

☆Garden Suburb Infant School☆

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 3, Friday 22nd September 2023

THIS WEEK:

ROSH HASHANAH: Thank you to Annie Saunders and Fiona Coote, who came in to lead our Rosh Hashanah Assembly on Monday. Thank you also to all the parents who were able to join us.

RECEPTION: All our new reception children have now started with us, and will start staying for full days from Monday. The children will continue to start school at 9.15am until Thursday. **We would like the reception children to come in with the rest of the school (8.45 – 8.55am) from next Friday 29th September.** We appreciate that this is challenging for some parents to manage, but it a big step for the children to come in independently and we want to ensure they are comfortable with the new routines.

Here are a few reminders of other school routines, for all parents, but especially those families who have joined us since the start of the year:

- You'll find the **calendar of events** for this term attached to this newsletter. Do make a note in your diaries of these events.
- **PE Days:** Children should be coming to school in the PE Kit and trainers on specific days please see below a reminder of the class days:
 - **Lilac Class:** Monday and Thursday
 - **Turquoise Class:** Monday and Friday
 - **Yellow Class:** Monday and Thursday
 - **Orange Class:** Tuesday and Friday
 - **Pink Class:** Tuesday and Thursday
 - **Purple Class:** Tuesday and Wednesday
 - **Reception Year:** We hope that reception will starting doing PE from Monday 2nd October on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, but we will confirm this with you nearer the time.
- **Tapestry:** Year Two and Year One should now all be up and running, if you are in Year One or new to Year Two, and you haven't yet activated your account, please do this as soon as possible so you don't miss out on homework or messages from your class teacher. Reception Year parents are still in the process of being set up on Tapestry, we will let you know when we are ready to launch.
- **Communicating with School:** If you need to communicate with the school then everyone should now be emailing admin@gsis.barnetmail.net rather than Mrs Dobinson (unless it is regarding admissions or finance). The pastoral support team, Mrs Freeman and Ms Gonzalez, monitor pupil absence and welfare, deal with the school clubs, lunch arrangements and changes in pick up along with everything else to do with the children! Please save their email address, especially as Mrs Dobinson doesn't always get to her emails in good time so they may not be actioned in time.
- **Pick Up Forms / Arrangements:** Thank you to those who have completed their pick up forms – these have now been collated and passed to the class teachers. If you haven't yet done so, then please do as a matter of urgency. If there is a change of pick up on the day and the person coming isn't on your list, please ensure you contact the Pastoral Support Team by email or phone (select option 1) by 3pm at the latest so we have time to pass the message on to the relevant class teachers.

PTA MEETING: Thank you to all the parents who managed to come to the first PTA meeting of the school year! We hope you enjoyed hearing about all the events we have lined up for the year ahead, and we are grateful that so many parents have signed up to support our events. We will keep you regularly informed of PTA events, and we will send out requests for volunteers for events throughout the year. Please use your class WhatsApp groups to send reminders of events and to encourage people to volunteer! **The next PTA meeting will be on Friday 20th October at 9am.**

READING WORKSHOP FOR ALL PARENTS: Next week we will be holding reading workshops for our parents, where you'll find out more about how we teach reading to the children (at all levels) and how you can support them at home. We will also be talking about our use of the Little Wandle Reading Scheme and eBooks. The meeting will be led by Mrs Gallagher, our literacy leader in the school.

We are holding two sessions, to enable as many parents to come as possible. You only need to come along to one of the workshops:

Thursday 28th September at 5pm

Friday 29th September at 9.00am

There is no need to sign up, just come along to the main entrance at the appropriate time.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY ABSENCES: We are aware that a number of religious holidays are coming up (starting with Yom Kippur on Monday). We would like to remind parents that if their child won't be attending school due to a religious holiday that they must put it in writing to us in advance of the day by email to admin@gsis.barnetmail.net. Please ensure you email us, if you are unable to do this for any reason then please telephone the school office and leave an answer phone message by 9.30am on the day of absence.

Children are allowed to take days off for religious holidays on the confirmed dates in the religion's calendar as authorised absences, however, any other days off around the religious holiday must be requested as special leave and maybe unauthorised.

Looking ahead, if you know your child will be off for a religious holiday that isn't yet in the religion's calendar (for example Eid) you can let us know in advance of your intention and then confirm the date once it is known.

SPECIAL MENU, 5TH OCTOBER: Every few weeks our kitchen puts on a special menu for the children as part of a celebration event or just to encourage children to try different foods. On these days, children who normally have packed lunch can have a school lunch as a one off which gives them a chance to "try it out".

Our first special menu event for the year is being held on Thursday 5th October and it is themed around Superheroes and "build your own pasta". This menu is very popular with the children, as they choose their type of pasta, and then their sauce to go on top, before choosing a desert. See the attached for details of the menu for the day.

If your child normally has packed lunch but would like to join us for school lunch on this day, please notify the school office by 3rd October via email to admin@gsis.barnetmail.net

UNIFORM4KIDS OPENING HOURS: We have been asked by our uniform supplier to let parents know that they will be closed on Monday 25th September for Yom Kippur. They would also like to remind families that from **Friday 6th October until May**, their winter opening hours will come in so they will be closed Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays

☆Garden Suburb Infant School☆

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 3, Friday 22nd September 2023

for this period. The rest of the week (Mon to Thurs) they will be open 9am – 5.30pm but of course online sales are open 24/7 through their website.

GARDEN SUBURB LOTTERY: The next draw is this Saturday 23rd September 2023, you could win £25,000! Only £1 per ticket. <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/garden-suburb-junior>. You've got to be in it to win it – GOOD LUCK EVERYONE

For other ways to support the school go to our PTA Fundraising page on our website: [Garden Suburb Junior & Infant School - How we raise money \(gardensuburbinfant.co.uk\)](https://www.gardensuburbinfant.co.uk/garden-suburb-junior-how-we-raise-money)

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

Birthday Books: We are hoping to set up an Amazon Wish List for the Birthday books, which parents can buy for your child's class to share – we'll let you know when this is ready!

We don't allow families to bring in sweets and treats so this a great alternative way to celebrate – whilst increasing the classroom library!

We wish everyone who celebrated their birthday this week (fall on or between 17th and 23rd September) a very happy birthday:

5 years old this week: Radvin in Red

6 years old this week: Coco in Turquoise

7 years old this week: Ethan & Kavish in Purple

A very happy birthday also goes to Miss Sands who celebrated this week.