



Spring Newsletter 2013

Garretts Green Nursery School

15th March 2013

Enhanced Provision

You may be aware that since September 2012 we have been running an enhanced provision for children with autism which has been extremely successful. These Children often find the large spaces of classrooms and play areas stressful and may become distressed as a result of the noise and movement. Our provision has allowed them to make good progress in a secure environment with teaching approaches that suit them, whilst still having access in short sessions to the full provision in Nursery.

From April 2013 we will be designated as a 'higher needs provider' and will be able to support the needs of up to six additional children. This will not affect the support given to the children we have currently. It is a very exciting time for us and is an acknowledgement of the expertise that has developed over the last few years. If you would like any additional information about autism and its affects on young children please complete the slip provided and we will offer information sessions in school.



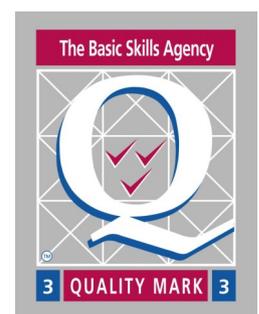
Quality Mark

In February, we had our Quality Mark Renewal visit. This was to explore the developments that we have made over the last two years and to determine whether we are still eligible for the Award. The visit went well and we are delighted to say that we were given our third Quality Mark Award. The Report is attached for you to see the work we have done.

Family Workshop

The Family Workshop was extremely well attended and the children really enjoyed working with their Mums and other family members. We hope you found the information and the booklet useful but if you have any questions that you would like us to answer please ask a member of staff. A short evaluation questionnaire will be sent out soon. It would be really helpful if you could complete and return it to us so that we can plan for further workshops.

Thank you, again.



Safeguarding

IMPORTANT NOTICE

We always strive to ensure that your children are kept safe and that the site is secure. This requires your support. Your child may not be safe if the gate is not closed when you enter and leave.

Morning security

- We lock the outer gate when every parent has left. Please try to hand over your child and leave as quickly as possible to ensure that we can lock the gates behind you.
- The door will be closed at 8.35am and again at 9.05am promptly.
- If the door is closed, please go the main Horrell Road entrance so that your child is registered. This is vitally important as we need to know who is in the building at all times.

Please do not ask a member of staff or another parent to let you in the red door.

Afternoon security

- As for the morning session, the door will be closed promptly five minutes after entry at 12.35pm.
- Again, please may we ask you to leave as quickly as possible so that we can close the outer gate and lock it securely.
- If your child is collected at 3.00pm he or she will be ready to be collected from the main red door.
- If you arrive after 3.00pm your child may be collected from the office. This is for the security of all the children.
- Children who are collected at 3.30pm will be handed to parents and all doors will be closed for the safety of staff on site.
- We always ensure that a member of staff, usually Lesley, is at the red door to let you in and to close the door for security.
- We also ensure that staff monitor the back doors when children are leaving.
- Staff also sit with the children to ensure that no child slips out with an unfamiliar adult.

Our security arrangements are well-established and effective but we do rely on your support too. Unfortunately, we do not have the staff to stand at the outer gate but as the children leave we pass them to your care. Therefore, please ensure that the gate is always closed behind you and that your child is always within your sight.

Thank you.

May we also apologise for the delay in opening the gates at certain times. We have put systems in place to ensure that the gates are locked and unlocked appropriately but we are sometimes delayed by telephone calls or meetings. Please accept our apologies.



Parent Consultation Evening

There will be a Parents' Consultation evening on Monday 25th March for parents who cannot attend during the day. Details of daytime sessions have been sent out to you. Please make sure that you sign the appointment sheets in the corridor so that you can discuss your child's progress.



Sheldon Country Park

We will be visiting Sheldon Country Park on Friday 22nd March. These sessions are very short but allow us to show the children the animals and explain how they are cared for and about the environment that they inhabit. Full details will follow, but may we remind you that Nursery is closed that day and we ask you to bring the children to us at the farm. A register will be taken and ratios for supporting children will be high. On this occasion we ask you to leave the children with staff for an hour and collect them from us at the farm. We hope to arrange a picnic for all children and parents in the summer.

Thank you.

World Book Day was celebrated on 7th March and the children ...and the staff...all looked wonderful.

Thank you for joining in with the fun.

Attendance

May we remind you that if your child is absent we must record that absence with a reason. If your child is ill or absent please could you telephone the Nursery on the first day of the absence and then subsequently a few days later if the absence is for a long period. In cases elsewhere, absence has been an indication that there has been a cause for concern and whilst we are sure that this does not apply to parents here, currently Birmingham is working hard to improve safeguarding and we are expected to explore all absences. The majority of our absences, however, are reported to us by parents immediately.

Thank you for your support in this matter.





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We're on the web!

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' Working together for Children and Families'

Activities

The children really enjoyed seeing the animals before the last half term holiday. There were animals linked to Chinese New Year and the children were able to handle them and learn about how to look after them. There will be an Easter Zoo visit by the same company soon. If the weather is good there will be pens outside and you will be able to see the animals with the children.

Easter is only a few weeks away and there will be activities in school and home tasks if you would like to take part. Children will have an Easter egg hunt, make Easter baskets and cards. If you would like to join in and make things at home we ask you to make an Easter garden in a tray or an Easter bonnet, or both, if you wish. We will then have an Easter parade around the outside of the grounds and certificates will be given to all those who make something at home.



And finally.....

A reminder... Sam and Gaynor are available for Family Support sessions where they are able to offer advice on a range of subjects that may concern you. Speak to a member of staff if you would like to make an appointment to see either Gaynor or Sam.

Unfortunately, Forest School sessions have been severely affected by the bad weather. The snow was so deep that it was impossible to manage the steps safely and the ground was soaked before and after the snow. This is the first time that Forest School has been so badly affected and we hope that we will be able to continue soon.

We will keep you updated!



We wish you a very happy Easter from all of the Staff