

23rd May 2013



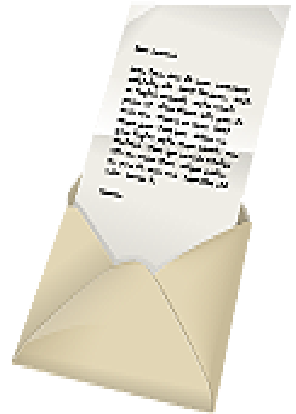
Dear Parents,

May I offer my sincere apologies for any inconvenience that has been caused by the changes to dates about which you may have been unaware.

This year, we decided that we should give parents plenty of notice about events and we planned dates for the year well in advance, during the summer term last year.

Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, it has been necessary to re-arrange some of these events due to circumstances which have been generally beyond our control.

In March, a revised list of dates was printed and placed in the children's drawers. We know that this did happen as most parents were aware of the changes. Unfortunately, some of our parents did not receive the letter and this has been an oversight on our part for which I am extremely sorry. I must admit to having no explanation for what may have happened but some parents had letters and others did not. All the staff really appreciate your involvement and we would not wish to prevent any of you from attending workshops and other events. Please accept my apologies. If any parents missed the workshop as a result of this, please let me know and we will offer another session after the half-term holiday.



New Staff

We are pleased that we were able to appoint two additional members of staff recently.

To support children in our Resource Base, Diane Hewitt-O'Toole will be working alongside Gaynor and Sam from September. Diane is currently supporting a child in Nursery and is extremely caring and dedicated to offering the very best care for the children. We are pleased that Diane has joined the team.

Debbie Bushell joined us on Monday 20th May. Debbie has been working for a long time at Oaklands Park Nursery and has a wealth of experience and expertise, particularly in supporting language development. We are lucky that Debbie has joined us.

On Thursday this week, we will be interviewing for an Assistant Head Teacher. The post has been vacant for some time and the appointment will complete our staff team. I look forward to being able to introduce our new Assistant Head Teacher to you.

Special points of interest:

- Forest School
- New Staff
- Primary School
- Reports

Forest School



We have had some questions about Forest School. In the autumn term I spoke to a number of parents and explained how we tried to continue sessions all through the year. This, unfortunately, has been impossible this year. The Forest School is extremely low-lying and is situated alongside a culvert. During the weeks and weeks of rain in the autumn and at the start of the winter the ground became completely saturated and has never dried out. The steps that the children would have to use to get into the Forest School became extremely slippery as a result of the excessive amounts of mud and this made the area unsafe for use. This has not happened previously but we attempted to maintain access by using a thick layer of bark chippings to soak up the standing water and this also failed.

We also require high ratios of staffing in the Forest School, although this is not mandatory, to ensure safety when using tools and equipment and the staff have to be highly trained and possess a Forest School Leader qualification. When Eleanor left, this meant that we had insufficient qualified Forest School staff to light fires and use tools. We have always been well-staffed in Nursery but to carry on our Forest School activities we would insist that we had additional staff to ensure safety.

Fortunately, we have a new member of staff, Debbie Bushell, and we are delighted to be able to start Forest School sessions again after half-term. (Weather permitting)!

During this time, we have continued to offer Forest School sessions in the area at the front of the school which is our designated alternative site. The children have undertaken the majority of activities that they would have done but have clearly not been able to light a fire, which we hope to do shortly.

**Forest School
saturated!
Unsafe for use!**

Sun Protection

We hope that the weather will soon begin to warm up after what seems like a never-ending winter. We have had a few warm days and have supplied children with sunhats when it has been necessary. After the half-term holiday you may wish to send in a sunhat and sun-screen for your child. Please make sure that hats are named because the children tend to take them off and leave them outside when they come in and it can be difficult to find the owners! If you would like us to help your child to put on sun screen please give the **named** cream to your child's Key Worker. We will help your child but please encourage him or her to rub the cream in themselves.

Please may we remind you, that even in very hot weather, your child should continue to wear sensible shoes, not flip-flops or open sandals as the bikes are very heavy and bare toes get damaged easily!



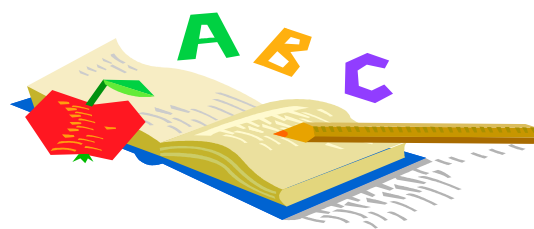
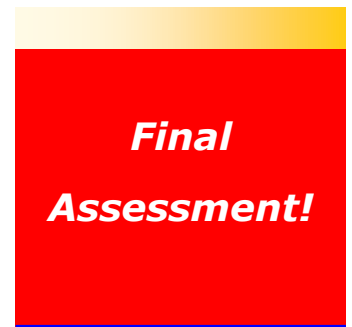
Primary School

During the next half term, the children will be invited to their Primary School to play, have a story and possibly also to have lunch. Please try to attend these sessions as they make a big difference to how your child settles in September. We will also be talking about the schools and there will be displays of photographs to support the children. We may also take individual children to visit the school if there are no others attending from Garretts Green Nursery School. Many of the local schools also visit us here to meet the children and to discuss ways they can help to make the transition smooth. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to a member of staff who will be pleased to help. As soon as we hear of dates for visits we will inform you but the schools will also contact you directly.



Reports

We are currently completing our final assessments prior to writing your child's Transfer Document or Report. The documents are generally full and provide you with comprehensive information about your child's progress and attainment this year which we know you will enjoy reading. We do not offer a Parents' Consultation at the end of the year as the report tells you a great deal but for any parents who wish to discuss the report with the teacher, there will be opportunity to do so by appointment.



**Please check your child's drawer regularly
for up-dated information.**

We will print reminders for the events that are planned for the next half term. These include workshops, a party and a trip to Sheldon Country Park as well as a closure for the Induction Meeting for new children and their parents.

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We're on the web

www.garrettsgreen.org.uk

'Working together for Children and Families'

Uniform

At the end of the year, if you have no younger children to pass uniform on to, we would be grateful for any items that you no longer need, should you wish to donate them.

We always require pants and socks, skirts, trousers and Wellies.

Thank you.



Thank you to you all for your on-going support throughout this busy year!