

☆Garden Suburb Infant School☆

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 17, Friday 19th January 2024

SPIRIT OF THE WILD VISIT THIS WEEK: The hall was taken over for two days with the animal workshops. The children were all enthralled by the different animals they saw and learnt so much – Reception Year had their first introduction to the animal world, Year One learnt about the different classifications of animals and Year Two learnt about the adaptations of animals to help them strive and thrive. The animals we met included frogs & toads, snakes, a millipede and a giant Mexican spider (not to be confused with a tarantula!) along with our furrrier friends – a Siberian husky called Ice, meerkats, a fruit bat and a skunk. We also had the opportunity to meet a barn owl – who comes most years and loves showing off his silent flight. Finally, the Year Two children had the special treat of seeing a golden eagle, the only one licensed to be with children in the UK!

These workshops are such an important experience for our children, they get up close to all the animals, and Ben from “Spirit of the Wild” is such a wonderful teacher, sharing his knowledge and keeping the children enthralled for the whole session. This year he also did a short piece on dog safety with the introduction of the very gentle Ice – who loves children and had the whole school loving him by the end of the two days!

Have a look on Tapestry for photos of your class’s experience – and check out the Spirit of the Wild website to find out more about the animals who came to visit, your children will amaze you with their new knowledge.

<https://www.spiritofthewild.biz/animals-c9dv>

These workshops are only possible with the donations from our families – we feel that they are far better than any zoo trip (which can cost around £25 per child!) as the children not only learn so much more but also get a close experience with the full range of animals.

Thank you so much to all the parents who have already made their donation towards the event – we have left the payment open until midnight on Sunday for those who haven’t yet donated who wish to do so. We will also accept cash, through the office, next week.

MATHS WEEK: Next week we are holding a special week based around Maths, and the children will be doing lots of different activities and learning that Maths is Everywhere!! Please ensure you read the Parentmail sent out this morning about this special week, along with the competition – the deadline for entries is Thursday so we can announce the winner at the end of the week on Friday.

CAR ENGINES RUNNING DURING DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP TIMES: We are concerned about the number of cars parked with the engines running at the beginning and end of the school day. One resident reported that their air purifier, which regularly monitors the air quality, consistently shows a spike in pollution during school pick up times. We should all be concerned about this, as we know that pollution created by idling vehicles disproportionately affects children. Not only are many schools daily hot-spots for vehicle idling, but young people have greater exposure to harmful pollutants. You can read more about this here: <https://idlingaction.london/>

WEBSITE UPDATES - NEWS, SUPPORT AND ADVICE FOR PARENTS: Following on from the parent meeting last week, Miss Sands has been very busy updating the website to support parents with their children’s learning.

At the meeting we talked about internet safety, so check out the resources and advice on our website here:

<https://www.gardensuburbinfant.co.uk/page/?title=Internet+Safety&pid=1753>

We also talked about our “Learning Behaviour” friends, and how useful it is talk about these behaviours at home too. You can find out more about them on our website here:

<https://www.gardensuburbinfant.co.uk/page/?title=Learning+Behaviours&pid=1754>

You can read our latest news here: <https://www.gardensuburbinfant.co.uk/news/?pid=1630&nid=3>

You can see some amazing work, and see more seasonal fair photos, in our galleries here:

<https://www.gardensuburbinfant.co.uk/news/?pid=1630&nid=3>

More will be coming soon, including advice on keeping your child safe and dealing with concerns. Do let us know if there's anything else you would find useful.

TERM DATES 2024-2025: Many parents have been asking us for the holiday dates for next year, and we can now confirm the details – the main question is always “when do we return in September?” and we can confirm the children will be due back in school on Wednesday 4th September.

Please see the attached sheet which gives all the dates that you need. This will be on the website shortly where it is available throughout the year for parents to refer to.

It is vital that holidays are only booked within the school holidays, so please do make a note of these dates and when you are booking your holidays ensure they are NOT in term time.

HALF TERM FUNTIME HOLIDAY CLUB: Funtime are running holiday childcare/activities throughout the upcoming half term break. If you would like your child to attend, please ensure you book them on in advance so they know the numbers for staffing. Full details can be found in the attached flyer.

KEEPING CHILDREN HEALTHY THIS SCHOOL YEAR: The government have issued a guide for parents to help support them during the peak time of common illnesses. Please go to [A parent's guide to keeping kids healthy this school term - UK Health Security Agency \(blog.gov.uk\)](#) if you would like to have a look.

PARENT BREAKFAST AND AFTER SCHOOL CHILDCARE SURVEY: Earlier this week, we sent out a survey from Barnet Children and Families regarding a survey about wraparound childcare in Barnet. If you haven't yet completed it, please do so by Friday 26th January. [Breakfast and After School Childcare Survey \(office.com\)](#)

GOLDERS GREEN LIBRARY, HALF TERM ACTIVITY: Please see attached flyer from Golders Green Library about an activity afternoon they're holding on Tuesday 13th February for children aged 4+

GARDEN SUBURB LOTTERY: The next draw is this Saturday 20th January 2024, 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 \(gardensuburbinfant.co.uk\)](#)

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS – none of our children or staff are celebrating between Sunday 14th and Saturday 20th January!