

☆ Garden Suburb Infant School ☆

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 8, Friday 24th October 2025

THIS WEEK:

DIWALI: Throughout the week, the children have taken part in activities to learn about the Festival of Light celebrated by Hindu families across the world. With the dance workshop on Wednesday, the special menu on Thursday, and then on Friday Miss Patel led an assembly to teach the children about the Diwali story and celebrations.

Dance Workshop: The children had a fantastic time celebrating Diwali – the Festival of Lights with a fun and energetic dance workshop led by Neha from Sarjan Nartan Academy!

They began by learning how to greet each other with a respectful "Namaste", and were introduced to the beautiful tradition of rangoli – colourful patterns made with powder to welcome guests during Diwali.

Then came the dancing! Neha taught some brilliant Bollywood dance moves, and the children all had great fun shouting "hey!" in time with the music. The room was full of energy, colour, and big smiles!

Thank you to Mrs Kesavji for organising the workshops, and to the parents who donated towards the cost. We raised £188, which covers approx. 60% of the cost of the workshops. If parents would still like to make a donation, they can do so by bringing cash into school and giving it to the school office to add to the collection.

CAKE SALE, FUNDRAISING FOR MAGGIE'S CANCER CARE – A message from Miss McClean: Thank you to our GSIS community for your incredible generosity towards the Maggie's Bake Sale this week! Your time helping to run the sale on the day and your time baking and buying was so much appreciated! We managed to make a considerable amount that will go directly to Maggie's Cancer Support Centre at the Royal Free Hospital – so far, we've raised £422 which will be banked and sent off after half term. Thank you so much!

BLACK HISTORY MONTH: We have been marking Black History Month across the school, learning about some truly inspirational role models such as Misty Copeland, Baroness Floella Benjamin and Ranger Hamza. Thank you to Miss Kelly, who led on this in school and held an assembly so the children could share what they had been doing.

OTHER NOTICES:

LUNCH MENU CHANGE FROM HALF TERM: The Autumn/Winter menu will start in the kitchen straight after half term. A copy of the menu is attached, and as always you can find it on our website [HERE](#) for future reference.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS: As detailed in the message that went out on Wednesday, the photos of the children are ready to order, please use the code on the slip you were given two weeks ago to look at your child's photos. You have until **Thursday 6th November** to order online, you can choose either free delivery to school or a direct home delivery for a small fee. All orders that are due for return to school will be delivered to school in one eco-friendly delivery week, hopefully in the week beginning 17th November.

SEASONAL GIFTS & CARDS: As is now tradition, the children have been creating seasonal card pictures, which have been sent off to a printing company for processing. Next half term, parents will receive a copy of their child's design and be able to purchase seasonal cards, gift tags, mugs, teddys and other items – all proceeds raised go to the PTA.

PTA EVENTS: Children are bringing home a flyer this afternoon, with all the PTA event dates for your fridge! The events are not only fundraisers, but also give the children lasting memories and are real community events. A copy of the flyer is attached for those who prefer an electronic copy.

DANCE CLUB OPEN TO RECEPTION: The dance club is opening up for our Reception Year children from Tuesday 4th November, it is run by Mari MacKenzie and runs every Tuesday from 3.20 – 4.30pm for six weeks. The club costs £48 for the half term, and there will be an end of term show on the last club of the term on Tuesday 9th December. To sign up, email marimackenzie@mac.com for forms and more information.

Mari MacKenzie -DipRoyalBallet(PDCT) has over thirty years of teaching and performing experience both in the UK and abroad. Her initial training was in the discipline of Classical Ballet, later encompassing African, Flamenco, Tango, Salsa, Jazz and Contemporary dance as well as Drama training at The Actors Centre UK/USA. Born in Portland Oregon, USA, Mari grew up in Mexico, Spain and Austria before finally settling in London. She trained at the Rambert School of Ballet and became a soloist with Northern Ballet Theatre. She then went to New York and worked with the Metropolitan Opera before becoming principal dancer of Ballet Hispanico of New York. Since her return to England, Mari has pursued a career as a dancer, choreographer and teacher and works extensively in Film, Television, Musical Theatre and Opera. She spent two years as Education Manager for The Royal Ballet company and gained additional teaching training with The Royal Ballet School's Diploma of Dance Teaching and is currently teaching a wide range of ages and abilities, from primary schools to her weekly Adult Dance class held in the suburb.

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT TERM - SAVE THE DATES!

Dates have now been finalised for next half term; here is a full list of the events coming up. Please note them for your diary; as always, the list will remain at the bottom of the newsletter with any changes / new events highlighted in red:

Tuesday 4th November, children return to school after the half term break.

Thursday 6th November, Monthly PTA / Parent meeting with Miss Sands @ 9am in Blue Room

Thursday 6th November, Deadline for Photograph Orders to be delivered to school (estimated arrival date of 17th Nov)

Tuesday 11th November, Year Two Trip to RAF Museum. *Forms and donations are in & volunteers have been contacted.*

Friday 14th November, Maths Workshop for Parents (all year groups) @ 9.05am in School Hall

Wednesday 19th November, Reading Workshop for Parents (for all year groups) @ 9.05am in School Hall

Thursday 20th November, Year Two Drop Ins @ 2.30pm (Parents in Y2 can visit their child in class)

Friday 21st November, Reception Year Height & Weight Checks with school nurse. *All children in Reception Year will have this check unless you opt out by emailing the nursing team at whh-tr.barnethealthyweightteam@nhs.net and the school at admin@gsis.barnetmail.net before the 18th November.*

Friday 21st November, Year One Drop Ins @ 2.30pm (Parents in Y1 can visit their child in class)

Monday 24th November, Year One Trip to the Young V&A Toy Museum (letters will come out to parents the first week after half term; parents will be asked of a donation of £13.00 to go towards the cost of the coach)

Wednesday 26th November & Thursday 27th November (3.30 – 6.30pm), KS1 Parent Consultations for Year Two & Turquoise Class (booking will go live on Arbor during the first week of November)

Thursday 27th November & Tuesday 2nd December (3.30pm – 6.30pm), Yellow Class Parent Consultations (booking will go live on Arbor during the first week of November)

Thursday 11th December, Monthly PTA / Parent meeting with Miss Sands @ 9am in Blue Room

Friday 12th December, PTA Seasonal Fair during the school day

Tuesday 16th December, Christmas Assembly (Parents welcome to join us)

Tuesday 16th December, PTA Winter Fireside Event after school

Friday 19th December, last day of term. School finishes early at 1.30pm

WOW – WALK ON WEDNESDAYS: Turquoise are this week’s winners, with Pink as runners up

PE DAYS FOR EACH CLASS:

The children should come into school wearing their PE kits, on the days they have PE lesson:

YEAR ONE - YELLOW CLASS & TURQUOISE CLASS: Monday & Friday

YEAR TWO - PINK CLASS & ORANGE CLASS: Wednesday & Friday

RECEPTION – RED CLASS & GREEN CLASS: Watch this space!

THIS WEEK’S BIRTHDAYS

We wish everyone who celebrated their birthday this week and those who celebrate over the half term (fall on or between 19th October and 1st November) a very happy birthday:

Children in Reception Year: Umaiza in Red, Rafi & Alma in Green

Children in Year One: Oleg & Reuben in Turquoise, Jana in Yellow

Children in Year Two: Isaac in Orange, Majd & Buddy in Pink

PTA EVENTS AND NOTICES

GARDEN SUBURB LOTTERY: The lottery is drawn every Saturday, with a prize of £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 \(gardensuburbinfant.co.uk\)](http://gardensuburbinfant.co.uk)

We have 6 events throughout the year run by the PTA, to not only raise vital funds for the school, but to also give the children and the school community experiences and memories to last a life time! More information will be given nearer the events, but do pop them in your diary for future reference.

SEASONAL FAIR, FRIDAY 12TH DECEMBER (During the school day)

WINTER FIRESIDE EVENT, TUESDAY 16TH DECEMBER (from 3.30pm until 5pm; free entry event, after school in rear playground)

DISCO FOR YEARS ONE & TWO, THURSDAY 5TH FEBRUARY (after school from 4.30pm until 6pm, inside the hall and classrooms)

TREASURE HUNT, SUNDAY 22ND MARCH (held from 1pm until 3pm, in school and around the suburb!)

INTERNATIONAL FOOD FAIR, FRIDAY 15TH MAY (after school, in rear playground)

SUMMER CAMP, WEEKEND OF 4TH/5TH JULY (in the school field and front playground, from Saturday afternoon until Sunday morning - camping out overnight)

If you are able to volunteer for any of the events (whether on the day or in the organisation) your help would be much appreciated! Just speak to your class rep or a member of the PTA committee.