

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



SEASON'S GREETINGS



We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Term ends at 3pm on **FRIDAY 17TH DECEMBER** and the children start again on **TUESDAY 4TH JANUARY**

THANK YOU

Once again, a huge thank you to all of our families for your patience and understanding while we have been through the most challenging few weeks that we have ever known in school. We thought Lockdown 1 was challenging, then Lockdown 3 last January was even more challenging with the demands of high quality remote learning provision. The return to school in March was harder again, with all the gaps in learning and the range of behaviours and anxieties to deal with. The last few weeks have surpassed all of that though! We know we are not through it yet with some staff and children still suffering, but we hope the worst is over and that we can get back to 'normal' for the last two weeks of term.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Please come along to our Christmas Fairs on Wednesday 8th (RE class), Thursday 9th (SM/LH classes) and Friday 10th December (LB/HP classes) from 2.30-3.30 – raffle, tombola, lucky dip, decorated jars.....

FOGG are extremely grateful for all of your donations for stalls and prizes as without these we wouldn't be able to have a Fair.

Please see previous email regarding the Christmas Fair arrangements.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY



We are going to take part in CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY on **FRIDAY 10TH DECEMBER**. Anyone who wants to take part can either wear a Christmas jumper/t-shirt/dress or decorate their own jumper in a Christmassy way. You pay a minimum of £1 and all proceeds go to Save the Children. Your child can wear normal uniform with their Christmas jumper, or have it as a complete non-uniform day, we really do not mind.

STAFFING

After almost 23 years, Judy has decided to take early retirement and will leave Garrick Green at the end of this term.

As I found when I did the job description for whoever replaces her, the list of tasks she does is endless and she has adapted to so many system changes over the years. She remembers when she first started, the Headteacher at the time did not even want a computer in her office so Judy had to do her emails for her! The Management Information System and finance systems have changed at least four times whilst Judy has been at Garrick Green, each one being more complicated than its predecessor! We often laugh as we hear ourselves say....'Judy, can you just....' or 'Judy, when you get 5 minutes....' and expect her to remember everything without us writing it down!

Judy has been a great support to parents, staff and children at the school over this time and I'm sure lots of our families past and present will have an anecdote to share about their memories of Judy.

Judy will be greatly missed by all at Garrick Green and I'm sure she will miss us a bit too once she has got over the novelty of being a lady of leisure.

Our new school secretary is Mrs Kelly Eve - she has an awful lot to learn and I am sure you will bear with her while she gets to grips with everything.

In other staffing news, Jane Ellis is recovering well but will still not be back in January so Kate Sayer will continue covering in her absence

Another change from January is that Lisa Herron will be leaving her teaching role and increasing her SENCo role, as she becomes the joint SENCo for Garrick Green and Lodge Lane. From January, Lisa will generally work at GG on Mondays and Tuesdays and then at LL on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

I know Lisa is worried about leaving her class at this stage of the year but she will still have plenty of opportunity to see them and work with them in her new role. Once we have a replacement, I will update you with this information.

PACKED LUNCHES

Please remember we are egg and nut free at Garrick Green even though the current menu does not say that. We have asked Norse for the correct version of the menu and will let you have it as soon as we can.

We have noticed that some children are having whole grapes in their packed lunch and have been made aware that this is a choking hazard for young children, as the size and shape of the grapes means they can completely block a child's airway. Obviously the older they get, the better at chewing they are, but if grapes could be cut in half long ways that would certainly give us one less thing to worry about at lunch time. Thank you!

BOOKS FOR SCHOOL TOKENS



We are still collecting these and have been informed that there will be some bonus tokens throughout December:

On December 3 and 9 there will be 10 bonus tokens on each of those days, so 11 tokens in total.

They will also publish bonus tokens each day from December 18 through to December 31.

STAY AND PLAY



We are delighted that Hannah Moore will be restarting the Stay and Play sessions in the school hall on Fridays from 10-11am, starting on Friday 7th January. This is for anyone with children up to school age, there are toys and activities to suit all ages. Please spread the news as this is not just for Garrick Green parents

PUNCTUALITY

Please remember that the timeframe for arriving at school is between 8.45 and 9am. We have noticed that a lot of people are arriving late and this means teachers are having to do the registers again and are then late to assembly, which then has a knock on effect for the rest of the day. If you arrive after 9am, which is not ideal, please go in through the office.



DIARY DATES - more dates will be added in the next newsletter

JANUARY

TUES 4TH	START OF TERM
MON 10TH	TRAINEE TEACHERS START IN SM AND RE CLASS
MON 24TH	HEIGHT, WEIGHT AND VISION CHECKS R CHILDREN
TUES 25TH	HEIGHT, WEIGHT AND VISION CHECKS R CHILDREN

FEBRUARY

FRI 4TH	FOGG FILM CLUB 3-5 PM ALL YEAR GROUPS
THURS 10TH	FOGG VALENTINE'S DISCO
FRI 11TH	FOGG NON-UNIFORM DAY
FRI 11TH	FOGG BRING A TIN FOR FOODBANK FRIDAY
MON 14TH - FRI 18TH	HALF TERM
MON 21ST	SCHOOL STARTS
MON 21ST – FRI 25TH	INTERNATIONAL WEEK
MON 28TH – FRI 4TH	PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

MARCH

THURS 3RD	WORLD BOOK DAY
FRI 18TH	COMIC RELIEF
FRI 1ST APRIL	END OF TERM

USED STAMPS

Please save the stamps from your Christmas cards – we collect used stamps for the Norfolk and Norwich Association for the Blind – please give these in to an adult from your child’s class.

Y1 and Y2 CHRISTMAS DISCO

The Christmas Disco has been cancelled for obvious reasons but there will be one in the Spring term, more details to follow next term.

FOGG

FOGG are doing a lot of fundraising at the moment so please be sure to check bookbags and Facebook for information - colouring competition for children and adults, 100 square, online PTA Big Raffle, online Christmas Shop, letters to Santa.

Thank you for all of your support with their fundraising efforts, it makes a huge difference to us as a school.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

The school Christmas post-box will be down near the library from Monday 6th December until the end of term. If your child has cards to give out, please put them in the post box and we will endeavour to have a daily delivery.

In order to make it easier for our ‘post boys/girls’ please could you label the envelope with the initials of the class that the card is going to:

Mrs Morgan SM

Mrs Herron LH

Miss Banner LB

Mrs Prophet HP

Mrs Ellis RE



CHILDREN IN NEED AND POPPIES

Thank you for all of your donations for Children In Need. The total amount raised was £98

We also sold a lot of poppies and merchandise this year and raised £235.56, our best year to date.