



# January Newsletter 2018

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Garretts Green Nursery School

Dear Parents,

A belated Happy New Year and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2018.

We would like to thank you for all your good wishes before we broke up. We are all passionate about our work and never expect such generosity as you showed but we really appreciate your kindness and were quite moved by your words. Thank you.

The children have all settled in well again after the holiday and the excitement of Christmas and are ready to be back in school, full of fun and eager to learn.

We would like to welcome the children and families who joined us last week and hope that they enjoy their time at Garretts Green Nursery School.

There are several events arranged for this half term and attached to this newsletter is a list of dates for your diary so that you may plan right up to Easter.

## Forest School

Forest School sessions have changed!

For Red, Orange and Blue Groups, please note that their day is now Wednesday.

For Green and Yellow Groups, the Forest School sessions are on Thursday.

We do try not to miss Forest School but in cases of extreme cold or very wet weather, we may need to cancel the session for the children's well-being and safety.

Please ensure that your child has his/her wellies in school on Forest School days. Thank you.

## Early Literacy Family Workshop

We are holding an Early Literacy Family Workshop on Wednesday 14th February from 10.00am to 11.00am and from 2.00pm to 3.00pm.

Separate letters will be sent out with more details. Parents of pupils with a 30 hour place may choose either session.

A maximum of 2 adults per child and preferably no younger children. Please remember that older pupils may not attend.

## Sheldon Library Trips

Each Group will be visiting Sheldon Library over the next few weeks. We will be sending you a letter with all the details and a consent form. It is essential that you complete the consent form and return it to the school as we will be unable to take your child without your permission.

## Assessments

At the end of the autumn term, the staff completed their assessments and have entered them on Tapestry. Your child's Key Worker will provide you with a copy of the summative assessment details which will show what we have judged your child to be able to do.

Our next Parental Consultation is at the end of the Spring Term, however, if you have any questions about the most recent judgements, please speak to your child's Key Worker who will be happy to discuss the assessments with you.

## School Places

During the autumn we sent out several reminders about applications for school places for your child who will be entering Reception Class in September.

**The closing date for applications for a school place was Tuesday 16th January**

I'm sure that you will have applied by now but there are any parents who have not completed the on-line application it is essential that you do so immediately. If you fail to apply, your child will not be allocated a place and in September may be out of school or in a school that you would not choose.

If any parents have not applied and would like help to complete the on-line forms please speak to me immediately and we may enter the information into the system in school.

## Parking

The lack of parking space around school has increasingly been a cause for some concern and I would like to thank you for your cooperation as you try to find a place to leave your car but may we urge you to park safely and considerately when you arrive to drop off your child or at the end of the session.

It has been drawn to our attention that cars have been parking on the pavement immediately outside the school gate on Garretts Green Lane. Some cars have also parked actually on the garden of some of our neighbours, believing this to be a car park and causing a great deal of inconvenience to the family living there.

When you park near school please may I therefore ask you to consider the following:

- ✓ Parking on the pavement is an offence and you may be subject to a fine but parking entirely on the pavement also prevents safe access to the school gate
- ✓ Visibility is also restricted for traffic using the road and drivers may not see little children behind parked cars
- ✓ Parking on zig-zag lines outside the Horrell Road entrance is prohibited
- ✓ Horrell Road is a bus route and buses cannot pass when cars park on both sides of the road—please avoid causing an obstruction
- ✓ Please allow sufficient time in case you need to park some distance away

Our priority will always be safety and I am sure that you will help us to keep everyone safe by being considerate when parking. Thank you.

## Our Garden

The front garden where you enter and line up is quite damp. We have a real problem at this time of year as the site is badly drained and can be extremely slippery especially where it has been water-logged.

Please may we ask you to avoid using the grass to cross with pushchairs as this churns up the ground and makes it quite dangerous. Please keep pushchairs on the path. Hopefully, as the weather gets warmer this will improve.

Thank you.

## Nursery gates

We have had several complaints from parents that the gates are being left open when parents and children are entering and leaving. This is a real concern for us.

In the mornings, Lee is usually at the gate and ensures that the children are safe and we make sure that a member of staff is at the door. This allows us to greet you as you come in but it also means that we can make sure that none of the children dash back out.

I must stress how important it is to close the gates and to bolt them, particularly the top bolt. If a child becomes distressed and tries to run after mum or dad it would be very easy for them to slip out through an open gate

**Parents should leave the building through the back doors only, please, unless you have a younger child to collect from the main door.**

**Please ensure that you also close both gates and pull the bolts across so that children cannot get out onto the main road. Thank you.**

## Attendance and Punctuality

Thank you for making every effort to ensure that your child attends Nursery regularly.

We understand that children are susceptible to catching childhood illnesses and coughs and colds during their early years in school but good attendance is so vital to their progress now and in the future.

Please may I remind you that if your child is ill we would be grateful if you could contact the school on the first day of absence. Thank you.

We hope that children will attend every day but become concerned when attendance falls significantly below expectations and I send letters to parents when this happens to draw your attention to this. If you are sent an attendance letter please do not be alarmed but simply complete the reply slip and return it to us. Thank you for your support.

Punctuality is also important to us. Sam Richardson held an Attendance and Punctuality Workshop for parents. Those who attended commented that they were unaware of the impact that late arrival or absence has on their children. Please help us all by making sure that you arrive on time at the start and end of each day.

May I also remind you that the gates close for safety at **8.30am and at 12.30pm.**



## **Garretts Green Nursery School & Resource Base**

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**We're on the web!**

[www.garrettsgreen.org.uk](http://www.garrettsgreen.org.uk)

## **Nursery Places 2018-19**

At the end of this term, we will be allocating places to children to start in Nursery in September 2018. Unless you tell us otherwise, we assume that the children who have just joined us will be returning for the full 2018-19 academic year.

If you are aware of any families with children aged 3 before August 31st 2018, please encourage them to complete an application form for a place here.

Details regarding full time place allocations for September will be sent to you a little later in the term but currently the system requires that you renew the code every three months and Child-care Choices will provide you with reminders when this is required. Failure to renew the code will invalidate your entitlement to the 30 hours funded place.

## **Breakfast Club**

Breakfast Club runs from 8.25am until 9.00am at a cost of £10.00 per week. We recognise that 30 hours is designed to support working parents but that many of you need to start work before 9.00am and we hope that the optional early start is some help to you. If any parents would now like to enrol their child for Breakfast Club please speak to a member of staff.

## **Finally....**

Please can you help us!

One of our children has lost her school bag, a Kath Kidston bag, and a pair of rainbow wellies. It may have been placed on the wrong coat peg or been picked up by mistake. Please can you turn detective and help us to track down the bag and wellies please! Thank you!

## **Events**

There are several events during this term that we would like to tell you about so that you can plan ahead. Please don't feel that you must attend - we understand that it can be difficult to arrange time out from work commitments but if another member of the family would like to attend in your place we would make them feel welcome. The children always take part fully even if there is no adult present.

Events for parents include the Early Literacy Family Workshop which is during National Storytelling Week.

We will also be visiting Sheldon Library that week. This visit does not include parents due to space but if there are parents who can spare some time we may need one or two volunteers to help us on the visit. Details to follow.

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

Lesley Martin and the Nursery Staff Team