



# Garretts Green Nursery School and Resource Base **Autumn Newsletter 2015**

Dear Parents,

**5th October 2015**

Thank you for all your support during the Induction sessions before the summer holiday and throughout the last few weeks.

You have done a superb job of preparing your children for the start of their schooling and the majority of them are settled and having fun as they find their way around the building, meet the staff and other children and enjoy the activities. It is a pleasure to see them so happy.

We know that some children find it more difficult to settle in. If this applies to your child please try not to worry - it may sometimes take a little longer for the children to join in but they always settle and enjoy the opportunities if we all work together and persevere. We know that is just as hard for you when your child is distressed so please don't hesitate to talk to us if you are concerned.

May we now ask you to hand over your child as quickly as possible at the start of the session. It is important that parents leave so that the children can get used to the routines. When parents stay in the room it can also distress other children whose parents have left. In addition, we cannot lock the outer gate until parents leave which may become a safety issue for us. Thank you. If you are worried you may telephone to put your mind at rest.

We all hope that the short sessions in the first week were beneficial and we look forward now to seeing your children grow and develop over the coming months.

We will be sending out a short questionnaire about the induction process and how it worked for you and your child.

**Forest School sessions will start this week.** Green Caterpillars & Red Ladybirds will go into the Forest School on Thursdays. Blue butterflies & Yellow Bumblebees will go out every Friday for this term. Please send your child in appropriate clothing and with named wellies for each session. Thank you.



## **Christmas Trip to The Snowdome**

We have booked a Christmas trip to The Snowdome in Tamworth on Friday 18th December.

We all thoroughly enjoyed the trip last Christmas and hope that you will join us this year.

The trip is open to one parent / carer accompanying their Nursery child at a cost of £16.00 per person (£32.00 in total) This covers coach travel to the Snowdome and back to school and the entrance fee. Insurance is also covered. Please see attached sheet for details.

We understand that the cost is quite high but parents last year assured us that it was good value for money.

If we have any spaces available at a later date we will offer them to any families who would like an additional place.

## **School Uniform**

May we apologise for the difficulties you have had with Tesco uniform. This is a new service for us and we had hoped that it would be more effective. We have been informed that the service has been resumed today and deliveries on orders will be made within 21 days.

**PLEASE LABEL YOUR  
CHILD'S UNIFORM WITH  
HIS OR HER NAME.  
THANK YOU.**

## Attendance & Punctuality



We were all very pleased with the attendance of the children across the Nursery during the first few weeks of the autumn term. Thank you.

When children have been unwell parents have phoned school and told us about their child's illness. As I said at the meeting on Day 2, this is extremely important as we have a responsibility to ensure that we know where children are and that they are safe. Thank you for your support

We do appreciate that this is your child's first year in school and that they will be mixing with large numbers of other children who share germs! If your child is ill, the best place to be is at home but please remember to:

- **Phone school on the first day of absence so that we know your child is ill and what the illness is**
- **Let us know if your child has a contagious illness such as chicken pox (it may be necessary to inform parents as some childhood illnesses may be dangerous during pregnancy)**
- **Tell us if your child has a more serious illness such as measles**
- **Keep your child at home until the illness has subsided. There are different guidelines for different illnesses so please ask for advice when you call us**
- **Vomiting and diarrhoea always requires 48 hours at home after the last bout**

## Absence for Holidays

Several parents have asked me what they should do about holidays during the school term which were booked prior to their child starting at Nursery.

There is an expectation that all children will be in school every day. However, if you have booked a holiday and your child is likely to be absent from Nursery school please ask a member of staff for the appropriate documents to fill in.

I must stress that I am no longer allowed to **authorise** any absence due to holidays in term-time and your child's holiday will be recorded as unauthorised.

Please try to avoid booking holidays in term-time if possible. Thank you for your support.



## Punctuality

Thank you for your punctual arrival at school. This makes the start of the session relaxed and stress-free for all the children. Unfortunately, we have noticed that some parents are arriving after the start of the session. Children should be here at the agreed start times to take part in the learning which begins as soon as the children are in school. Children arriving late not only miss all the social times, but they also disturb the children who have arrived on time.

Please may we remind you that you should arrive at 8.25am for the morning session and at 12.25pm for the afternoon session. If you arrive late, five minutes after those times, the door will be closed and the gate locked for the security of all children. If the door is closed please do not ask staff to open it, instead you should go to the main entrance where your child can be registered.

Particularly in these early weeks, the children become very distressed if they are not collected with the other children. Please make sure that you arrive on time. Thank you.

## Safety and security

Please remember to close the gates behind you! It is extremely important that the gates are not left unlocked as this would put our children in danger.

Thank you.



## Parking

Please may we remind you that the zigzag lines outside the main gate must be kept free at all times. It is illegal to park on the lines as they are there to prevent accidents when children enter or leave the school. Parents have been warned by the Police for illegal parking in the past. Please help us to keep our children safe. Thank you.

## Up to Date Contact Numbers / Outstanding forms

Please make sure that we are notified if you change your telephone numbers in order that we are able to contact you in an emergency. Please could you also return any outstanding permission forms, contact details etc. **Children will not be allowed to stay in Nursery without them.** If you require further copies, please see Trish in the office or your child's key worker. Thank you.



## Individual Photographs Tuesday 3rd November 2015

The school photographer will be in school **Tuesday 3rd November** to take individual photos of all children. These will be taken during the morning or afternoon session and you need not attend. Please bring your child to nursery at the usual time. Please note:



**All children are photographed unless you tell us that you do not wish this to happen, but there is absolutely no obligation to purchase your child's photo.**

## Parents Consultations—Week beginning October 19th 2015

Parents Consultations are arranged for the last week of this half term and we hope that you are all able to attend.

We will put up an appointments sheet by the doorway into each classroom and you may sign up to meet your child's teacher at a convenient time.

Each group has a day time session and there is an evening consultation which is, ideally, for parents who cannot come in to school during the day.

These are short meetings which allow you to talk to your child's key worker about the settling-in time and about attainment on entry to Nursery. We will provide you with a written overview of our assessments and some very simple targets to work on over the term.

If you would like any further information about the consultations please don't hesitate to ask.

## Nursery Reunion—Monday 19th October 4.00—4.45pm

We will be holding our Nursery Reunion for children and parents who attended our school last year. If you have an older child who attended last year please come along and join us.

This is a short session to allow children to tell us about their new schools and was originally requested by parents. Please join us if you have an older child who attended our school, we love see the children and hear their news!

## Teacher Training Day—New Date 4th December 2015



All schools must close for a number of training days throughout the year. This day will allow us to moderate our assessments so that we can ensure accuracy, and we know how exciting it is when you receive your child's report or information about their progress. It is also essential that judgements are accurate as OFSTED Inspections examine school assessment data and need to know how well the children perform. This training day will help us to ensure that we make accurate judgements.

The events for this term are listed in the attached 'Dates for your Diary'. We will send additional details out to you a little closer to the date for each event.

We would like you to join us and we hope that you feel welcome in school but we understand that you may not be able to attend all the sessions. We try to offer a range to appeal to everyone and to offer dates that might be suitable for you.

When we send out the details we will ask you to return a reply slip. Please return the slips to your child's teacher as this helps us to ensure we have sufficient materials or resources. Thank you.

## Autism Education Trust

Two years ago we were filmed by a production company on behalf of Autism Education Trust and Birmingham University who were compiling a set of training materials to be used by training hubs for teachers across the country. AET have also produced resources for staff to evaluate their own level of expertise and again, our children and staff appear in these materials.

We are very proud that we were asked to be part of this project!

If you would like to see any of these materials please look on the Autism Education Trust website. The direct link is <http://www.aetraininghubs.org.uk/early-years/eyacf/>



## Safeguarding Information

Safeguarding information was placed in your child's drawer on Friday 2nd October. This information included a Safeguarding Newsletter, our Child Protection Policy and an NSPCC booklet about difficult conversations, 'PANTS'.

We all hope you found this useful. If you did not receive the information please ask a member of staff who will provide the pack for you. Thank you.



**We're on the web!**  
[www.garrettsgreen.org.uk](http://www.garrettsgreen.org.uk)

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**We break up for the half term holiday on  
Friday 23rd October  
and return on  
Monday 2nd November.**

**Thank you again for all your support!**

Lesley Martin and the Nursery Staff Team 6th October 2015