

☆Garden Suburb Infant School☆

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 38, Friday 10th July 2026

THIS WEEK:

KS1 VISIT FROM CHILDREN'S BOOK AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR, HELEN STEPHENS: We missed this out of the newsletter last week, but on Monday 29th June, Helen Stephens, author of the "How to Hide a Lion" series of picture books, came to visit the Year One and Year Two children. She told funny stories, drew lots of fantastic illustrations, which the children were mesmerised by, and invited the children to take part in a drawing game. They had to draw where they would hide a lion in school and came up with lots of brilliant ideas. Helen also showed the children her beautiful sketchbooks and talked about how she developed her ideas for stories through drawing. She also talked about how her picture books are made, from the moment she has her first ideas for a story, to when the books are printed. A big thank you to Helen for her time and her gift of books for the class book corners.

PTA SUMMER CAMP: Last weekend families came to the summer camp! The weather was beautiful, the families pitched their tents and then everyone had a lovely evening singing, listening to stories, toasting marshmallows on the camp fire, and enjoying freshly made pizza from the Pizza Van.

Thank you to Caroline and Iva who led on this event, along with everyone else who helped through the weekend, and to Mr Shepherd and Mr Adolphe for all their help setting up, tidying up and generally being helpful throughout!

Thank you also to everyone who made this such a special, final camp for Miss Sands, Miss Jowsey, Mrs Freeman and Mr Adolphe! Helena's mum made a beautiful cake, and we very much enjoyed spending time with the children and parents.

Einav Sitton took some beautiful photos, and they are all on **Tapestry**. Do please take a look!

NEW RECEPTION VISITS: Mrs Bhavsar and Miss Sands were very pleased to welcome our new reception children and their parents for their first school visit. The children were able to spend some time in their new classes with the teaching team, while the parents got to know each other, and learnt about some of the routines for the start of school.

We would like to say thank you to the parents who were on hand to sell second-hand uniform for the new families, and especially to **Natalie Coury-Reid** who has been a parent in the Garden Suburb Schools for 16 years, and has organised so many of our uniform sales in that time. Natalie's youngest child will be leaving the juniors at the end of term. We are very grateful for all she has done for us!

TRANSITION MEETINGS: This week we invited parents from Reception and Year One to school to meet their child's new teachers for September. We hope you found them useful.

GOODBYE MISS WALTERS: today we said goodbye to Miss Walters, who joined us in September for a term but was able to extend her stay in the UK so she could remain with Pink Class for the year. Miss Walters has been a fabulous member of our staff team, and we will miss her a great deal. On Monday she will be flying to Australia, landing Tuesday lunchtime. On the first day of our holiday, Miss Walters will start the new term at her school in Australia! I am sure you will join with us in wishing her all the very best in the future.

NEXT WEEK:

TUESDAY 14TH JULY @ 9.05AM, YEAR ONE BIRTHDAY ASSEMBLY (FOR BIRTHDAYS THAT FALL 12TH JULY TO 31ST AUGUST): Parents are invited to join this assembly for children in Year One celebrating in the last week of term, or over the holidays

WEDNESDAY 15TH JULY @ 9.05AM, YEAR TWO BIRTHDAY ASSEMBLY (FOR BIRTHDAYS THAT FALL 12TH JULY TO 31ST AUGUST): Parents are invited to join this assembly for children in Year Two celebrating in the last week of term, or over the holidays

THURSDAY 16TH JULY, CHILDREN'S END OF YEAR TEA PARTY: We will be holding a special end of year tea party during the afternoon, for the children and staff only, which the PTA will be supporting. Party Clothes that day!

**FRIDAY 17TH JULY, LAST DAY OF TERM: CHILDREN TO BE COLLECTED AT 1.30PM
(PLEASE NOTE THAT FUNTIME WILL NOT BE RUNNING AFTER SCHOOL THAT DAY)**

CLUBS REMINDER: Next week there will be extra sessions of clubs as follows

Monday - NO CLUBS

Tuesday - Dance

Little Voices (children who usually attend on Fridays can also join this session)

Wednesday - Gymnastics

Thursday - Football

NO TAEKWONDO

Friday - NO CLUBS as school finishes at 1.30pm

CHILDREN LEAVING SCHOOL NEXT WEEK: Everyone should have notified Mrs Dobinson by now if children are leaving the infant school next week, by either completing a leavers form or emailing her with details of their new school and confirmation of new address (if you are moving house).

If you haven't yet done so, please email her on admissions@gsis.barnetmail.net by Monday morning so we can ensure that they are included in the goodbyes, and we know where to send their files to over the holidays.

If your circumstances change over the holidays, please email Mrs Dobinson on admissions@gsis.barnetmail.net so we can ensure that we have everything up to date for the start of the school year – and so we can pass files onto the right places. Mrs Dobinson will have access to emails over the holiday, and will reply when she is able to.

TAPESTRY – REMINDER FOR PARENTS IN YEAR TWO OR WHO ARE LEAVING AT THE END OF TERM: If you would like to save any of the work/pictures/special memories held on Tapestry, please log on and screen shot any pages you would like to keep before Monday 17th August; once parent and child access has been removed at the end of August, you will not be able to access the journals.

Children currently in Reception or Year One, who will be with us next year, will have their journals moved up to their new year group, and we'll be in contact again in September to let you know what you need to do next.

SUMMER HOLIDAY CAMPS:

FUNTIME SUMMER HOLIDAY CAMP, MONDAY 20TH JULY TO FRIDAY 7TH AUGUST 2026: Funtime will be running again at the start of the summer holidays. Further details can be found on our website at [Garden Suburb Junior & Infant School - After School clubs and Childcare](#). Please ensure you book your places by 10th July so Sharon can arrange staffing – if there is low uptake, she may have to cancel some days so it is very important to book with her by this date. To book, please email Sharon on shaz.funtime@outlook.com

LITTLE VOICES THEATRE HOLIDAY CAMP, MONDAY 24TH TO THURSDAY 27TH AUGUST 2026: Little Voices are running their holiday camp at the end of the holidays for primary aged children in the Infant School. There is an “early bird” discount of 10% for those who book at least a month before the camp start date. For more information, and booking, go to www.littlevoices.org.uk/northlondonholidaycamps or email Katie at katie@littlevoices.org.uk

BARNET YOUTH POSITIVE ACTIVITIES AND SUMMER CAMPS! Once again, [Barnet Youth](#) are bringing families a packed programme of free and affordable activities for children, young people and families across Barnet. This summer the programme includes holiday camps, trips, sports, creative workshop, wellbeing support and family events, all designed to help young people stay active, make friends and try something new during the long break. For further information go to [Barnet-Youth-Summer-2026-Magazine.pdf](#)

OTHER NOTICES:

Barnet Council is asking parents and carers to complete a short survey about childcare for school-aged children, including before and after school care and holiday provision.

The Department for Education has requested this information from all local authorities. Your feedback will help Barnet Council understand whether current childcare options meet the needs of families and will inform future planning and support.

[Parent/ Carer School Aged Childcare Sufficiency Survey – Fill out form](#)

The survey takes only a few minutes to complete.

Deadline: Friday 31 July 2026

Thank you for sharing your views.

GREAT BRITISH SUMMER SAVINGS, A message from the UK Government: *Rising prices can make life's little treats harder to afford, especially during the school holidays when costs build up for families. This Government is determined to help, and that is why last month the Chancellor announced the Great British Summer Savings scheme. From 25 June to 1 September 2026, the Government is temporarily cutting VAT from 20% to 5% on children's meals in restaurants, children and family tickets to cinemas, theatres, concerts and exhibitions, and admission to a wide range of attractions. Combined with free bus travel during August for children aged 5 to 15 in England, families and young people will be able to enjoy experiences that make summer special, including visits to the kinds of cultural and educational attractions that enrich children's lives outside the classroom. As part of this campaign, we have launched an attraction finder website which allows families to type in their postcode and find participating venues near them to make the most of summer savings. To use the attraction finder, please visit <https://summersavings.gov.uk>*

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

We wish everyone who celebrated their birthday this week (fall on or between 5th to 11th July) a very happy birthday:

Children in Reception Year:	Gjin in Red Class
Children in Year One:	Akihiro in Turquoise
Children in Year Two:	Lucia in Orange

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**: <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.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/garden-suburb-junior>. You’ve got to be in it to win it – GOOD LUCK EVERYONE!