

☆ Garden Suburb Infant School ☆

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 9, Friday 7th November 2025

MATHS WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS NEXT FRIDAY AT 9AM. SEE BELOW FOR DETAILS!

BIRTHDAY ASSEMBLY NEXT WEEK ON MONDAY: This will be held on Monday at 9.05am for children with birthdays from Sunday 9th to Saturday 15th November.

THIS WEEK:

PTA MONTHLY MEETING: Thank you to the parents who were able to attend our meeting on Thursday. We are missing representation from the Year 2 classes at these meetings, which take place on the first Thursday of each month; if you might be interested in attending and want to find out more, please come and speak to Miss Sands. At this meeting we discussed some of the projects the school is undertaking this year, including upcoming sessions for parents. We also discussed the arrangements for the upcoming seasonal fair (see below for more information).

SEASONAL GIFTS: The children have been busy creating artwork to be printed onto various gifts that parents can purchase for the festive season, birthdays or just as keepsakes. Letters, and the individual proof with your child's artwork on it, will be coming home this afternoon with details of how to purchase items online through Arbor. In the past we have focused on cards, gift tags and mugs, but this year we have extended the range so there are many more items for you to choose from. **THIS IS NOW LIVE ON ARBOR** and the deadline to complete your order is Friday 14th November as we need to get the full order off to the company on Monday 17th November to ensure we have them returned to school before the end of term.

SAVE THE DATE - Seasonal Fair, Friday 12th December: Please note that we will be starting preparations for the seasonal fair very soon. For this event, we ask parents to donate £5 towards the cost of purchasing stock for the children to purchase at the fair which is being held on Friday 12th December. On the day itself, children will bring in a shopping list, shopping bag and a purse with spending money so they can buy gifts for the family. We will need lots of volunteers for the morning, as well as before the event (to bake cookies, set up the hall and other bits and pieces) so do ensure the date is in your diary!

NEXT WEEK:

NURSERY RHYME WEEK: Mrs Kesavji sent out an email through Arbor on Thursday regarding Nursery Rhyme Week, which is next week! Throughout the week, the children will be doing activities around Nursery Rhymes which have been shown to promote early language and literacy skills. We've asked parents to upload videos of sharing nursery rhymes at home with your child, see the letter and poster (copy attached) for further information.

YEAR TWO TRIP TO RAF MUSEUM, TUESDAY 11TH NOVEMBER: The Year Two children are visiting the RAF Museum next Tuesday, the coach will be leaving promptly so please ensure your child is in school on time so we have enough time to check lunches, go to the toilet and get onto the coach.

We would also like to remind year two parents that children should be wearing sensible shoes and a waterproof coat (there is lots of walking around the museum, some of which is outside), and also ensure they are wearing their school uniform with a school logo on their chest.

All Year Two children must bring a back pack into school, along with a bottle of water. If you are sending a packed lunch in from home, then place this into the back pack, if you have ordered a school lunch this will be put in the back pack before they leave for the museum.

Volunteers have all been contacted with their instructions – don't forget your own lunch! You won't be able to purchase anything from the shop at the museum as you will be with the children at all times.

YEAR ONE FAIRY TALES DRESS UP DAY, WEDNESDAY 12TH NOVEMBER: As part of their topic on heroes and heroines, the Year One children are having a dress up day, where they can come to school as dragons, princes, princesses, creatures, witches, bears, trolls and any character from fairy tales that they know. There is no need to purchase a new costume, it is always great to see costumes that the children have helped to make. Remember this is all day, so please make sure that the children can walk, and go to the toilet on their own, in the costumes and that they will be comfortable, especially with footwear.

MATHS WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS, FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER @ 9.05AM: Next Friday morning, Mrs Martin will be running a workshop for parents on how we teach maths in school, and how you can support the children with this learning at home. All parents are welcome, from all year groups, please wait outside until we invite you to the hall once the children are settled. As always, no hot drinks in school please!

OTHER NOTICES:

PARENT CONSULTATIONS FOR YEARS ONE AND TWO: As you will be aware from the events list sent out at the end of last half term, these are coming up in the last week of November. Look out for a communication from Mrs Dobinson early next week with instructions for how to book your appointment online through Arbor.

To speed the booking process up, please check that you can access your Arbor account (either online or through the app) over the weekend, so when you get the notification you can immediately log in to book an appointment at a time suitable for you.

YEAR ONE TRIP TO YOUNG V&A, DEADLINE TO COMPLETE PAPERWORK MONDAY 17TH NOVEMBER: The Year One children will be going to the Young V&A on Monday 24th November. Please ensure you complete and return your form and give permission by logging into Arbor and going to the payment item. If you donate in cash, then we will take this as permission and update your account on Arbor for you.

DONATIONS TOWARDS TRIPS, WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS: We have had a few queries in regards to the donations that we request for trips and workshops, and so wanted to clarify a few points.

As a state-maintained school, we are only able to request donations towards these events; we cannot insist on payment from parents. As with many schools, our budget is extremely pressurised, and we are struggling to cover the cost of even basic provisions; we rely more and more on parent donations, so we can continue to provide children with these important experiences. If we don't receive enough donations, then we could be in a position where we won't be able to hold them in the future.

Trips generally require a coach, and sometimes we also book special workshops at the museum / place of interest; even if there is free entry, there is still a cost to the visits (coaches can cost in the region of £700-800 per day depending on where they are travelling to, and the time of year). The total cost of the trip is divided by the number of children in the year group, and this is used to calculate the donation requested of parents.

When we hold workshops in school, although there are no travel costs, we do need to pay the company who are coming to school. Workshops in school are often a lot cheaper than an external visit, but they are of equal value to the trips – and sometimes even better as the children get a more personal, hands-on experience. For example, we do not take the children on trips to the zoo, but we have an annual visit from Spirit of the Wild where children learn year on year about the animal kingdom, and get really up close and personal – see our website for photos.

We are very aware of the financial pressures for our families, especially at this time of the year. When we issue the list of events, wherever possible we put in the amount we will be requesting, so parents can plan ahead.

Please be assured that we always include all the children in the events, even if parents are unable to make a donation or only pay part of the amount requested.

ONLINE SAFETY: As part of our Computing and Early Years curriculum, each half term all children in the Infant School take part in a focused **Online Safety** lesson. These lessons help children learn how to stay safe online and what to do if they ever feel unsure or worried about something they see on the internet.

Whenever children have an online safety focus in school, we will share with you the topic of the lesson along with useful links so you can continue the conversation at home. By working together, we can help children develop safe and responsible online habits and reinforce the same important messages both in school and at home.

Online Safety in Year One

This week, Year One have been learning about **what the internet is** and how to use it safely. You may have already seen the colourful posters they brought home to share with you! Here are the videos used during the lesson.

- **What is the Internet?** – [BBC Bitesize](#)
- **Year One Online Safety Rap** – [Watch on YouTube](#)

NEW DATES FOR DIARY Please note the **red** items in the events list (below), which have been added this week:

- **Wednesday 3th December (9am)**, workshop for parents about supporting children with Anxiety
- **Wednesday 17th December**, Christmas Special Menu (children who normally have packed lunch, will be able to have a school lunch that day, if they choose, just email admin@gsis.barnetmail.net by Thursday 11th December)

WOW – WALK ON WEDNESDAYS: With just 1% between them, **Turquoise** has won with **Yellow** Class as the runners up, well done Year One!!!

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: Thursday

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

We wish everyone who celebrated their birthday this week (fall on or between 2nd and 8th November) a very happy birthday:

Children in Reception Year: Charlie, Oifie, Oliver and Jasmine in Green

Children in Year One: Samei in Yellow

Children in Year Two: Ella Rose in Orange

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

GARDEN SUBURB INFANT SCHOOL
SCHOOL EVENTS

Please note items in red – either updated or new events

Week beginning 10th November, Nursery Rhyme Week

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)

Wednesday 3rd December (9am), workshop for parents about supporting children with Anxiety

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

Wednesday 17th December, Christmas Special Menu (children who normally have packed lunch, will be able to have a school lunch that day, if they choose, just email admin@gsis.barnetmail.net by Thursday 11th December)

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

.../PLEASE TURN OVER FOR PTA EVENTS AND NOTICES

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 (free entry event, after school in rear playground)

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

TREASURE HUNT, SUNDAY 22ND MARCH (held from lunchtime for the first half of the afternoon, 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, 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.