



January Newsletter 2016

Garretts Green Nursery School

Dear Parents,

January 2016

Happy New Year to you all. We all hope that 2016 is a good year!

Thank you for your gifts and good wishes.

The children came back into school eager to tell us about their Christmas presents and about your celebrations. It is a real pleasure to see how happy and settled they are and how much their confidence is growing. Thank you for everything you do to support us .

We hope that you have heard about The Elf! Unfortunately, when Santa visited the Nursery before Christmas, one of his elves fell off the sleigh and has been left behind! The children are thinking about how this may have happened and about how they can help him to get back! I'm sure you will hear more over the next week as they try to build a rocket to send him home.

There will be lots of work on being kind and helpful and work on feelings as well as opportunities for early writing and mathematics. This is a lovely way to explore so many issues. Please join in by talking about The Elf at home. Thank you.

Rights Respecting Schools

Several years ago, UNICEF developed the Rights of the Child Convention. This has been adopted by every country in the world except for the USA as it would require a change to their Constitution.



In order to ensure a greater understanding of the Convention, UNICEF have developed materials for schools to use to explore the rights of the child. The Rights Respecting Schools Award acknowledges the school's work on respect for a child's wishes and feelings and we are in the first group of Nursery Schools world-wide to apply for the award.

Birmingham City Council is also promoting this as a way of extending children's resilience in the face of an ever-changing world where child trafficking, forced marriage and extremism are facts of life.

Emma Jarman and I are leading this in Nursery and we have completed a staff questionnaire which has highlighted our next steps. We know that we need to:

- ◆ Develop our own Charter - how the Rights are explored in school,
- ◆ Include Rights of the Child in our policies,
- ◆ Explore global issues in our work with the children.



We will therefore be looking at ways to do this in the classroom and we aim to offer some additional work around global warming and its effects on polar regions in our next theme on Polar Bears and Penguins. We will also be planning a World Arts project after Easter.

The child-friendly version of the Rights of the Child is attached and if you would like any further information please don't hesitate to ask either Emma or myself or any member of staff.

We will keep you up-to-date as new information is available.

Assessments

Over the next week or two, you will receive a copy of your child's assessment information which was completed just before Christmas.

At this point in the school year, we would hope that the majority of the children would be attaining band 30-50 months/2. However, there are numerous reasons why your child may not be there yet.

- ◆ Age often plays a part, and as our cohort has about 60% of the children with a summer birthday, this is likely to affect attainment,
- ◆ Children sometimes make sudden bursts of progress and catch up later on in the year,
- ◆ Occasionally, there may be a specific area which may need a little extra help.

We will be offering some additional group work to some of the children over the next weeks and you will be asked for your permission to include your child in the groups, if we feel that this would be a benefit. There will be a Language Group and 'Rainbows', which offers lovely activities to develop self-confidence.

Our next Parental Consultations are in March so if you have any concerns about the information we share with you, please speak to your child's Key Worker who will be happy to discuss your questions. Thank you.

Parent Governor Appointment

I am very pleased to announce that we have been able to appoint a new Parent Governor to the school's Governing Body.

Zoie Robbins has been appointed and her term of office runs for two years.

This is a very responsible role which supports strategic development of the school. Parent Governors attend Governing Body meetings termly and represent the interests of all children in school with a strong focus on school improvement (standards), safeguarding and financial aspects of school life. Zoie will be joining us at the next meeting on Tuesday 8th March 2016.

Congratulations, Zoie! I look forward to working with you.

Details of our Governing Body membership are on the school's website.

Dates for your diary

Last week, a list of dates for events over the next few weeks was put into every child's drawer. Please let us know if you have not had this letter. (We are aware that sometimes the children take letters from each others drawers!) There are spare copies in the corridor.

There are a number of events which are offered to parents which we hope you will be able to attend but we do understand that working parents often find it difficult to arrange leave. All our workshops are open to any member of the child's family (even specific events such as Grandparents' Day) so if you are unable to attend and would like another adult to come along we will make everyone welcome. (One adult per child, please)

Our first workshop is a **Mathematics Family Workshop on Tuesday 2nd February**. We will provide further details nearer to the event but this is an opportunity for you to see what your child does in school and how we teach some basic skills. We will also provide every parent with a booklet of ideas for helping your child at home along with a Mathematic Pack containing resources you may need.

Umberslade Farm Trip: 22nd March

In the weeks leading up to the Easter break, we will be learning about new life. This will involve looking at how chicks hatch from eggs (the eggs are due to arrive in school on Monday 14th March.)

We have also arranged a trip to Umberslade Farm on Tuesday 22nd March. This is an educational trip and the school will fund the cost of transport and entry to the farm. It is expected that all children will take part and the school will be closed for the day.

Children should come to school for a full day from 8.25am until 3.00pm that day. We will depart at about 9.15 am and return before 3.00pm. Children will require a packed lunch and must wear wellies.

Further details will follow.

Thank you.



Punctuality

Once again, may I thank you for bringing your children to school on time. It is hugely important that children do not miss the start of the session and that their late arrival does not disrupt the learning of the rest of the group.

Start of session

Morning: 8.25am

Afternoon: 12.25pm (12.55pm on Wednesday)

Please note the end of session times:

End of session

Morning: 11.30am (11.05am on Wednesday)

Afternoon: 3.00pm or 3.30pm

Gates will be locked promptly immediately after entry. This is for the safety of your children.

If you arrive late, please go to the main door in Horrell Road so that your child is registered.

Thank you.

We understand that your child may occasionally need a little extra support if, for example, they are reluctant to leave you. You are always welcome in Nursery but staying sometimes makes the parting more difficult. May we suggest that, now that the children are generally settled, you leave them with a member of staff as quickly as possible.

This allows staff to settle the child without disrupting others. Please may we politely request that you leave the building promptly so that we may lock the gates to keep them safe as soon as the children are in school.

Absence

If your child is absent please remember to let us know why they are not in school. If your child is absent for more than a day or two please keep us up-to-date. Thank you.



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We're on the web!

www.garrettsgreen.org.uk

*' Working together for
Children and Families'*

Snow or bad weather

Please listen to BRMB or other local radio stations in the event of severe weather which may close school.

Radio stations have a regularly updated website when bad weather strikes.

We will also send a text if possible.

And finally....

Happy New Year to all our children, parents and families.

Lesley Martin and the Nursery Staff Team

Christmas events

We were pleased to see so many parents at the various events we offered before Christmas and an Evaluation is attached. We really need your views as this helps us to plan for future events. Please would you complete the Evaluation and return it to your child's Key Worker by Friday 15th January. Thank you.

'Visitors'

We have a reported case of head lice in school. This is extremely common and can be transferred from one head to another even by walking past someone in the street who has head lice. It takes several days for the eggs (nits) to develop into lice and it is important that if you find either eggs or lice the treatment begins immediately.

Strong medications are no longer advised due to resistance but conditioner should be applied liberally and every egg combed out. It is likely that this will need to be repeated over several days until all eggs are cleared from the hair. Children do not need to be kept at home.

If your child does have head lice please inform us so that we can let other parents know that they need to check their child's hair.

Cold weather

We may soon be facing the first really cold weather of the winter. Please make sure that your child has a hat and scarf in school. The children go out to play every day and they will need warm clothes.

Please name all items of clothing including coats, hats and scarves.

Thank you.

Homework

Your child often brings home information about tasks to complete - their homework. We really appreciate your support and we know that this makes a huge impact on children's learning.

We will also be sending home , 'Fun to Learn' , a pack of activities which are designed to be completed over time. The first task is to make a special box, a treasure box.

We hope that you enjoy the activities.
Children will also be bringing home their chosen story book.

Details to follow about further activities.