



Garretts Green Nursery School



Autumn Newsletter 2017

1st October 2017

Dear Parents,

Thank you for all your support during the Induction 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.

For those of you whose child has a 30 hour place, may I take this opportunity to thank you for your care over the choice of foods in your child's lunchbox. Most children have a healthy option as well as treat and we encourage all the children to try the healthy foods before the sweeter goodies. Thank you.

Nursery really is a lovely place to learn and grow and your children are a joy!

Over the next few weeks we will be completing our initial assessments and we will share these with you shortly. Please note that we have arranged dates for our Parents' Consultations during the last week of this half term.

If you have any concerns regarding your child's progress, please don't hesitate to speak to your child's Key Worker.

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

Thank you again for your support.
Lesley and the Staff Team

Before School Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is a lovely relaxed start to the day. If your child attends for 30 hours and you would like him or her to be included in the Breakfast Club please speak to Lesley who will provide details and application forms.

Dates for your Diary

We have a number of events planned during the coming weeks. A 'Dates for you Diary' sheet was sent out last week and is also attached to this newsletter.

We try to give as much notice as possible but in very rare situations we may need to cancel or change an event (but we make every effort to avoid this wherever possible.)

Please do not feel that you should attend every event.

We offer activities on different dates so that parents may choose the most convenient.

We are happy to welcome any family members to most events subject to availability of spaces.

After School Club

If a 3.00pm collection causes you some difficulties, why not consider After School Club?

We are intending to run an after-school provision from 3.00pm to 3.30pm for children who are eligible for a 30 hour place currently.

Please speak to Lesley for details.



Autism Education Trust

Several years ago we were filmed by a production company on behalf of the Autism Education Trust who were compiling a set of training materials to be used by training hubs for teachers across the country. We are very proud that we were asked to be part of this project! Lesley and Claire are Associate Trainers delivering these materials to teachers.

There are many materials on the AET website to support parents and children. If you would like to see any of these materials please look on the (AET) Autism Education Trust website. The direct link is below:

<http://www.aetraininghubs.org.uk/early-years/eyacf/>



Attendance

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.

When children have been unwell parents have phoned school and told us about their child's illness. As you are aware, 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 document 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.

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 fined for illegal parking in the past. Please help us to keep our children safe. Thank you.

Please do not leave children in your car unattended whilst you bring in your Nursery-age child.

School Uniform

Our school uniform may be purchased on line from Tesco. The uniform is not compulsory but parents tend to find that it saves time and that it is practical and hard wearing.

We still have some items of pre-owned uniform, much of it in excellent condition. This includes blue or white polo shirts, sweatshirts, skirts and pinafores. As the children are here at Garretts Green for such a short time, this may be a sensible option for you. Please ask Lesley for details.

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

Punctuality

Thank you for your punctual arrival at school. This helps to make 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 should you arrive after 8.30am or 9.05am for the morning session or after 12.30pm for the afternoon session the door will be closed and the gate locked for the security of all your children. Please bring your child to the main entrance in Horrell Road. Thank you.

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 bolted at the top as failing to do so this would put our children in danger.

Thank you.

My First Week in Nursery School

We hope you are pleased with your child's

'My First Week in Nursery'

If you have any questions about this or any other issue please speak to your child's Key Worker.

Nursery Reunion: Monday 16th October 4.00pm to 5.00pm

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 previously please come along and join us.

This is a short event to allow children to tell us about their new schools and was originally requested by parents. All welcome!

Please join us if you have an older child who attended our school! We love see the children and hear their news!

Applications for Primary School Places September 2018

Your child will require a place at a primary school for transfer in September 2018. Local Authority guidelines for application have been published on the Birmingham City Council Noticeboard which you can access yourself weekly for general updates about schools in Birmingham.



Further details will be published to support you through the application process. Attached is a copy of the guidance details for parents published this week.

We are aware that some parents may not have access to a computer and we are happy to help here to ensure that you are able to meet the deadline for applications. Delays in applying often result in your preferred choice of school being unavailable so please do not hesitate to speak to any member of staff who will be able to help you to make the application here in Nursery, if required.

The Noticeboard can be accessed by pasting the link below into your browser.

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/downloads/file/8217/school_noticeboard_28_september_2017

Funding forms: Urgent!

We are aware that we ask you to complete huge numbers of documents but this secures our funding, in many cases.

Attached is the **Parental Declaration Form** which we require you to complete and return as a matter of urgency, please, by Friday 6th October.

Thank you for your support.

Tapestry

In order for you to be able to see and add to your child's on-line learning journey via Tapestry, please email the address below with your name, your child's name and colour Group. This will then ensure that your secure access can be set up.

You will be able to see what your child has been doing in Nursery and also to add photographs or make comments on the posted observations by teachers.

tapestry@garretts.bham.sch.uk



Forest School

Our Forest School sessions began last week when the children were introduced to the rules of Forest School. They tried on the waterproof clothing and practised changing into wellies.

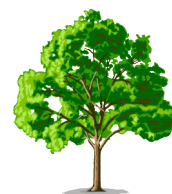
Please make sure that your child has wellies in school from now on so that their feet stay dry. On your child's coat peg there is a wellies bag. This should not be taken home. Wellies should be placed in a plastic bag inside the fabric wellies bag.

If the weather is very wet or very cold, we occasionally need to work indoors. We continue to work outdoors in most weather conditions but when temperatures are extreme we have found that the children often become distressed. We usually offer activities that support the Forest School philosophy on these occasions.

Thursday: Green Group and Yellow Group morning and afternoon Forest School sessions

Friday: Red, Blue and Orange Groups Forest School sessions.

Please note the change of day for these sessions. We will inform you of any future changes



Harvest Celebrations

We will be collecting food for the Harvest Celebration from **Monday 9th October** and we would be grateful for any donations of tins, packets, jars, etc. Please hand your donations to any member of staff.

The food is passed on to the local food bank to provide aid for families in need and is appreciated by all involved. Thank you in advance for your support.

Parental Consultations

During the last week of this half term, we will be holding our Parental Consultations. These are extremely important meetings about your child's attainment and how he or she has settled in school. You are all urged to attend.

Each Family Group (Colour Group) has a specific date for consultations, details below. In addition, we also offer an after-school consultation for parents who are unable to attend during the day. We are aware that for many working parents, the later appointments are essential. Please try to avoid the evening consultation times unless you are unable to attend during the day. Thank you.

Should you have any concerns regarding your child's attainment or progress, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's Key Worker, Lesley or Claire, our SENCo and we will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Monday 16th October: Green Group, morning and afternoon appointments

Tuesday 17th October: Blue Group, morning appointments only

Tuesday 17th October: Orange Group, afternoon appointments only

Wednesday 18th October: Red Group, morning appointments only

Friday 20th October: Yellow Group, morning and afternoon appointments

And:

Wednesday 18th October: All Groups, evening appointments from 4.00pm to 6.00pm

Appointments will be available for booking from 9th October. Sheets will be displayed outside your child's classroom. Please sign up early to ensure that you are able to book a convenient appointment. Thank you.

Diwali Celebrations

On Thursday 19th October, we will be celebrating the Sikh and Hindu festival of Diwali. We will be making Diya lamps, sharing stories of Diwali and celebrating with music and a party.

If you would like your child to dress in special/party clothes that day please ensure that sensible school shoes are worn and that your child has his/her coat.



So long, farewell...

We are very sad to be saying a temporary goodbye to Emma Ashford who will be leaving us after the half term break but we are delighted for her and her husband that she is leaving to have her first baby.

Emma will be replaced during her maternity leave by Kelly Knight and by Helen Coleman who have both been supporting in the classroom since the start of term and have therefore had the opportunity to work with the children in Emma's groups. The transition should be straightforward for the children though I am sure that they will miss Emma as much as the staff will miss her.

If you have any questions please speak to Emma or Lesley.



Garretts Green Nursery School & Resource Base

117 Garretts Green Lane
Sheldon
Birmingham

Phone: 0121 675 2284
Fax: 0121 675 7547
E-mail: enquiry@garretts.bham.sch.uk

We're on the web!

www.garrettsgreen.org.uk

MacMillan Coffee Morning



Each year, we hold a MacMillan Coffee Morning to raise funds for this very worthy cause.

We ask you to donate cakes, either bought or home-made which we will sell on Friday 13th October. Please bring in any donations on Wednesday 11th or Thursday 12th October or on the day of the event.

We combine the Coffee Morning with our Autumn Outdoors Family Workshop when we will be planting bulbs in tubs and in the garden as well as making bird feeders and much more.

Everyone is welcome! If you are unable to join us yourself, any member of the family may come along to spend some time with your child.

Please note that younger children are welcome but we have no crèche facilities so parents are responsible for their care.

We are unable to have pushchairs indoors as they presents a hazard in the narrow corridors or busy classrooms.

The **morning** Workshop runs from **10.00am to 11.00am** with cakes for sale at 11.00am. **You may take your child home with you at 11.00am if that is convenient for you.**

The **afternoon** Workshop runs from **1.30pm to 2.30pm** with cakes for sale at 2.30pm. **You may take your child home with you at 2.30am if that is**

Safeguarding Information

Safeguarding information will be placed in your child's drawer shortly. This information will include a Safeguarding Newsletter, our Child Protection Policy and an NSPCC booklet about difficult conversations, 'PANTS'.

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

Finally...

Lee Hamid, our Caretaker, is absent following an operation to his shoulder. We are all missing him and wish him a speedy recovery.

Usually, Lee unlocks the gates and locks them again after the children have entered. Please be patient with us if the gates are opened a little later than usual during this time. Thank you.

**We break up for the half term holiday on
Friday 20th October
and return on
Monday 30th October**

Thank you again for all your support!

Lesley Martin and the Nursery Staff Team
1st October 2017