

☆ Garden Suburb Infant School ☆

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 18, Friday 23rd January 2026

THIS WEEK:

SPIRIT OF THE WILD: On Wednesday we welcomed Ben and Hannah into school, with Ice the Husky Dog, Tinker the Skunk, an ever-so-soft Chinchilla, a silent barn owl, and various reptiles, amphibians and arachnids!

The children learnt so much about the different animal groups and their adaptations, and were able to get up close to the animals if they wished to. A huge thank you to Ben and Hannah for being part of our annual calendar; the children have produced some amazing work, following the visit – including some wonderful writing!

We would also like to say thank you to the parents who donated towards the workshop; online payment is now closed, but if you would like to still make a cash donation you can do this in the school office.

Do check out your Tapestry accounts to see some photos of the day, and if you would like further information about their company then check out their website at <https://www.spiritofthewild.biz/>

PTA DISCO TICKETS FOR YEARS ONE AND TWO ARE NOW LIVE! Fliers are coming home with our children in Years One and two about the Disco, which is taking place in two weeks after school (Thursday 5th February). Further information was also sent out through Arbor earlier today – do look out for this! The deadline to buy your child's ticket is next Friday (30th January), tickets will not be available on the door. *Please note that there will be no clubs that day for any children, other than Funtime, and is not open to Reception Year or younger siblings*

NEXT WEEK:

PARENTS COFFEE MORNING RUN BY AUTISM ADVISORY TEAM, WEDNESDAY 28TH JANUARY @ 9AM IN THE INFANT SCHOOL: The session will focus on emotional regulation and how to support the children. Although this session is aimed at parents and carers of children with autism, all parents are very welcome to attend, as you might find the strategies discussed helpful for many children.

The topics will include:

- emotional dysregulation and the overwhelm bucket
- focus on emotions
- focus on routine and predictability
- masking and fawning

Please wait outside the Infant entrance until 9am when we will call you in (remember no hot drinks allowed in school)

PTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING @ 9am in JUNIOR SCHOOL HALL: At this meeting we report on the events held in 2024 – 2025 (last academic year) and the funds raised through the year. We will also discuss the plans for future spending in both schools. And finally, we hold the formal elections of the committees for both the Infant and Junior Schools – both of which have already been working hard since September.

This meeting is open to all parents, and we encourage everyone to come along – it is a great way of finding out more about the PTA Charity and the different events held in both schools.

After you've dropped your child, please go down to the junior school. We look forward to seeing you there!

OTHER NOTICES:

NATIONAL STORY TELLING WEEK, MONDAY 2ND TO FRIDAY 6TH FEBRUARY: We are excited to celebrate National Storytelling Week from 2nd to 6th February 2026 and would love to invite you to come and read a story to the children at 3:00 PM on any day during the week – this can either be one that you've chosen, a story in your own language, or we can provide a story for you to read.

Your involvement will make this experience special and encourage our children's love for reading and storytelling. If you are interested, please speak to the class teacher or email the school office to let us know the day that works best for you. We look forward to sharing this joyful experience together.

HALF TERM HOLIDAY CLUB: Funtime are running the holiday club in the upcoming half term from Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February (8.30am – 5.30pm for £35.00; 8.30am – 1pm/1pm to 5.30pm for £25.00). For more information see the attached flyer or call Sharon on 07506 030037.

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 (FALL ON OR BETWEEN 17TH – 24TH JANUARY)

We wish everyone who celebrated their birthday this week a very happy birthday:

Children in Reception Year: Ehsan & Ibrahim in Red

Children in Year One: None this week

Children in Year Two: Daniel in Pink

PLEASE NOTE: Birthday Assembly is for children in Years One and Two only, and is held every Tuesday morning at 9.05am, for children with birthdays that week (Sunday to Saturday). Y1/2 Parents are welcome to attend their child's Birthday Assembly, so please make a note in your diary!

FUNTIME BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CHILD CARE: Funtime provides extended childcare for the children in both the Infant and Junior schools.

- Breakfast Club runs from 7.50am until 8.45am, when they are taken to class, and costs £5 per session
- After-School Club collects children from the playground and runs until 5.50pm at a cost of £14 per session
- If your child attends an after-school activity club (such as football, chess, etc), Funtime staff will pick them up from the club.
- Funtime also offer a shorter session until 4.30pm, at a cost of £7.00.
- For further information or to enquire about a place please contact Funtime directly by text or phone on 07506 030 037. Details about all our after-school clubs/childcare can be found on our website [HERE](#)

GARDEN SUBURB INFANT SCHOOL
SCHOOL EVENTS - SPRING TERM 2026

Please note items in red – either updated or new events

Wednesday 28th January 9am, Autism Advisory Coffee Morning for Parents on emotional regulation for Infant and Junior School parents (please come to Blue Room after the children have come in)

Friday 30th January, PTA AGM @ 9am in JUNIOR SCHOOL HALL: Our annual general meeting of the PTA where we go through events from last year, plans for spending and upcoming events. We also elect the new committees of both the Infant and Junior School. Everyone is welcome!

Week beginning 2nd February, National Story Telling Week: A week focusing on story telling throughout the school.

Thursday 5th February, Monthly PTA / Parent meeting with Miss Sands @ 9am in Blue Room

Thursday 5th February, PTA Disco for Years One and Two (please note there is no Taekwondo or football clubs on this date)

Week beginning 9th February, National Children's Mental Health Week: A week focusing on children's wellbeing and mental health.

Monday 9th February @ 4.30 – 5.30pm, Online Safety Talks for Parents: Online meeting, a link will be sent to all parents in the morning.

Tuesday 10th February – Safer Internet Day

Friday 13th February, Special Menu "Pancake Day" - children who normally have packed lunch are invited to have a school lunch on this day to enjoy the special menu which will be serving pancakes with a variety of toppings, if your child would like to take part (and normally has packed lunch), please ensure you email admin@gsis.barnetmail.net by Monday 9th February so we can let the kitchen know.

Monday 16th to Monday 23rd February – School closed for Half Term.
Children return to school on Tuesday 24th February

Tuesday 3rd March, Year Two Boat Trip up the Thames. Parents will be asked for a donation of £25 towards the cost of the boat trip (coach and entry), and the upcoming Great Fire of London workshop (see below) combined

Wednesday 4th March @ 9.00am, Barnet Parent Carer Forum Coffee Morning

Thursday 5th March, World Book Day: Children will dress up as characters from their favourite books and share stories in class.

Thursday 5th March, Special Menu "World Book Day" - children who normally have packed lunch are invited to have a school lunch on this day to enjoy the special menu, if your child would like to take part (and normally has packed lunch), please ensure you email admin@gsis.barnetmail.net by Monday 2nd March so we can let the kitchen know.

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

Tuesday 10th March, Year One Trip to Kew Gardens. Parents will be asked for a donation of £15 towards the cost of the trip (including coach and entry)

Wednesday 11th March @ 2.30pm, Reception Year Parent Drop Ins: An opportunity for parents to step into their child's class, and for children to share work they are proud of.

Thursday 12th March @ 2.30pm, Year One Parent Drop Ins: An opportunity for parents to step into their child's class, and for children to share work they are proud of.

Friday 13th March @ 2.30pm, Year Two Parent Drop Ins: An opportunity for parents to step into their child's class, and for children to share work they are proud of.

Friday 13th March, Nowruz Assembly (Iranian New Year): Parents invited to join us for this assembly, doors will open at 9am once the children have come in.

Tuesday 17th March, Ramadan Assembly: Mrs Kesavji will lead our assembly, and parents are invited to join us (doors open at 9am). On that week, birthday assembly will be held on Monday 16th March.

Wednesday 18th March & Thursday 19th March, 3.30 – 6.30pm: Parent Consultations with class teachers

Sunday 22nd March: PTA Treasure Hunt

Tuesday 24th March @ 9.10am, Easter Assembly

Wednesday 25th March, Year Two Great Fire of London Workshop: Children will spend the day taking part in activities and drama based around life in 1666, the cost of this workshop will be covered by the donation made for the Boat Trip on 3rd March and subsidised by the school.

Thursday 26th March @ 9.10am, Passover Assembly

Friday 27th March, last day of term. School finishes early at 1.30pm

Children return to school on Monday 13th April at the normal time

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.

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.