



Garretts Green Nursery School

February 2018 Newsletter

28th February 2018

Dear Parents,



We had our OFSTED Inspection, as you know, on Thursday 1st February. I hope you have read the copy of the letter which I sent out before the holiday. The official report has now been published on the OFSTED website. We were extremely pleased with the outcome but a little sad that we could not be graded as outstanding at that point due to changes in the OFSTED procedure for Inspections so our official grade remains 'Good'.

Unfortunately, on the report that was given to you, the OFSTED Admin team had missed off the development point. There was only one point for us to work on which was to ensure that we find ways of being financially sustainable.

This is easier said than done as funding to Nursery Schools has been cut drastically and running costs have all increased. It is a very sad future that faces us and we can only hope that Nursery Schools are funded properly to protect the work we all do.

In the meantime, may I thank you so much on behalf of the staff at Garretts Green for your lovely comments, kind thoughts and wishes and for completing the OFSTED questionnaires. Your support means such a lot to us. Thank you.

Safety Railings

For several years, I have requested that we have barriers installed outside the school gates just as all other schools have in place to keep the children safe. I have been very concerned that a child could dash straight into the road and could not understand why the very youngest children are not protected from traffic by a metal barrier.

After repeated unsuccessful requests, I have spoken to our local councillors and Jess Phillips MP. Both agreed to back our requests and Jess sent a petition to school so that we could ask for your support too.

On Monday morning, I was informed that the Highways Department are willing to install railings along Horrell Road and Garretts Green Lane in order to protect the children here. Subject to the weather being suitable, the work should start almost immediately. In the short term, this may cause problems for parking whilst the work is undertaken but it is a relief that the barriers will keep the children safe in future.

Literacy Workshop

Our Family Literacy Family Workshop was very well-attended. Thank you for joining us and for completing the evaluation sheets. It's really helpful to us to read your comments so that we can ensure that we continue to improve what we offer. Thank you.

Mathematics Workshop - New date - Wednesday 7th March

We have arranged a Mathematics Workshop on Wednesday 7th March.

We have decided to build in a short meeting with parents at the start of the workshop to explain the activities and to tell you a bit about how we teach mathematics in Nursery.

Green and Yellow Morning Groups: 9.15am to 11.00am

We would be happy for you to bring your child to Nursery at 9.15am instead of the usual time, if you prefer.

Green and Yellow Afternoon Groups: 1.00pm to 2.45pm

Red, Blue and Orange Groups: Parents may attend either of the above sessions.

Unfortunately, we have no crèche facilities and we are unable to accommodate pushchairs inside the building for safety reasons.



Attendance

You may remember that in a previous Newsletter, I shared with you some of our attendance figures. Attendance in school is expected to be 96.0% but we have fallen well below that figure over the last few weeks due to the various illnesses that we were struggling with. I hope the week's holiday has broken the spread of some of the bugs and that the children are now all well again.

Clearly, we are concerned about attendance figures but your child's health and well-being is always a priority. When a child is ill, he or she should be kept at home until recovered, particularly if the temperature is raised or if the illness may be contagious.

We are happy for children to come to school with minor coughs and colds but if your child is obviously unwell the best place is at home. We know how much the children enjoy being here but please don't be persuaded to bring your child to school if he or she is unwell (even if they tell you that they want to come in) as this can spread infections very quickly.

However, if your child is absent from Nursery, please help us by letting us know if your child is ill:

- **If your child has symptoms involving a rash, this could be as a result of a number of illnesses and should always be diagnosed by a health professional so that we can alert parents, if required.**
- **Sickness and diarrhoea requires 48 hours after the last bout before returning to school.**
- **Please phone school on the first day of absence so that we know your child is ill and what the illness is.**
- **We will contact you if we have not heard from you to tell us why your child is absent as this must be recorded and reported by the school to the Early Years Team.**

The School must follow guidance for attendance monitoring and letters are sent to parents routinely if attendance has dropped significantly below expectations. Please do not be alarmed or offended if you receive an attendance letter. In many cases, we are already aware that the absence is due to illness which is unavoidable. Every unexplained absence, though, has to be followed up.

Thank you again for your support. Let's hope that we have seen the end of the various bugs that have made the children so poorly this year.

Supporting your Child's Learning and Development

We have been offered the opportunity to host a short course for parents, exploring ways of supporting children's language development and communication. The course will run for 5 weekly sessions here at Nursery each Monday afternoon starting from 12th March..

The sessions are likely to be fun and interactive and you will receive a certificate at the end of the course. A sheet will be displayed by the classroom doors from Thursday 1st March for you to sign up to express your interest.

Limited places available. Come along and join in! No crèche available, sorry.

Fun to Learn

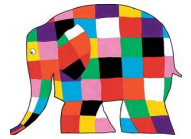
You may remember that we sent home a booklet of **Fun to Learn** activities for you to complete with your child at home. A number of children have made their mobiles and brought them into school. You can see them hanging in the classrooms.

If you haven't yet made a mobile there is no time limit. Just let your child have a go and bring in the finished mobile for us to display. Have fun!

Home Reading

We hope you are enjoying the Home Reading. Children choose the book themselves and sometimes like to have the same book several times. We do try to encourage them to widen their experience but above all we want to develop a love of books so if they have a preferred book we usually agree to it being taken home again.

Please remember that the book and bag should be brought back into school each week. Thank you.



Eggs and incubator arrived—Tuesday 27th February



On Tuesday, we had a delivery of an incubator and eggs which will stay in school until the week before Easter. The children will learn about new life and caring for living things and will see the eggs hatch into fluffy chicks. Please take a moment to have a look for yourselves.

World Book Day—Thursday 1st March



We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 1st March. Children may dress up as a character from a book or rhyme but please don't buy costumes especially for the day.

Why not have a go at making a costume yourself! There are lots of simple ideas on Pinterest which won't cost much and which you could make with your child.



Animals in Hands Visit

Thursday 22nd March

Children will have the opportunity to meet and hold rabbits, a pigmy hedgehog, a Barn Owl, a giant snail (also seeing some snail eggs). The Children will also meet a small snake, a frog (with frogspawn if available) and get to hold some young chicks.

Sports Relief—Friday 23rd March



A donation of **£1.00** is suggested for children to wear red for the day.

All money raised will go to Sports Relief.





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

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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 this would put our children in danger.

Thank you.

Easter Bonnet Parade

Thursday 29th March

Have a go at making an Easter bonnet at home with your child and bring it into Nursery on Thursday 29th March.

It is a nice end to the week when we 'parade' around Nursery wearing Easter bonnets.



**We break up for the
Easter holiday on
Thursday 29th March
and return on
Tuesday 17th April 2018**



Parents' Consultations - Week beginning Monday 26th March

We will be holding Parents' Consultations during week beginning 26th March

Green Group: Monday 26th March 8.30am-11.15am and 12.30-2.45pm

Yellow Group: Tuesday 27th March 8.30am-11.15am and 12.30-2.45pm

Red, Blue, Orange Groups: Wednesday 28th March 3.00pm-4.00pm

All Groups: Monday 26th March 4.00-5.30pm. (These slots are limited)

You may sign up for an appointment on the sheet outside each classroom.

Wednesday 28th March—Easter Egg Raffle and Cake Sale

Garretts Green Happy Families, our PTA, will be holding a raffle and a cake sale from 11.00-11.30am and from 2.30-3.00pm.



Please may we ask you for contributions for raffle prizes and for cakes.

Thank you.

All proceeds will go towards buying resources for school, particularly for seeds and plants for our greenhouse and growing projects.

If you have any plants or seeds that you do not need, we would be delighted to grow them. We have already been given some potatoes which we are 'chitting' ready to plant.

You will be amazed how many green fingers we have in Nursery!

Gardeners' World Live

Last year, the PTA raised the funds to buy our greenhouse. The plants we grew were used for the 'Gardeners' World Live at 50' competition to grow a 'Meal in a Barrow', which linked to our 70th Anniversary by growing vegetables to make a post-WW2 recipe, a dish similar to cottage pie but with no meat.

To our surprise - we won!

Unfortunately, the award was not made before the children left Nursery and then it then seemed to go astray. However, on Friday 2nd March, the award is going to be presented in Nursery. Some of the children will remember the fun we had last summer but this will be a new experience for many of the children who joined us in September. We hope that this will be the start of the new season's planting and growing unless the snow stops us!

Snow!

Usually by this point in the year, there is little snow to be seen but the forecast for this week suggests that there may be some disruptive snow at some point. If this leads to school being closed there will be notification on the local radio stations and the BCC website. We will also send a text to the number you have provided. Please ensure that your contact details are up-to-date. Thank you.



Thank you again for all your support this term!