

☆ Garden Suburb Infant School ☆

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 27, Friday 17th April 2026

EMAIL OUTAGE & COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR OF GOVERNORS: It was brought to our attention on Friday morning that emails were not all going through to parents successfully. As a result of this, an important communication from Anthony Shayle (Chair of Governors) was only received by some parents at the time of sending on Thursday evening. The problem turned out to be an issue between our email provider and Arbor; we can only apologise that not all parents received this information at the same time, but am sure you understand it was completely out of our hands.

YEAR TWO TRANSFER TO JUNIORS: Offers were sent out to our year two families on Thursday evening. The deadline to accept your child's place is 30th April – please ensure you click on the link in your offer email and follow the instructions to accept/decline your offer. It is very important that everyone in Year Two does this to ensure they don't lose their place for September.

If you are not planning on moving up to the juniors, or didn't receive your offer (if applied on time) please contact Mrs Dobinson on admissions@gsis.barnetmail.net

RECEPTION YEAR OFFERS FOR SEPTEMBER 2026: Offers have also been sent out to families with children due to start in reception year in September. The deadline to accept your child's place is 30th April. Please ensure you accept (or decline) the offer by this date. We will start the process of contacting parents, and getting information about our new children in a couple of weeks. If you have any queries, please email Mrs Dobinson on admissions@gsis.barnetmail.net

ART WEEK: This week we have been celebrating World Art Day, which fell on Wednesday 15th April. The children and staff have been working on a whole school piece of abstract art which will be displayed in school. Everyone in our school community has been working collaboratively and imaginatively on creating geometric and organic shapes. Thank you to Miss Jowsey for leading this project, which we have all really enjoyed!

LOOKING AHEAD:

We have a number of events coming up this half term, with lots more to follow after half term. The list of events for this half term are below, and we will notify parents of other dates for the second half term as soon as they are finalised.

Week beginning 20th April, Science Week: The children will be taking part in different science activities throughout the week

Wednesday 22nd April @ 9am, PTA Meeting with Miss Sands: Monthly meeting giving parents the opportunity to meet with Miss Sands, we will also be talking about arrangements for the International Food Fair. Please ensure at least one parent from each class attends so they can feed back to the rest of the class

Thursday 23rd April, Class Photographs: Children have their group photograph taken, which will be available to purchase by parents later in the term. Children should come to school in their uniform, all neat and tidy!

Tuesday 28th April, Reception Year Show @ 9.10am: The reception classes will present a thirty minutes show to their parents – due to space restrictions older siblings will not be invited, and younger siblings will need to be carried as there won't be room for push chairs. No hot drinks are allowed. Parents will be invited into the hall once the children have all come into school.

Wednesday 29th April, Year One Trip to Kenwood: The children will visit Kenwood for the morning, as detailed in the letter that came out on Monday 13th April, with a deadline of Monday 20th April. Parents are asked to donate £11.00 towards the cost of the coach.

Thursday 30th April, Year Two Stay and Read: Year Two parents are invited into school to spend time reading with their child and learn more about the comprehension we are focusing on in Year Two, please see the attached flyer for further information.

Thursday 30th April, Deadline to accept places for Year Three & Reception in September *Please note that if your child is currently in Reception or Year One there is no action you need to take for September Transfer as this happens automatically. There will be a full transition timetable for all our children put in place, and we'll provide further information on this once we have dates confirmed.*

Monday 4th May, School Closed due to May Bank Holiday

Thursday 7th May @ 9am, PTA Meeting with Miss Sands: Monthly meeting with parents, all are invited but we do ask for at least one parent from each class so they can feed back to the rest of the class.

Wednesday 13th May, Reception Year Trip to Aldenham Park: The children will visit Aldenham and explore the Hundred Acre Wood and visit the farm. Letters will come out week beginning 27th April with deadline of Friday 1st May, parents will be asked for a £25.00 donation towards the cost of the coach, entry and activities on site.

Friday 15th May, International Food Fair from 3.30pm: The big annual event for the whole school, families share food from their home countries and we have lots of activities going on in the rear playground. This event requires lots of parental support, so do look out for communications which will start coming out next week!

Week beginning 18th May, Walk to School Week: A national week to encourage children to walk to school – watch this space!

Monday 25th May to Monday 1st June, School closed for Half Term: School finishes at the normal time on Friday 22nd May, and children return to school on Tuesday 2nd June

This list will go as a standing item in each newsletter for easy referral, and further information on these events will come out as we go through.

OTHER NOTICES:

PLEA FOR CARRIER BAGS: We are in great need of plastic carrier bags for the medical room; these are used to send wet clothing home with the children in the case of accidents. If you have any spare at home, please bring them to the school office – we do ask for plastic bags as paper bags get wet and break.

WOW – WALK ON WEDNESDAYS: Well done to Year One! Turquoise class are the winners, with Yellow as 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 12th to 18th April) a very happy birthday:

Children in Reception Year: Atlas in Red Class

Children in Year One: None this week

Children in Year Two: None this week

A very happy birthday also goes to Mrs Dowdell who celebrated this week.

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](#)

PTA EVENTS AND NOTICES

SCHOOL LIBRARY FUNDRAISER: Given it is the National Year of Reading, the PTA is raising money towards the purchase of books for the school library. The school is continually upgrading and supplementing its stock of books for the children, but this year it is also specifically intending to convert one of the spare classrooms into a designated library, which it hopes will be a real asset for the children and cement their understanding and interest in books and reading. In the spring term, we had a couple of "bucket" collections held on World Book Day and the last day of term. Parents have also been very generous supporting through the options below. These options are still open, and if you would like to further support this fundraiser than you can still do so:

Ongoing Donation Options:

- 1) Make an Online Donation in the **Arbor School Shop**; log into your Arbor account and go to the School Shop where you will find a standing item called "PTA Fundraiser for Infant School Library" in which you can donate at any time in multiples of £5
- 2) The PTA Chair, Caroline Zabeti, has set up a **Collective fundraising account**, which will be open for the next 10 days. The link is: <https://pay.collectiv.com/gsis-pta-library-books-project-58635> This link has also been circulated through the parent WhatsApp community;

UPCOMING PTA EVENTS: We have 2 events left this academic 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.

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.