

LEARN TO BE HAPPY – BE HAPPY TO LEARN



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

SEASON'S GREETINGS

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

Term ends on Friday 19th DECEMBER at 3pm and the children start again on TUESDAY 6TH JANUARY 2026



USEFUL LINKS

Here are a few useful links -

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1EX7pAf6Rk/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

School website

<https://www.wensumtrust.org.uk/garrickgreen>

Parents and Carers information including term dates

<https://www.wensumtrust.org.uk/garrickgreen/parents-and-carers>

Calendar dates

<https://www.wensumtrust.org.uk/calendar/?calid=3&pid=1173&viewid=1100>

Term dates for this year

<https://www.wensumtrust.org.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=7690&type=pdf>

Class blogs - these let you know what your child is currently learning

<https://www.wensumtrust.org.uk/garrickgreen/learning/class-blogs-1>

Friends of Garrick Green (FOGG) fundraising group for the school

<https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1BSTU7hBhV/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

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CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

Children in Jade class are very busy practising for their Nativity performance which is coming up soon – they will be performing on Wednesday 10th December at 9.10am



You will not be able to take photos or videos of these performances for safeguarding reasons so please just come along and enjoy the show!

You are welcome to come and sit in the hall straight after drop off - there will be a board in the corridor showing where your child will be sitting in the performance, if you want to get a good view of them!

CHRISTMAS FAIR



Please come along to our Christmas Fair on Friday 5th December from 3.15 - 5pm - We will let the children out of the classroom doors as normal and then if you can queue to come through the front door at 3.15 we will be ready to welcome you to the fair. There will be a raffle, tombola, face painting, lucky dip, refreshments and much more. We have had some amazing donations for raffle prizes - there will still be tickets available to purchase at the Fair if you need more!

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.

If there are any more parents out there who would be able to help on a stall for half an hour or an hour, please mention this to Kelly in the office and she will pass this on to FOGG. This means that FOGG members will be able to look round the fair with their own children

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CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

We are going to take part in CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY on Friday 12th 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.



There is a Just giving page <https://christmas.savethechildren.org.uk/fundraising/CJD250008549>

I know that there was an issue with the £2 minimum donation on Children in Need day but we have sorted this out for Christmas Jumper day. If you would like to donate £1 you can do this on the just giving page by **changing the amount** to £1 and then on the page where it says **'Tip to just giving'** click on **'enter custom amount'** and change the amount to £0. However if you would like to donate more then you are welcome to. I hope that helps - obviously if you would still like to bring £1 in as cash then that is absolutely fine.

Your child should wear normal uniform with their Christmas top.

There is a box in the foyer if you have a Christmas Jumper that you would like to donate for someone else to use or if you'd like to borrow one for your child. Please help yourself if you would like one.

CHRISTMAS CARDS



The school Christmas post-box will be down near Green Dragons Breakfast and Afterschool club from Monday 1st December until the end of term. If your child has cards to give out, they can post them in the post box and we will endeavour to have a daily delivery. We are really sorry but due to safeguarding reasons we will not be able to give out class lists so this will be a memory test for the children to remember all of their friends who they would like to write Christmas cards to!

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

J for Jade

S for Sage

T for Teal

L for Lime

NORFOLK HOLIDAY FUN



Please follow this link to find out about the Big Norfolk Festive Holiday Fun scheme which is taking place during the Christmas Holidays.

<https://www.activenorfolk.org/public/bignorfolkholidayfun/>

POPPIES and CHILDREN IN NEED



Thank you for supporting these charities in November.

We raised £105.54 for the British Legion from the sale of poppy merchandise.

We raised £166 for Children in Need by dressing up in spots.

SPARE CLOTHES



Just a reminder that all children need a set of spare clothes on their peg for when their clothes get wet or dirty. These do not have to be school uniform. If they have to change into their spare clothes please remember to send a spare set back into school.

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USED STAMPS

Please save the stamps from your Christmas cards – we collect used stamps for the Royal National Institute for the Blind – please give these in to an adult from your child's class or to the office.



ATTENDANCE



Attendance Matters

Our overall attendance so far this school year is 96% which is amazing considering the amount of coughs and sneezes that can be heard in every class. However there are still 12 children who fall into the persistently absent category (90% or lower) which is too many.

In line with our policy, parents of those whose attendance sits within the persistently absent range and particularly those whose attendance has dipped even further into that range since the end of October, will receive a letter just to make you aware, even if we know it's because of a holiday or illness.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

You have already received an email from Kelly regarding ordering a Christmas Dinner or Pasta with Tomato sauce and cheese - please don't forget to order this for your child if they would like it. Please remember that if you don't order one of these options you will need to provide a packed lunch on Wednesday 17th December.



OPEN AFTERNOONS



These are coming up in the next week and you had an email with further information on earlier this week - see 'Diary Dates' for dates and time. This is a lovely opportunity for you to go into your child's classroom and see their work and room - there will only be up to 15 children and their adults in there as all the other children will be in the hall.

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SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION

Because of our day-to day contact with the children we are particularly well placed to observe outward signs of abuse, changes in behaviour or failure to develop. We have a duty to protect children from abuse; however, our role is in recognition and referral, not investigation or intervention. We are required by law to follow procedures laid down by the Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership if we see signs which suggest that one of our pupils may have been the victim of abuse. Use of the procedures in this way is an obligation placed on the school by legislation and in no way infers that any parent/carer is being accused of wrong-doing.



Garrick Green is registered with Operation Encompass. This means that Norfolk Police will contact the school concerning any domestic incidents which involve the families of our children the day after the incident occurred. Following this, we would always check in with the child by doing a 'wishes and feelings' document with them.

LOST PROPERTY



We've collected a large amount of lost property, so every Thursday we will place it on the tables on the playground outside Sage Class. Please check and take any items that belong to your child.

We also have a selection of donated wellies and waterproof clothing. These will be put out at the same time, and you are welcome to take anything you need.

FOGG BOX

If you need to hand anything in for FOGG, such as colouring competition entries, please post it in the FOGG box. The box is a black post box located on the wall at the front of the school, just around the corner from the main gate under the glass canopy. It can be a little hard to spot—simply lift the lid and you'll find the posting slot underneath.



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OLD CATTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish council have asked us to let you know that Phase 1 of the improvements to the Pavilion and wider Recreation Ground will begin in Spring 2026. They have asked if we could make parents aware so we can help support these efforts by:



Remembering to park safely, legally, and considerately, particularly during busy drop-off and collection times.

Where possible to walk, cycle, or use alternative routes, especially during the construction period.

Understanding that there will be increased activity on Garrick Green so that everyone can plan their journey accordingly and support pedestrian safety.

The Council is mindful of the pressures this may place on Garrick Green and is committed to working closely with residents, the school, and all site users to help manage the situation sensitively and responsibly.

They apologise for the inconvenience that these temporary changes may cause and thank you for your cooperation during this important phase of improvement.

READING IN THE HALL BEFORE SCHOOL



We know that finding time for reading at home can sometimes be tricky, and some children feel more comfortable reading at school. To help with this, we're reopening the hall each morning so you can listen to your child read before school.

The hall will be open from 8:15am every day, except when we have special events such as story cafés or plays. You're welcome to sit on the benches or take a couple of chairs - just please pop the chairs back when you're finished so the hall is ready for daily activities from 8:30am.

There will be a pot of pens near the laptop for you to use to write in reading record books.

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NORWICH PUPPET THEATRE

We're delighted that FOGG have arranged for Norwich Puppet Theatre to visit and perform their Christmas show for the children. This year's production is Aladdin, and we're sure the children will really enjoy this festive treat.



SCHOOL CARPARK



If you are dropping off for Breakfast Club or collecting from Afterschool Club, please use the small pedestrian gate and follow the pavement around to the front door instead of walking across the carpark. We've had a couple of near misses with children being in drivers' blind spots, so this helps us keep everyone safe.

Thank you for your understanding!

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DECEMBER AND JANUARY DIARY DATES

DECEMBER			
2 nd	Y2 children to watch the Old Catton Junior School Christmas Play	Year 2	1.30pm
5 th	FOGG Christmas Fair	All	3.15 – 5pm
9 th	Open Afternoon	All	2.25 – 2.45pm
10 th	Jade Class Nativity	Jade Class Parents	9.10 – 9.40ish
12 th	Christmas Jumper Day	All	
12 th	Open Afternoon	All	2.25 – 2.45pm
15 th	FOGG Christmas Treat – Norwich Puppet Theatre show for all classes	All	9.30am
17 th	Christmas Dinner	All	
19 th	End of Term	All	
JANUARY			
6 th	Start of Term	All	
8 th	Vet visiting school	all	
29 th	Vision/Hearing/Height/Weight Screening	Reception Children	

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