

☆ Garden Suburb Infant School ☆

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 20, Friday 6th February 2025

THIS WEEK:

NATIONAL STORY TELLING WEEK: This week we have been focusing on story telling throughout the school.

In Years One and Two, the children took part in an exciting online workshop with schools across the UK to celebrate National Storytelling Week. The children joined author and musician Annemarie Anang, who shared stories, music and ideas inspired by her picture book *I Am Nefertiti*, illustrated by Natelle Quek. The children enjoyed listening to the story, joining in with the music and learning how stories can help us express ourselves. They were inspired to use their voices, body percussion, imagination and creativity to tell their own stories. It was a fun and inspiring experience that the children really enjoyed.

You can watch the storytelling workshop using the link <https://youtu.be/P15e8JPQc-g?feature=shared>

In Reception Year, they've been making time for EVEN MORE stories through the week, and linked rhymes to music and actions.

Across the school we'd like to thank the parents who have come into school to share a story with their child's class, this has been a real treat for everyone!

KS1 PTA DISCO: Last night the children in years one and two came back to school to find the hall transformed into a dance hall! They had a wonderful time dancing away to the music; thank you to Lee from ProActive Events - our regular DJ, for coming along and providing an excellent soundtrack. The children also enjoyed doing arts and crafts in the breakout rooms, and enjoying snacks to keep them going before collecting their party bags on the way out. A huge thank you to the organising committee, and all the parents who helped out on the day – the children had an amazing time.

NEXT WEEK:

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK: Next week the whole school will be focusing on children's wellbeing and mental health, with some special activities for the children.

During the week we will also be taking part in the national **Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 10th February** – please see the attached sheet from Barnet Resilient Schools with links and information for parents, not only about Safer Internet usage but also with links to mental health support.

MONDAY 9TH FEBRUARY @ 4.30 – 5.30PM, “ONLINE SAFETY” TALKS FOR PARENTS (TO BE HELD ONLINE): Perryn Jasper, Barnet Prevent Co-ordinator will deliver a meeting for our parents in both the Infant and Junior Schools on **Online Safety**

The session will raise awareness of online risks for young people and will focus on:

- General online advice and guidance and how to reduce risk
- Generative AI risks
- Safe Gaming and appropriate sleep patterns
- Social media and popular apps to avoid
- Exploitation
- Cyberbullying

- Grooming
- How to reduce the threats and where to seek advice and support

This meeting will be online, and there is no need to register beforehand; a further email with the link will come out to all parents on the morning of 9th February

FRIDAY 13TH FEBRUARY, SPECIAL MENU “PANCAKE DAY” : Children having school lunch will be able enjoy a special menu which will be serving pancakes with a variety of toppings for dessert. If your child normally has packed lunch but would like to take part, please ensure you email admin@gsis.barnetmail.net by Monday 9th February so we can let the kitchen know.

LOOKING AHEAD:

HALF TERM BREAK: Next Friday, 13th February, we break up for half term. School will finish at the normal time and clubs will run as normal. Children return to school on Tuesday 24th February

YEAR TWO RIVER CRUISE, TUESDAY 3RD MARCH: Letters came home this week, and the payment item (which also gives permission) is on Arbor. The deadline for Year Two is next Wednesday 11th February. Due to the short turn around after half term, to order lunches and organise volunteers, please ensure you return the form by the deadline, and give permission via the payment item on Arbor (go to Activities to find the trip)

OTHER NOTICES:

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT MORNING DROP OFF: We have noticed that more parents are slipping past us at the gate to bring their children into school. Please resist the temptation to do this as the corridor can become quite congested and the children usually find it easier to settle if their parents don't come in the building, a member of staff is always on hand at the gate to help them and will advise if they think that it is necessary for the parent to come inside.

There are also parents undoing children's coats for them and putting hats into bookbags while outside, we are trying to encourage the children to be independent, they do all these things themselves after playtime, they can do them before school as well. Please help us to develop their independence skills.

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.

WOW – WALK ON WEDNESDAYS: Once again Year One are in the lead with Yellow as this week's winners, and Turquoise at the 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: Thursday

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

We wish everyone who celebrated their birthday this week (fall on or between 1st & 7th February) a very happy birthday:

Children in Reception Year: Anaya in Green

Children in Year One: Andrej in Yellow & Roham in Turquoise

Children in Year Two: Chichebem 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 (or after clubs such as football/Art club) and runs until 5.50pm at a cost of £14 per sessions, they also do a shorter session to 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

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 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.

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)