



Christmas Newsletter 2015

Garretts Green Nursery School

December 2015

Dear Parents,

Thank you all for the support you have given us during the Autumn Term. We understand how hard it can be to place your trust in us to look after your children but the children have all settled well and are happy to come to Nursery. You have prepared them well and have supported us too. Thank you.

This is a lovely time in school with so many Christmas events for the children to enjoy. We know that many of you have joined us for the Christmas Fair and for the Nativity. Next week we will be visiting St. Giles Church on Thursday and we hope that you will all come along and sing some songs and ring the church bells with us.

It is our Snowdome trip on Friday and we are all looking forward to this, our last Christmas event before Christmas.

Please note: Nursery is closed on both Thursday and Friday

Christmas Fair

Thank you to all of you who came to the Christmas Fair on what turned out to be a wet and windy day.

Father Christmas was very busy, chatting to over seventy children in his grotto. We know that you are now all going to need plenty of money to buy the gifts that the children told Father Christmas about so we must thank you all for your very generous donations of gifts and goods for the Fair and for helping us to raise over **£690** at the Fair and through Christmas events.



Thank you!

Guess the Weight of the Cake

The Christmas cake weighs **4lb 6oz**

The guess closest to this was by P.Daniels (4lb 8oz)



How many Sweets in the Jar?

There are **836** sweets in the jar.

The closest guess was by K.Martin (802)

Christmas Fair Raffle

Please check your tickets!
The following tickets have been drawn:

1st Prize: A.Powell (6)
Voucher

2nd Prize: J.Reading (132)
Champagne

3rd Prize: L.Hamid (79)
Vodka

4th Prize: P.Daniels (87)
Boots Sanctuary Hamper

5th Prize: L.Hamid (101)
Dulux dog

6th Prize: G.Cooke (3)
Rudolf toy and sweets

7th Prize: J.Gray (63)
Haribo Hamper

8th Prize: Georgia (71)
Teddy Bear

9th Prize: A.Powell (7) Jelly Babies

10th Prize: A.Powell (8)
Children's Teaset

Christmas Party

Our Christmas Party is on Tuesday 15th December.

We will provide party food and drinks.

There is an entertainer, Roy the Magician, and we expect a visit from Santa.

Children may wear **warm** party clothes but will need to wear their usual shoes and coats as we will be going outside.



Assessments

Staff have been completing their end of term assessments and when we return to school after the holiday we will provide you with details of the progress that your child has made.

If you have any concerns or would like to discuss your child's progress with their Key Worker please speak to the member of staff concerned.

Sometimes, we feel that a child may benefit from a little additional support and we will be asking you for your permission to include your child in a small group to develop their confidence or language skills.

Thank you.



School Uniform

It can be extremely difficult to make sure that your child always has his or her own coat when all the coats are identical (the same applies to jumpers, etc). Many of the children are also wearing hats and scarves and frequently these end up on the floor rather than on their own peg.

This is a plea to all parents to name school uniform items including hats and scarves.

We have had a number of children going home in the wrong coat. Please help us to make sure that everyone has their own clothes by naming coats, jumpers, hats and scarves! Thank you.

Please note that the children play outdoors every day and should have a hat and scarf to keep them warm, if possible please.

Jewellery

We have noticed that some of the children are wearing jewellery in school and this is causing us some concerns.

Children become very upset if they lose personal possessions but wearing jewellery also poses a safety risk.

Our curriculum involves outdoor play where the children ride bikes and use tools and take part in dance and physical activities. It is very easy for rings, bracelets, drop earrings and necklaces or chains to get caught in play equipment which may result in serious injury to the child.

We must therefore ask you to help us to keep the children safe by;

- ◆ **Avoiding earrings altogether or by wearing only small stud earrings,**
- ◆ **Avoiding necklaces unless they are of religious significance,**
- ◆ **Avoiding all rings,**
- ◆ **Avoiding bracelets and bangles**



If you have any questions or concerns regarding this please speak to a member of staff.

Thank you.

Our Garden

We have a problem with drainage from the front lawn during the wet weather and we are sure that you have noticed that the grass is suffering some damage.

We use the front area for Forest School sessions when the rear Forest School area is too boggy. We also use this space for our family picnics, football coaching and water day in the summer and I am concerned that the grass will be damaged beyond repair.

The rain has turned much of the area to mud and this is also very slippery. Please may we ask you to avoid walking across the grass until it dries up a little. May we also ask you to keep children off the grass for their own safety.

Thank you.

Punctuality

Thank you for supporting the school by arriving on time at the start of the sessions. The majority of the children arrive on time each day and join their friends for a short group activity.

I understand that we have a very early start in the morning and that from time to time it can be difficult to hurry your children out so early. However, for the children who arrive on time, it can be very disruptive when others arrive late. Their attention is disturbed and they can become distressed.

Children arriving late miss the learning that begins at the very start of the session. They may miss being chosen as a daily helper and they are not part of the social time which is so important.

Punctuality is also a life skill which is vital as your child moves through school and eventually into the world of work. Good habits start here in early years.

Please help us all by making sure that you arrive on time each day.

Start times

Morning session: 8.25am

Afternoon session: 12.25pm (12.55pm on Wednesday)

End of session

Morning; 11.30am (11.05am on Wednesday)

Afternoon: 3.00pm or 3.30pm

Gates will be locked promptly immediately after entry. If you arrive late please go to the main door in Horrell Road so that your child is registered. Thank you.



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We're on the web!
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*'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....

Thank you again for all your support during this term.

On behalf of the Staff and Governors,

may I wish you a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

We look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 5th January 2016

Lesley Martin and the Nursery Staff Team

St. Giles Church Visit

Please join us at St. Giles Church, (Church Road, B26 3TT) on Thursday 17th December for our Nativity and chance to ring the church bells.

- ◆ **Nursery is closed all day**
- ◆ Meet in the church carpark at **10.00am**
- ◆ Tour the church and hear about the history
- ◆ Inside the church for the Nativity story
- ◆ Climb the spiral stairs to ring the church bells
- ◆ Tea and mince pies in the Church Hall
- ◆ Christmas songs with children and parents



Snowdome Trip

Gates will be open at 9.00am. Please arrive promptly at Nursery no later than **9.10am**.

- ◆ **Nursery sessions will not run today**
- ◆ Please go to usual classrooms
- ◆ Ensure that your child sits in the usual group area
- ◆ We will register children (and take them to the bathroom)
- ◆ Families to be allocated a coach
- ◆ We leave promptly at 9.30am
- ◆ On arrival at the Snowdome a cage will be available for all bags and packed lunches. It is advisable to take as little as possible into the snow area.
- ◆ We spend some time in the snow before Santa's show then a visit to the animal enclosures (indoors)
- ◆ Finally, we make our way to the room where our bags and lunchboxes will be waiting.
- ◆ After lunch we return to the coaches together and aim to be back at Nursery at about 2.30-2.45pm



Please note: the snow is real and is very cold.

Please wear warm clothes and footwear.