and what they want them to represent. For example, are they drawing a car or a flower? We have linked this into looking after our environment i.e. using the whole all the paper using scrap paper to chop. I'm sure you parents would appreciate one or two detailed pictures rather than a tray of paper with one or two marks on.

Please could we also have sun hats and sun cream brought in on those hot days, thank you.

### Parents evening

We are trying to get back to normal after the pandemic and so we would like to introduce some form of parent's meetings. These would be either formal or informal gatherings to talk through the setting's ethos and any feedback you may wish to give. Please email us or tell us your thoughts and feelings around this subject.

As always, we are happy to meet with you at an arranged time regarding an issue or just a key person catch-up. We also offer an open-door policy, as long as this doesn't take staff away from the children. You are still welcome to contact us for any urgent issues out of hours (weekdays before 07:30 or after 18:00 or weekends) on 07889157703.

We hope you are enjoying coming into the setting more; we are really pleased to see people have been flexible in their approach to this and acknowledged what their children need during this time.

Just to be clear, you are welcome to come in to drop off and pick up your child. I have been watching closely how this has worked, and based on these observations, I would like to encourage lower nursery parents to go right into the toddler or baby room and not just stand at the gate, as it tends to make the children become unsettled. If you are in a rush, I am always happy to take your child at the door, but we are tending to get a queue forming at the toddler room gate which prevents parents who want to drop off coming in and it is a little scary for the very little ones.



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Please just come in hang up your child's bag, pass on messages and if you want to settle your child a little, please do so, but keep the gate clear for others to get out without being held up as we need it to be a relaxing time for the children to settle. Also, please ensure you stay out of bathroom and toilet areas as we can't be sure your child is the only one in there and use a calming, quiet voice in the children's areas.