

☆ Garden Suburb Infant School ☆

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 30, Friday 8th May 2026

THIS WEEK:

PTA Meeting with Miss Sands: Thank you to the parents who were able to come to our meeting yesterday. We spoke mainly about the International Food Fair. We really need more volunteers for this! Please see the message below.

Sir David Attenborough's Birthday and Tombola Prizes: This morning the children came dressed up to celebrate Sir David Attenborough's 100th Birthday, and brought a prize in for the staff tombola stall. Children in class have been watching some of his videos and been getting creative around the theme of Planet Earth. Miss Jowsey has been working with the children and staff to create 100 colourful elephants which are on display down the corridor – a video shot will be put on the website soon! And all classes have made a birthday card to send off to him. Thank you to all the staff, and children for engaging with this special event.

We'd also like to thank parents for sending in prizes for the tombola – the children are already quite excited about the possibility of winning one of the prizes at the International Food Fair next week. We do still need some more though, so if you weren't able to bring something in today, then please do so early next week (by Tuesday). Thank you.

NEXT WEEK:

Year One Trip to Kenwood (Wednesday 13th May): The year one classes are looking forward to their long-awaited visit to Kenwood House next week. The children will be out for the morning, but back in school to have lunch. Please ensure children are wearing a top with the school logo on it, and bring a coat and wear sensible shoes as they will be doing quite a bit of walking! All children need to bring their water bottle into school as normal.

Reception Year Trip to Aldenham (Wednesday 13th May): Everything is ready for the trip next week! Reception children need to be in school on time to ensure they have time to go to the toilet, collect lunches and get to the coach to leave promptly. The children should come to school with the following:

- Wear their uniform with the school logo on their chest
- Wear a waterproof coat and sensible shoes as we'll be walking around the farm and park
- Bring a back pack for carrying their lunch and water bottle – if your child is having a lunch from home, please place it inside the back pack before coming to school, those who are having a school packed lunch will have this put in the back pack when they arrive in school.

The children will return in time for normal pick up / clubs

International Food Fair, Friday 15th May: We are fast approaching one of our big annual PTA events. Stalls will be set up in the rear playground showcasing the range of countries represented in our school, and there will be face painting, arts and crafts as well as a bouncy castle – and the Staff Tombola stall! There will also be a bar where you can purchase drinks. Tickets include entry and as much food as you can eat! Don't forget to bring cash on the day for drinks and for the children to take part in the activities.

Tickets are available to purchase on Arbor until Wednesday 13th May, remember that children and adults need tickets, as children can't attend without an adult with them. If you prefer to buy a ticket using cash then please put money in an envelope with the name of your child and the number of tickets you would like – these will be passed to the PTA for processing; please make sure you put the correct information on the envelope or you may not receive your tickets (after the closing date tickets will only be available on the door – which will delay your entry to the event as advanced ticket holders will have priority, so we strongly urge families to buy in advance)

LOOKING AHEAD:

WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK (MONDAY 18TH TO FRIDAY 22ND MAY): Walk to School Week is a national, five-day walking challenge. The children have been learning about how walking and travelling to school in an active way helps us to have healthy bodies, healthy minds and a healthy environment.

To mark this important event, when the children arrive in school each morning, they will be asked to record how they have travelled to school that day. Active travel is walking, scooting, cycling, bus and getting off a stop early and parking and striding (driving and parking at least 5 - 10 minutes away and walking the rest of the way). At the end of the week all children who participate in active travel every day will receive a certificate to take home.

We are also holding a map making competition!

Walking to school is a great opportunity to notice more about our surroundings so we are asking all the children to create a map of their journey to school at home. They can draw, create a collage or 3D model - the choice is yours! Think about what you see, hear, touch or smell on the way to school and include these in your map. The best maps will go on display and there will also be prizes for the winners!

Please see the attached letter for more information and ideas.

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

FUNTIME HOLIDAY CLUB, TUESDAY 26TH TO FRIDAY 29TH MAY: once again Funtime will be running through the upcoming half term break (8.30am – 5.30pm for £35.00; 8.30am – 1pm/1pm to 5.30pm for £25.00). For more information call Sharon on 07506 030037.

TAEKWONDO HOLIDAY CLUB, MONDAY 25TH TO FRIDAY 29TH MAY IN CRICKLEWOOD: Ash, who runs our after-school club, is running a martial arts camp during the upcoming half-term break. The camp is open to all children, including complete beginners with no martial arts experience at all. The camp will run Monday to Friday (including the bank holiday), from 9am–4pm, and families can choose either the full week or individual days depending on what suits them best. Click on the following link with more information and registration details: <https://taekwondox.co.uk/spring-half-term-camp/> (There is also an early bird discount available until this Sunday.)

OTHER NOTICES:

CONSULTATION ON AMALGAMATION OF INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOL, DEADLINE TO RESPOND 10TH JUNE:

Barnet are now running the formal consultation for the proposed amalgamation of Garden Suburb Infant and Junior Schools. To have your say, please click on the following link to view the documentation and submit comments in the questionnaire towards the bottom of the page:

[Proposed merger of Garden Suburb Infant and Junior Schools into Garden Suburb Primary School | Barnet Council](#)

PARENTS COMING INTO SCHOOL IN THE MORNING: We have noticed an increasing number of parents coming in to school with their children in the mornings again. It is now almost the end of the school year and we are really trying to encourage the children to be independent, and having a parent come in and take their coat off for them doesn't help with this. Please be aware that we will always help any child who is struggling to separate from their adult and, generally, by the time they get up the slope to the front door they are happy to come in. If children arrive late, we would still ask parents to not come further than the inner front door, if they need a helping hand, we will meet them there.

WOW – WALK ON WEDNESDAYS: We have joint winners of Yellow and Turquoise class, with the same percentage of children who walked, scooted, biked, took the bus or parked and strode, with Pink 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 3rd to 9th May) a very happy birthday:

Children in Reception Year: Iona & Meryem in Red

Children in Year One: Becky in Yellow

Children in Year Two: None this week!

And of course, a very happy birthday also goes to Sir David Attenborough!!

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;

GARDEN SUBURB LOTTERY: The lottery is drawn every Saturday, with a prize of £25,000! Only £1 per ticket. <https://www.yourschoolottery.co.uk/lottery/school/garden-suburb-junior>. You've got to be in it to win it – GOOD LUCK EVERYONE!

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.

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://Garden Suburb Junior & Infant School - How we raise money (gardensuburbinfant.co.uk))