



MARCH AND APRIL NEWSLETTER

GARRICK GREEN CASTLE

As this newsletter reaches you, the Garrick Green Castle build should now be complete - and we are absolutely delighted with how it looks! The children have been watching its progress with great excitement and are eagerly looking forward to their first chance to play on it.



We have spoken with the children about the importance of waiting for the concrete to fully set so that everything is safe before they begin using the equipment. We know this wait will feel very long and frustrating for them, but we promise it will be worth it. We will make sure that every child has a dedicated time to enjoy their very first experience on the new castle.

This wonderful addition to our school would not have been possible without the incredible support of our community. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to FOGG for their tireless fundraising efforts - working hard to secure grants and organise events to bring this project to life. We are also extremely grateful to our parents and the wider Garrick Green community for their generosity, support, and contributions at these events.

Thank you all for helping to create such a fantastic space for our children. This is truly a special resource that will bring joy, play, and lasting memories to every child at Garrick Green.

ADULTS COLLECTING CHILDREN FROM SCHOOL



If someone different than usual is picking your child up from school, please let us know in the morning, or phone the office to let us know. Thank you!

PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS

Please sign up for one of these - next week on Monday and the following week on Tuesday - Now that we are just over half way through the school year it is important for teachers to give you an update on how your child is doing both socially and academically. Meetings will be in Lime and Mint class. If you bring your child with you, please go up the corridor to Teal class (on the left hand side



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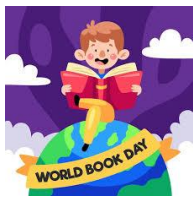
of the corridor) and leave them there with Liz while you speak to the teacher - the waiting area for parents will be in Sage class (the right hand side of the corridor) - please take a seat in there and your child's teacher will come and get you for your appointment.

If you cannot attend on either of the days given, please ask your child's teacher if they can see you at another time.

We know life can get busy, and sometimes plans change. If you can't attend your appointment, please let us know - we'll always try our best to help. However, if we don't hear from you and you miss your appointment, we won't be able to reschedule.

Shelley (SENDCo) will be available during our parents evening on Monday 2nd March if you would like to meet her or chat through any concerns, you are welcome to make an appointment or just pop in.

WORLD BOOK DAY



This year, the theme for World Book Day is Reading for Pleasure, something we actively encourage at our school all year round. The World Book Day charity (along with lots of other research) tells us that reading for pleasure is the biggest indicator that a child will grow up to enjoy a happier and more successful future. Sadly, today only one in three children says they enjoy reading. By changing this, we really can help transform lives.

Children and young people are far more likely to read when they see it as a fun, entertaining and social activity - and that's exactly what we aim to promote.

This year we have chosen the book *The Magic Bed* and have planned a day of activities inspired by the story. On Thursday 5th March, children are invited to come to school dressed in their pyjamas (with normal shoes and underwear, please!), just like the little boy in the book. If children would prefer not to wear pyjamas, they are very welcome to come in normal school uniform.

We hope you have all managed to claim your free book by using your World Book Day Voucher.

COMIC RELIEF

We will be raising money for Comic Relief on Friday 20th March.

We will be having an optional wear a red top or red accessory (such as socks, headbands or ribbons), and donate a suggested minimum of £1.

We have set up a JustGiving page; however, as their minimum donation is £2, families may prefer to send a cash donation into school instead. To donate online go to



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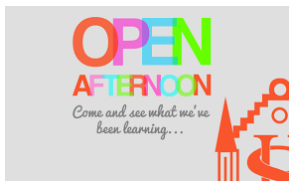


https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rnd26-garrick-green-infant-school?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL

If children bring a red nose into school, please could it be named to help avoid any mix-ups!

If your child is not joining in then please send them in their normal school uniform.

OPEN AFTERNOONS



As you will see from the diary dates, we have some Open Afternoons coming up at the end of term.

These are an opportunity for you to come in to visit your child's classroom and look at their books with them. Sign up will be via Scopay and there will be a limited number of places each day. Children whose parents are attending will not go to assembly so that they are free to share their books with you. All sessions are from 2.25 - 2.45 pm. If you have more than one child in school then of course you can split the session across two classes if you don't want to come twice.

MINI MONSTERS

We are very lucky that FOGG have raised enough money to be able to invite Mini Monsters in to do workshops with every class on 26th March. They provide calm, structured, hands-on animal encounters using a carefully selected range of exotic species - including reptiles and invertebrates - allowing children to learn through real experience rather than observation alone.



ATTENDANCE



We're really pleased to share that our overall attendance so far this school year is 96%, which meets our current target - wonderful news for our school community. Thank you for your continued support in helping your child attend school regularly - it makes a real difference.

Regular attendance plays an important role in children's learning, confidence, and long-term success, which is why we place such importance on working together to support good attendance for every child.

At Parent/Teacher Meetings, we will share attendance information with families where a child's attendance is below 90%, so we can talk together about any ways in which we can support improvement where needed.

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PUPIL PREMIUM ELIGIBILITY

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 automatically get free school meals if they go to school. This is called universal infant free school meals. This is different to benefit-related free school meals and you do not have to apply, but if you receive one of the benefits listed below, you should still register below. This is because it can help raise extra funds for your child's school (called Pupil Premium). This Government funding can help with extra tuition, teaching and after school activities.



The qualifying benefits are:

- Universal Credit - with an annual earned income of no more than £7,400 after tax
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual gross income of no more than £16,190

If you believe you may be eligible, please follow the link below -

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-meals-and-milk>

GREEN DRAGONS



If you need to contact Green Dragons please ring the normal school number (01603 409078) and select option 3.

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ONLINE SAFETY

Alongside the monthly online safety newsletter, we'd like to share a helpful new website from the UK Government that offers practical advice for parents on keeping children safe online.

It includes useful tips and guidance to help you support your child's online safety at home. You can find out more here:

<https://kidsonlineafety.campaign.gov.uk/>



RECREATION GROUND UPDATE FROM OLD CATTON PARISH COUNCIL



Please note:

The Recreation Ground currently closes daily at 17:00hrs (pedestrian gate at 16:00hrs)

From 23rd February, the closing time will be 17:30hrs (pedestrian gate at 16:30hrs), and thereafter will be 15 minutes later each week.

Important – Construction Works Notice

The Recreation Ground car park will be closed from 11th March

Construction work will commence from 16th March and there will be no access to the Recreation Ground from Church Street from this date.

Pedestrian gate to provide access to green space and Over 9s playground will remain open.

During the construction period, the following facilities will be closed:

- Car Park
- Under 9s playground
- MUGA
- Table tennis/outdoor exercise equipment
- Tennis courts
- Toilets
- Pavilion

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The estimated completion date is July 2026, subject to no delays.

EASTER HOLIDAYS



We finish for Easter on **Friday 27th March at 3pm** and school starts again at **8.30am** on **Tuesday 14th April**.

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DIARY DATES UNTIL END OF MAY

MARCH			
2ND	PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS	ALL CLASSES	3.15-6.15PM
5TH	WORLD BOOK DAY	ALL CLASSES	
10TH	PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS	ALL CLASSES	3.15-6.15PM
12TH	Y2 OLD CATTON JUNIOR EASTER VISIT	Y2 CHILDREN	PM
16TH - 20TH	Y1 PHONICS CHECK PRACTICE	Y1	
20TH	COMIC RELIEF	ALL CLASSES	
24TH	OPEN AFTERNOON	ALL CLASSES	2.25 - 2.45
25TH	Y2 MULTISKILLS TRIP	Y2	ALL DAY
25TH	JADE STORY CAFE	JADE CLASS AND PARENTS	8.50 - 10.00
26TH	MINI MONSTERS VISITOR	ALL CLASSES	ALL DAY
26TH	OPEN AFTERNOON	ALL CLASSES	2.25 - 2.45
27th	LAST DAY OF TERM		
27TH	FOGG BAKE SALE		3PM

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APRIL			
14th	SCHOOL STARTS		8.30
21ST	MISS EMRICK FROM OCJ FOR Y2 ASSEMBLY	Y2 CHILDREN	2.15
29TH	TEAL AND SAGE SPRING PERFORMANCE	SAGE PARENTS	9.10
30TH	TEAL AND SAGE SPRING PERFORMANCE	TEALPARENTS	9.10
MAY			
4TH	BANK HOLIDAY - SCHOOL CLOSED		
13TH	JADE CLASS MATHS EVENT	JADE CLASS PARENTS	8.45 - 9.45
19TH MAY	CLASS PHOTOS		
22ND	LAST DAY OF HALF TERM		3.00

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