

Garretts Green Nursery School

Newsletter

November 2015

Dear Parents,

The next few weeks are very busy but this is a lovely time for the children as we prepare for Christmas. We will be celebrating with a number of events, some which are just for the children but several which are for families too. We hope that you may be able to join us for some of the events over the next few weeks. Details are later in this newsletter.



Attendance and Punctuality

Thank you to you all for letting us know when your child is ill and unable to come to school.

We have to account for every absence and we always follow up non-attendance if we do not hear from you so it is a huge help to us when you contact us. Thank you.

You may not be aware that late arrival is also classed as absence and we are expected to address this because of the impact on learning. When the children arrive in Nursery, there is a focused teaching session which sets the theme for the day. Late arrival, even if it is only by a few minutes, can have a lasting impact on learning which not only affects the child who arrives late but also affects others who are disrupted as late-comers settle in.

If children arrive late, they also miss a great deal socially, the children use the start of the session to chat and share news, staff also choose the children who will be the helpers on that day.

Please may I stress how important it is to be on time. Thank you.

Our sessions start at 8.25am and at 12.25pm. (12.55 on Wednesday)



Keeping children safe

Several parents have complained that the gates are being left open. There is always a member of staff at the door but we are not always able to monitor the gates and rely upon parents to make sure that the gate is always closed as you leave.

Please note, the gate is always locked no more than 10 minutes after our start times and is kept locked throughout the session. Please take children who arrive after this time to the Reception entrance, in Horrell Road, so that they can be marked in the register.



Please help us to keep all our children safe by closing and bolting the gate behind you.

Applications for Primary School places

It is important that all applications for Primary School places for September 2016 should be completed on-line, or by post, no later than

4th December 2015.



Please submit your application as soon as possible. Should you require support to make the on-line application, please don't hesitate to ask.

Tapestry—On-line Learning Journey



Staff carry out on-going assessments through observation of the children at play and you will also be able to contribute to this process, add comments and see what has been observed for your child via an on-line learning journey, Tapestry. To be able to access Tapestry, we will need to set up access using your email address.

If you have not already done so, we will give you a form to provide us with your email address, please return to us as soon as possible. We will advise you,, when you will be able to access the site. Thank you.



Forest School

Forest School sessions continue throughout the winter but the sessions may be slightly shorter if the weather is very cold.

The children wear waterproof clothing over their own coats, please may we ask you to provide a hat for your child. Please ensure that all clothing is named.



On Thursday and Friday this week, there will be no Forest School due to preparations for the Christmas Fair. Next week **Blue & Yellow** Groups will have Forest School on **Wednesday 2nd December** as we are closed on Friday 4th December for staff training. Week beginning 7th December will be as normal. There will be no Forest School during the last week of term.

Christmas Cards

We are selling Christmas cards in packs of six at £2.50 per pack. The cards feature a photograph of your child. Please order your cards this week for collection at the Christmas Fair or during next week..



Proofs of the cards will be available in your child's classroom along with an order form. Please send your orders as soon as possible to allow us time to print them for you.

Thank you.

Christmas Fair— Saturday 28th November 1.00p.m.—3.00p.m.

Thank you for the contributions you have made for the Christmas Fair. We have been overwhelmed by your generous gifts.

This week we are collecting cakes and biscuits. Please only bring bought, wrapped cakes/biscuits at the start of the week. We would appreciate home-made cakes on Friday so that they are still fresh on Saturday.



We will continue to collect any other contributions, including any Christmas decorations, all week.

Thank you, again.

Please come along and join us on Saturday 28th November 1.00p.m.

The doors will be open from 1.00pm and we aim to finish about 3.00pm.



We will be selling cakes, biscuits and refreshments (tea, coffee, chocolate, squash, crisps and biscuits). You can win a Christmas cake by guessing the weight and a jar of sweets by guessing how many are in the jar!

There will be a tombola for bottles and a separate tombola for general gifts.



We have a range of Christmas decorations, candles, tea-lights and other new gifts which will be on sale.

There will be activities for you to enjoy with your child along with face-painting, toys and books for sale

Christmas Party

Our Christmas party is on Tuesday 15th December during the usual Nursery sessions.

We provide food for the children and there will be an excellent magician to entertain the children. The children will also have a present from Santa who will be visiting us during the party.



This is not an event for parents.

Please ensure that your child comes to Nursery dressed in warm clothes and shoes as they will be outside at some point in the party.

St. Giles' Church visit Thursday 17th December 10.00a.m.

The Nativity at St. Giles' Church is a lovely occasion for everyone. We all meet at the Church and learn a little about the history of the ancient building. We then listen to and join in the Christmas story before climbing the bell-tower to ring the church bells. Finally, we have refreshments and songs in the Church Hall.

Nursery is closed for the day and we hope that you will all join us at the Church.

All welcome!



Lamp-light Nativity—5.30—6.30p.m. Tuesday 8th or Wednesday 9th December

We will be holding our Nativity evenings on Tuesday 8th December (Red, Green & Purple Groups) or Wednesday 9th December (Blue, Yellow & Purple Groups) at 5.30pm.

The Nativity is held outdoors, the children carrying lanterns and dressed in costumes of their choice.

We sing songs which the children know to tell the Christmas story and Ann, our musician, accompanies us on the violin. Refreshments are served on entry whilst staff dress the children.

We are only able to offer a limited number of tickets due restricted space so if you would like tickets please return the attached reply slip as soon as possible. Thank you.



Lamp-Light Nativity

Please reserve places at the Lamp-Light Nativity (Maximum 3 places) on either:

Tuesday 8th December at 5.30pm (Red & Green & Purple Groups)

Or

Wednesday 9th December at 5.30pm (Blue, Yellow & Purple Groups)

(Please note that Nursery children will not need a ticket)

Child's name _____ Class _____

Please note that we are unable to offer additional places at this time due to limited space. However, should the situation change at a later date we may be able to offer limited additional places. If you would like us to reserve additional places should they become available, please state this below.

I would like additional places, should there be availability at a later date.

Please return your request slip by Wednesday 2nd December

Snowdome Trip Friday 18th December 2015

Thank you to all of you who are joining us for the trip to the Snowdome on 18th December.

We have booked coaches to arrive at 9.15am. **Please arrive no later than 9.10** so that we can account for everyone. We hope that this gives you all enough time to drop older children at their primary schools before we depart.



Please assemble in your child's classroom and allow staff to take a register of pupils present. It is very important that we have exact numbers for safety purposes. Please encourage your child to sit on the carpet in their group area as they would on a usual day.

Staff will ensure that all children visit the bathroom before we leave. If your child is in pull-ups, please make arrangements for changing during the trip.

When we arrive at the Snowdome, we will be able to place all lunch bags or boxes in a cage which will be taken to the room where we will eat later in the day. This avoids taking bags into the main snowy area. Please do not place valuables or money in lunch bags.

We begin the day with an introduction followed by a session in the snow. This is great fun but it is very cold. The snow is real! Please wrap up warm and wear appropriate footwear, there are sledges and toboggans which the children and parents can use. From here, we move on to a show featuring Santa and then on to the animals enclosure. There are reindeer and many smaller animals.

Finally, we make our way to the room designated for us to eat our lunch. There are several places to eat in the Snowdome if you prefer to buy a meal rather than take a packed lunch but the cost is not included in the price of the trip. There are also places to buy hot drinks and snacks.

We aim to arrive back at Nursery by 2.30pm approximately, which should allow time to travel to schools to collect older children.

Please note that Nursery is closed on this day, 18th December.

Bad Weather

As the weather begins to change to colder conditions we must draw your attention to the possibility of school closures.



In situations where snow is heavy and roads may be dangerous, Birmingham schools occasionally close across the city. In the event that this happens, the announcement will be made early in the morning on local radio stations, Free Radio, Radio WM and Heart FM.

It is more likely that schools will choose to close depending upon local and school conditions. In these situations, we will send a group text and will aim to ensure that an announcement is also made on local radio. Please remember to advise us if you change your telephone number.

Occasionally, we have to close during a session. In the very rare cases of this happening we will contact you directly. We try to avoid closing the Nursery but we realise that this is not always possible and our main concern is always for the safety of the children, families and staff