



Garretts Green Nursery School

Christmas Newsletter 2017

27th November 2017

Dear Parents,

Thank you to all of you who attended our Parents' Consultations during the week before the half term holiday. I hope you were all pleased with the comments and the information. If there is anything further that you would like to discuss with your child's Key Worker, please don't hesitate to ask to meet at the end of a session.

We have all been really pleased with the way that the children have settled and how excited they are about learning. We appreciate the support you give to the children and to the school. Thank you.

We will be assessing the children again at the end of term and will send out up-dated information when we return in January.

In the meantime, please take a few minutes to look at Tapestry and add comments about the activities. You could also add photographs of family events or special days.

Family Breakfast and Afternoon Tea

Thank you to all of you who attended our Family Breakfast or Afternoon Tea. It was a busy week for us but it was lovely to spend time with parents and the children thoroughly enjoyed having parents in school. We hope that you enjoyed the event. Thank you again.

Events and celebrations

This is a lovely half term but it is also very tiring and the children are involved in lots of different events and activities, many which are also for parents. If you cannot come along and join us, please don't hesitate to ask another member of the family.

Some events are open to the whole family but we do sometimes have to limit the numbers or ask parents to make other arrangements for younger children in order to ensure safety. We will provide details of whether the event is suitable for younger children at each event.

Please note that we do not allow school-age children to attend workshops or other events if they are absent from school due to illness. We would expect children who are too ill to go to school to be at home but we are also not covered by insurance for older children who are ill.

There are details of the various events and celebrations over the page but the next event is our **Christmas Family Workshop** on **Friday 1st December** and our **Christmas Fair** after school that day.

All welcome!



Attendance

Children are expected to attend every day unless they are unwell when the best place for them to be is at home. Attendance in school is expected to be around 95.0%. We were all very pleased with the attendance of the children across the Nursery during the first few weeks of the new term. Thank you.

Week	% attendance
Week 2	92.9%
Week 3	92.5%
Week 4	85.4%
Week 5	90.5%
Week 6	88.2%

It doesn't take many absences to make the overall percentage attendance fall.

If your child is well, please bring him/her to school so that our attendance figure remain at or near to expected levels as absence has an enormous long-term impact on the level of attainment, even much later in life.

As you are aware, it is extremely important to know why children are absent 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 too ill to be in school, the best place to be is at home but please remember to:

- **Phone school on the first day of absence please 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/or 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. 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.

Thank you again for your support.

Punctuality

Please may we remind you that parents are expected to bring their children to school at agreed times. Late arrival may be recorded as absence and children miss a great deal if they arrive after registration.

It is extremely disruptive to the children who arrive on time when pupils arrive late but it can be distressing for the child who is late. Please arrive at agreed times.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING.....



CHRISTMAS FAMILY WORKSHOP: FRIDAY 1st DECEMBER

Red, Orange, Blue Groups and Green and Yellow Morning Groups: 8.30-9.30am

Green and Yellow Afternoon Groups: 12.30-1.30pm

Please note: Full time pupils may attend from 8.30am with a parent.

This is the start of Christmas celebrations for us and the workshop allows parents to spend some time with their child in Nursery to explore some of the Christmas activities that we offer.

Younger children and babies are welcome but we have no crèche facilities so parents would be responsible for their younger children.

All welcome!

CHRISTMAS FAIR: FRIDAY 1st DECEMBER

4.00—6.00pm

You are all invited to the **Christmas Fair from 4.00pm to 6.00pm** on

Friday 1st December. Please come to the main entrance. There is an entry charge of £1.00 per family. **Please note: This is a change to the original published date.**



Father Christmas will be in his grotto and photographs presented in a Christmas frame will be on sale from Tuesday 5th December at £2.00 each.

There will be a Christmas Craft stall, Toys and Books, Jewellery, Bottle Tombola, Toiletries Tombola and a Christmas raffle.

We will be serving refreshments and you may buy cakes and sweets from the Christmas Café!

All proceeds from the fair will help us to buy resources for the school over the coming year. Everyone welcome—the more the merrier!

LAMP-LIGHT NATIVITY

Green and Yellow Groups: Monday 18th December

Red, Orange, Blue and Purple Groups: Tuesday 19th December



We will meet at **St. Giles Church at 5.30pm**. The children may select a Nativity costume, if they wish, and then we tell the Nativity story through songs and narration. Older children may also join us on the alter.

After the Nativity, we will serve refreshments at the rear of the church whilst families climb the narrow spiral staircase to the ring the bells.

This is a really lovely event and is open to every family. Please come and join us.



We're on the web!
www.garrettsgreen.org.uk

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Children's Christmas Party

Tuesday 19th December

Roy, the Magician will be visiting us at the Christmas party and Father Christmas will be appearing again too.

The party is during the school day and is not open to parents.

Children may wear party clothes but we do go outside briefly so please make sure that party dresses are topped by a cardigan. Your child will need a coat, as usual and sensible shoes, please.

All food and drinks will be provided.

Safety and security

**Please remember to
close the gates
behind you!**

It is extremely important that the gates are bolted at the top as failing to do so this would put our children in danger.
Thank you.

Naming clothes

Please ensure that all your child's clothes are named, including hats, scarves, coats and gloves.

Thank you.

Reminders

- Please make sure that you have applied for your primary school place before we break up for Christmas. **Application for admission closes on 15th. January.** Please speak to us in the office if you need help with your application.
- **Christmas Fair donations are desperately needed, please:**
 - ◆ Toiletries and gift sets
 - ◆ Bottles and jars
 - ◆ Bric-a-brac
 - ◆ Toys and games (complete please)
 - ◆ Sweets and chocolates
- If you have any small boxes suitable for jewellery we would be grateful, too
- **Forest School sessions have changed:**
 - ◆ Green and Yellow Groups: Mondays
 - ◆ Red, Orange and Blue Groups: Thursdays

A new 'dates for the diary' will be sent out at the start of the new term.

**We break up for the Christmas holiday on
Friday 22nd December
and return on Tuesday 9th January 2018**

Thank you again for all your support this term!