



February Newsletter 2017

Garretts Green Nursery School

February 2017

Dear Parents,

We hope that you have all had a relaxing half-term break. It was lovely to see the children return so happy and ready for Nursery today. The second half of the Spring Term is always busy and there are a few reminders in this newsletter of events over the next few weeks. There will also be more dates to follow for the Summer Term.

We understand that some of the dates will be difficult for you to attend because of other commitments but please don't feel that you must come along or be involved in everything we offer. We try to organise a range of events so that you may pick and choose what suits you best. Of course, you are all invited to attend every workshop and event that is open to parents and we do value your support.

Garretts Green Nursery School Happy Families



A few months ago, I was approached by some of our parents and carers who were surprised that Garretts Green Nursery School has no Parent-Teacher Association and who were eager to establish a supporting group for the school. After exploring the options, we finally met as a small group last week and now have plans in place to establish a PTA which will be known as 'Happy Families'.

There will be many benefits to the school and to our families; developing close relationships between home and school, providing support for the school at times of increased workload (Christmas, trips, events) and fund-raising.

Initially, I would like to keep the leading group reasonably small until such a time as we have become confident with the practicalities and the legal and financial conditions of running such a group.

However, if any of you is happy to commit time and energy to being part of the Happy Families lead group we would be pleased for you to join us.

If you are interested in being involved on a more flexible ad-hoc basis to help out at events when you are available but without any commitment, again, we would be grateful for your support.

Our initial discussions have been around a launch of Happy Families at our **Phonics and Maths Family Workshop** on **Tuesday 14th March**. A Cake Sale and a Bring and Buy will be held during the Workshop and we hope that you will contribute cakes and other items that we could sell. Please come along to the Workshop to spend some time with your child, to see what we do in school and, at the same time, to raise money for the school. More details to follow.

Our big event for the summer term will be the celebration for the 70th Anniversary of Garretts Green Nursery School to be held on Friday 7th July and Saturday 8th July. Again, further details to follow.

There will be further information about our plans and about the group in the near future. If you feel that you have the time to offer support please complete the form attached and return it to your child's Key Worker by Friday 3rd March.

Tapestry

Tapestry is up and running and many parents have accessed their children's area to see what they have been learning in school. It has been lovely to see all the wonderful opportunities that the children have had outside school too. Thank you to all of you who have added information.

If you have been unable to access the site please let us know and we will investigate any technical errors. Thank you.

Boot bags

Just a reminder that the blue bag for wellies on your child's peg should be left in school please.

Please do not take the blue bags home. Thank you.

Please place your child's wellies in a bag before placing them in the blue welly bag. Thank you.

Primary School Places

Parents will be notified of Primary School place allocations on 18th April by email or on 19th April by letter.

You will then need to accept the place formally by contacting the school allocated to your child. Failure to accept the place may result in that place being lost. This must be completed no later than 5th May

SCHOOL GATES and PARKING

Many of our parents leave our school to take older children to primary schools in the morning or to collect older children at the end of the day and we understand that there are problems about time and parking.

However, I must stress that, even when you are in a hurry, it takes just a second to close our gate and doing so would not delay you.

It also takes just a second for a child to run ahead of parents as they leave and for them to dash through an open gate.

This is a safeguarding issue and I must request that every parents or carer visiting the site remembers to close the gate immediately, sliding the bolt at the top to ensure that children cannot reach up and open it.

There have been several complaints from neighbours regarding parking around the school site. Please may I ask you to ensure that you park carefully, avoiding obstructions to driveways.

It has also been brought to my attention that parents are parking very close to the bus stop in Garretts Green Lane which is causing concerns for the safety of bus passengers trying to leave or board the buses. In addition, if the bus cannot pull in, it causes an obstruction for the traffic in this busy road.

Please help us to keep all our children safe!

Thank you.

Garretts Green Nursery School Dates for your Diary

Thursday 2nd March	World Book Day. Children can dress up as storybook characters
Tuesday 14th March	Mathematics / Phonics Family Workshop LAUNCH OF HAPPY FAMILIES –cake sale and bring and buy
Friday 17th March	St. Patrick’s Day. Children wear green
Tuesday 21st March	World Down Syndrome Day. Children wear silly socks
Friday 24th March	Red Nose Day. Children dress up /wear red/wear a red nose
Monday 3rd April	Autism Awareness Day. Children wear a onesie/pyjamas
Tuesday 4th/Wednesday 5th April	Trip to Umberslade Farm. Details to follow
Thursday 6th April	Easter bonnet parade
Friday 7th April	Easter party/break up for Easter holiday
Monday 24th April	Teacher Training Day. Nursery closed
Tuesday 25th April	Children return to Nursery
Monday 1st May	Bank holiday. Nursery closed
Thursday 4th May	Elections. Nursery closed
Friday 5th May	Gardening, Growing and the Great Outdoors Family Workshop
Monday 8th May	Life caravan to visit
Tuesday 9th May	Owls to visit
Wednesday 10th May	National Epilepsy Week Wear purple for the day
Wednesday 24th May	Group Photographs to be taken
Friday 26th May	Break up for half term holiday
Monday 5th June	Children return to Nursery
Friday 7th July/Saturday 8th July	Garretts Green Nursery School 70th Anniversary celebrations-details to follow
Monday 24th July	Sheldon Country Park-picnic/ Break up for Summer holiday
Tuesday 25th July	Teacher Training Day- Nursery closed

[Events for children only](#)

[Events for parents with children](#)

[Closures](#)

Please note: there will be additional events planned for the summer term—details to follow.



Garretts Green Nursery School & Resource Base

117 Garretts Green Lane
Sheldon
Birmingham
B26 2JL

Phone: 0121 675 2284

Fax: 0121 675 7547

E-mail: enquiry@garretts.bham.sch.uk

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

*' Working together for
Children and Families'*

Snow or bad weather

School closures will no longer be announced on local radio stations but information will be published on the Birmingham City Council website.

[http://disruption.birmingham.gov.uk/
list of school](http://disruption.birmingham.gov.uk/list_of_school)

We will also send a text to you all to keep you up to date so please ensure that we have correct contact numbers. Thank you.

And finally....

Our Nursery School has been open since 1947, seventy years this year and we will be planning celebrations for the summer term.

If you have any memories, photographs or anecdotes about the school in previous years or would like to comment on the opportunities that have been offered by the school please share these with us. A sheet is attached for you to complete or simply speak to a member of staff. Thank you.

Cold weather

We are still facing some cold weather despite it now being the official start to spring. The children go out to play every day and they will continue to need warm clothes. Please make sure that your child has a coat, hat and scarf.

Please name school uniform items, coats, hats and scarves.

Thank you.

Homework/Home Reading

Home reading books are sent out regularly but we need to have book bags returned in time for the children to choose a new book in their Group Time. Please make sure that your child returns his or her book bag each week. Thank you.

Bears

Your child may bring home a bear over the next few weeks! We have posters displayed asking for baby clothes as the bears need to be dressed. As soon as the bears all have their spring wardrobe sorted out, a bear will go home with one child each week from each group. The bear will be in a bag with a booklet and its personal possessions. The children have chosen a name for each bear—it's everyone's right to have a name! We will send out additional information so that you and the children know what they need to do with the bear. This is linked to our Rights Respecting Schools activities. Please join in with the fun when the bear comes to stay with you!

Events

You will notice on the dates for the diary overleaf that there are a number of small events such as children being able to wear a specific colour. Many of these small events are fund-raising for charities and we are aware that we seem to be asking quite often for your contribution which is usually £1.00. Please do not feel that you have to contribute every time. You may prefer to chose just one event and contribute to that (or to none) or you may wish to give a smaller amount to them all. Quite often the events are to raise awareness not just to raise funds. Whatever you decide to contribute is always very gratefully received. Thank you.