

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER



CHRISTMAS CARDS

The children will be designing Christmas cards this week and you have the opportunity to come and order them on either **WEDNESDAY 11TH OCT FROM 3-4** or **THURSDAY 12TH OCT FROM 8.30-9**

You need to pay when you order – cash or cheque (made payable to Garrick Green Infant School) and prices are as follows:

Cards are sold in packs of 12 for £5.50 and any additional packs for £4.50

A pack of 12 gift tags is £2.50

This is a fundraising event and any profits will go towards something that will benefit the whole school.

Cards will be on display in your child’s classroom – Mrs Sturman will join Miss Banner in her room. If you want to order but cannot make either of those dates then please speak to a member of staff from your child’s class.



In-

PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

We are slightly changing our Parent/Teacher interview system this year and aim to hold them termly instead of just twice a year. Sign up sheets will be out soon but here are the dates and times for this term for your information:

	8.30-10	2-3.30	4-6
LIZ BANNER	MON 13 TH NOV	THURS 9 TH NOV	TUESDAY 7 TH NOV
LISA STURMAN	FRI 10 TH NOV	MON 6 TH NOV	TUESDAY 7 TH NOV
HELEN PROPHET	MONDAY 6 TH NOV	FRI 17 TH NOV	TUESDAY 7 TH NOV
RACHEL ELLIS	THURSDAY 2 ND NOV	WEDS 22 ND NOV	TUESDAY 7 TH NOV
EMMA TOVELL	TUES 7 TH NOV	MON 13 TH NOV	TUESDAY 7 TH NOV
CHLOE RAYFIELD	WEDS 8 TH NOV	WEDS 15 TH NOV	TUESDAY 7 TH NOV

INTERNATIONAL WEEK

Our first International Week of the year will be from 16th – 19th October. We are not telling the children the country yet but make sure you ask them all about it that week.



BAG2SCHOOL

Just before half term you will get a bag. This is for any donations of unwanted clothes and shoes. We get money per kilo collected. Bags need to be returned to school between 30th Oct and 1st November.

Thank you.

FOGG AGM

The FOGG (Friends of Garrick Green) AGM is on Friday 13th October at 9.05 in the school hall. We need at least 30 people to attend this meeting (Parents, grandparents and friends are all welcome)and if the meeting cannot go ahead due to low numbers, then FOGG will not be able to continue.

All you have to do at the meeting is listen to a short talk about how the funds have been raised and spent and then vote for a new committee. I promise that you will not have to be on the committee unless you want to!

Please come and support us – you know that FOGG are an important part of our school community and without them there would be lots of things that the children would miss out on.

PARENT OR GRANDPARENT VOLUNTEERS

If you have any spare time and would like to volunteer in school on a regular basis, please let us know. Afternoons are best or if you have half an hour to spare after drop off, you could hear readers from 9-9.30 am.

STAFFING

I am sorry to tell you that Sammie who works in Green Dragons and as a TA, will be leaving us at half term. She has been part of our staff team for the last 4 years and has decided to have a change and work with adults with additional needs.

We wish her every success in her new venture and will miss her here.

One of our cleaners will also be leaving at half term. If anyone is interested in applying for the role of cleaner please see Judy in the office for more details.

SCHOOL TEAMS – *please do not mention this to your children yet as we will launch it just before half term*

One of our whole school initiatives this year is to introduce three school teams – each child will belong to a team and should aim to win points for their team and the winning team at the end of the year will get the trophy or shield.

We have tried to make this easy to understand and as visual as possible for the children so the teams will be the three highest peaks of the UK – Snowdon, Ben Nevis and Scafell Pike – with the children aiming to get to the top. Each team will be a different colour and when they win a team point they will get a coloured counter to put in their team pot.

We will launch this in International Week (16th October).

Points will be awarded for effort, kindness, good manners, honesty, achievement – basically anything that we think deserves a mention.

PARENT INFORMATION MEETINGS

If you haven't already signed up for one of these, please do! Even if you have attended one before for an older child it is still important to come as our practice is always changing. In these sessions I will cover the structure of the school day and week, the curriculum, testing and assessment arrangements, expectations and will also answer any questions you may have.

All sessions will take place in the school hall.

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POLICE

The local police have asked me to put this on our newsletter...

The Old Catton and Sprowston Neighbourhood Policing Team receive various complaints regarding inconsiderate and dangerous parking during peak parking times before and after school. Please be advised the team will be monitoring school parking and your school will be one of them and anybody found parking in an inconsiderate, illegal or dangerous manner will be warned about their behaviour and if this behaviour continues we will issue the driver with a fixed penalty notice and possibly points on their licence.

Be aware of the High Way Code and remember you should not park on Zig Zags, double yellow lines, across junctions, in the middle of the road, over dropped kerbs or in any other manner considered dangerous. Please also consider the residents who live in the area – where you are parking inconsiderately by blocking their drive or in some cases on their drives!

Children are being put at risk by the inconsiderate and dangerous parking and local residents are being inconvenienced. Please park legally and considerately and walk a few minutes to the school. Please allow yourself an extra 10 minutes each day to get your children to school safely.

Please consider the safety of all the Children and Parents travelling to and from your school.

If you wish to discuss this please do not hesitate to contact me on the details below or send me an email.

You can also come to one of my monthly surgeries to discuss any Police matters that you are being subjected to, or any information that you would like to pass-on.

I hold these Surgeries monthly and my next few will take place at:

Morrisons Foodstore, The Paddocks, Old Catton.

Between the hours of 16:00 to 18:00 hours on the following dates:

Tuesday 10th October 2017

Tuesday 21st November 2017.

Please come along I would love to meet you!

**PCSO 8144 Steve Downes, Old Catton & Sprowston Safer Neighbourhood Team.
Sprowston Police Station. Norwich. NR7 8TU.**

ATTENDANCE

We need to work on our attendance this year and every month there will be a poster in Miss Tovell's classroom window, overlooking the playground, to tell you how we are doing. We are aiming for 97% overall this year – this is an ambitious target but with your help we hope we can achieve it.

Unfortunately there have already been several children absent for holidays this term. An updated Cluster Attendance Letter has gone out with this newsletter, detailing the Fixed Penalty Notice criteria - if a child is absent for 10 sessions (5 days) then the parents meet the criteria for a fine.

SEPTEMBER'S ATTENDANCE WAS 96.45%

We also need to crack down on punctuality – the bell rings at 8.55 am, this is when your child should line up so they are in the classroom and ready to start at 9.00. Assembly starts at 9.10 and even in those 10 minutes between 9.00 and 9.10, there is work to be done. If your child is frequently late for school they will miss out on the starter activities and gradually start to fall behind and then their self-esteem will take a dip.



PROMOTIONAL LUNCHES

NORSE are doing a 'Batman' lunch this Thursday, 5th October which fits in nicely with our Y1 and Y2 topic 'Heroes and Villains'. School packed lunches and jacket potatoes will still be on offer as usual. Lunch does not have to be ordered in advance but please make sure your child knows what is on offer that day:

There will be a firework themed lunch on Thursday 2nd November., both menus below:-

**Batman and Robin
Cheeseburger'**
(Beefburger in a Roll topped with
Cheese)

(v) **'Super Villain Veggie Burg-
er'**
(Vegetable Burger in a Roll
topped with Cheese)

'Joker's Jacket Wedges'
(Jacket Wedges)

'Harlequin's Medley'
(Peas and Sweetcorn)

Whizz, Pop, Bang'
(Local Pork Sausage in a Roll with Fried
Onions)
or
(Quorn Sausage in a Roll with Fried Onions)

'Campfire'
(1/2 Jacket Potato)

'Booming'
(Baked Beans)

'Sparkling'
(Iced Ginger Parkin)

RECEPTION BAKE SALE

The Reception classes will be holding a bake sale to raise money for a classroom oven – this will be on Wednesday 11th Oct straight after school along with the Christmas card ordering. Any donations of home-made or shop bought cakes will be hugely appreciated. NO NUTS PLEASE!

HOMEWORK

Reading continues to be high on our agenda this year. One of our school targets last year was to embed a culture of reading for pleasure. We designed our new library, had regular visits from the library van, introduced 'sharing books', changed the reading scheme, put a range of reading activities in each year group's weekly timetable to name but a few. All of these initiatives were a success and now we need to make sure that our children continue to want to read and enjoy reading.

For this reason, we have made a decision to focus mainly on reading for homework, and not give out Maths and English as well. We are asking for you to do reading homework 5 days a week – details of how long to spend on this and what kind of reading to do will be in your child's yellow homework book after half term so please look out for this.

If you want your child to do some English and Maths then there will be suggestions on the weekly blog (on our website under the 'What's Happening' tab) and they can use their homework book to practise anything.

After half term there will be 'Big Talk' homework for all year groups but this is more of a discussion than formal written homework – again, details will be in the homework book.

PARENT EVENTS

We hold regular events for parents to attend through the year:

Reception have a termly Story Café, Y1 and Y2 have a termly reading event and maths event. All of these are aimed at giving you an opportunity to join in a learning activity with your child, as well as giving you an idea of how to support your child with their learning outside of school. You will get a letter in advance of each of these sessions but they are also on the website calendar.

There will be a drop in session for all parents on the last day of term – TUESDAY 19th DECEMBER – between 9 and 11.30. This is an opportunity to see your child's work, have a proper look round the classroom and have an informal chat with the classroom adults.

HALF TERM

We finish for half term on **THURSDAY 19TH OCTOBER** and return on Monday 30th October