

☆Garden Suburb Infant School☆

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 39, Friday 17th July 2026

REMINDER: SCHOOL CLOSSES TODAY AT 1.30PM, PLEASE ENSURE YOU COLLECT YOUR CHILD ON TIME!

School reopens on Thursday 3rd September for our Year One and Two children. Our new reception children will start the term with visits on either Thursday 3rd or Friday 4th September, starting school from Monday 7th September.

If you are planning on gathering on "The Green" after school this afternoon, please take the following into consideration when planning:

- Be considerate of our neighbours and do not block their driveways with cars
- Be aware of the dangers of the electronic gates to the car park, especially with toddlers. And make sure the children are not playing around or running onto the slip road that runs around the green, (and of course the main roads too!)
- Take all of your litter with you and don't overfill the bins
- Don't allow your children to climb the trees - it is not safe and it is damaging the trees!
- Children are not permitted to come back into the playground or the school, after the end of the day, to use water fountains or the toilets

A MESSAGE FROM MISS SANDS

It has been a privilege to lead the Garden Suburb Infant School for the past 21 years, and it feels very strange to be writing my final newsletter. Although I am looking forward to retirement, and new adventures, I will miss being a part of this wonderful community; I love being at the gate every morning, greeting the children and their families, and then following up with singing together. What a way to start the day!

Miss Jowsey, Mrs Freeman, Mr Adolphe and I have been overwhelmed with your thoughtfulness and generosity. We would like to say a big thank you for your amazing and very kind gifts and words, and also the celebrations, that the PTA have played such a huge part in arranging. Our bubble show and tea party were spectacular, and also very moving. You can see some pictures on Tapestry.

I would like to say a big "Thank You", to all the different members of our school community who have contributed to another great year of new opportunities and lots of learning, here at Garden Suburb Infant School.

Thank you to all our staff for their dedication and creativity, and for making our school a safe and happy place to learn.

We have a strong and experienced team of teachers, teaching assistants, business manager, administrative staff, pastoral support staff, mealtime supervisors, kitchen staff and caretakers. It really has been a privilege to work with them.

We are very sad to also be saying goodbye to some of our staff members; no matter how long they have worked in our school, they have all had an impact on the lives of our children and on their colleagues, who will miss them a great deal.

Miss Jowsey, my deputy head and co-head, is leaving after 25 years in the school. Miss Jowsey started her teaching career in the school in October 2001, and what an inspirational and gifted teacher, and leader, she is. Miss Jowsey has been pivotal in shaping our curriculum and developing our teaching and support staff, and her expertise in art in particular has enriched our school, as anyone will see walking around our school.

Mrs Freeman is retiring after just over 25 years in the school. Mrs Freeman worked as a teaching assistant initially and since 2019 she has worked part-time, providing pastoral and administrative support to our school community. We have all greatly valued Mrs Freeman's calming presence, knowledge and skills. Ms Gonzalez will be working full time in the office from September, alongside Mrs Dobinson.

We also wish **Mr Adolphe** a very happy retirement, following 29 years of service to the school, managing our school premises as the school caretaker. Mr Adolphe seems to be able to turn his hand to anything, and is always on call when we need him. His presence on the gate every morning is always reassuring for our families and staff, too. Mr Shepherd will be working full time in the school from September.

We are also saying goodbye to **Ranji**, who is retiring having been one of our fabulous team of school cooks for 27 years. Ranji is always patient, never gets upset, and the children will miss seeing her smiley face from across the counter at lunchtimes. Along with Sabrina, Juliana and Narges, Ranji has been part of a close and caring team.

Although she hasn't been in our school for a while, we would also like to send very best wishes to **Mrs Alam**, who joined the school 27 years ago as a teacher. Sadly, Mrs Alam had been absent from school for a while, due to recovery from illness, and she has decided to leave the school at the end of the year. Mrs Alam has always been a part of our school family and she has influenced so much of our practice in school, most notably, as our PE lead, she has been instrumental in gaining our status as a Gold Standard Healthy School, and her influence can be seen across the school, in our teaching, our sports days and our playground activities.

We will also be saying goodbye to members of our Reception team of support staff: **Miss Amjad, Miss Ilia, Mrs Panchal, Miss Christine and Miss Zohwa**. We would like to thank them for the dedicated support they have provided over the year, and wish them all the very best in their next endeavours. Miss Amjad is going to be starting her training to become a teacher, and she will be a great addition to the profession!

Ms Pelekanos has been teaching regularly in our school for several years; for two regular days a week this year plus lots of cover for all the classes! Although Ms Pelekanos will not be doing her regular days with us, we really hope to be seeing her next year! Our teachers love it when Ms Pelekanos is covering their classes, because she knows us so well.

Although we are saying goodbye to so many members of our team, we are leaving an incredibly skilled and experienced team of educators and support staff. The school will also be welcoming some new faces, and you will get the chance to meet all the teams in September.

I would like to thank our PTA, led by Caroline Zabeti-Targhi, who have worked so hard over the year, giving us some truly memorable experiences. In particular, the PTA team have planned some very special events to mark the end of an era for the infant school, and we are very grateful for all they have done.

Thank you also to our school governors for the time, energy and advice they have given us over the year, and especially to our chair Anthony Shayle, and chairs of committees Greg Bookman and Abigail Hayes. Particularly this year, they have been guiding the schools through this period of transition, and dedicating a huge amount of their time and experience to the process.

I would like to send my very best wishes to all of our children, who have been at the heart of our school. We don't have much statutory data to compare us with other schools, but this year 88% of our children in Year One passed their phonic screening check, which is 4% higher than the Barnet average. That's all down to the diligence and dedication from teaching and support teams, the children and the parents who supported their children at home. We are also seeing an increase in attainment in reading, writing and maths across the school, compared to last year. We are all immensely proud of our children's achievements and I would like to wish them all every success as they move on to the next stage of their education at Garden Suburb, or to pastures new.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to the parents for being such valued partners in the education of the children, and for all the generous gifts we have received this week.

In our final assembly of the year, we spoke about the very varied emotions we are all feeling today: excitement; sadness; nervousness; happiness and many more too. I am certainly approaching the next stage in my life with very mixed emotions. One thing is for certain, I will bring my memories of being a part of a very special community with me as I move forward. Thank you for being such a big part of my journey.

With very kind regards, Sarah Sands

Please turn over for other important notices & birthdays

OTHER NOTICES

REPORTS: These were sent out to parents on Monday after school by email, they are also available to view on the Parent Portal.

TAPESTRY FINAL REMINDER: We will be moving everyone up in Tapestry at the end of the summer holidays. If your child is remaining with us, you don't need to do anything as their journals will continue onto next year. Those in Reception will be moved to the KS1 section in September and we'll let you know then what you need to do to create a new account.

For those leaving us, we will be taking everyone off Tapestry at the end of August and parents will no longer have access to the system. We therefore request that you take any screenshots of pages that you want to keep by Monday 17th August.

ACCESS TO ARBOR: For children leaving the infant school this summer, you will lose access to Arbor at the end of August unless of course you have another child in the Infant School or have a younger child joining us in September. If this affects you, then please ensure you have downloaded / saved anything you would like to keep by the end of the summer holidays.

SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL UNIFORM – MESSAGE FROM BARNET COUNCIL: Barnet families that would benefit from **support for School Uniforms**, can apply for Mayor's Benevolent Fund which is for families who live in Barnet and are in receipt of an income-related statutory welfare benefit (such as Universal Credit). Applications are currently open until Monday 10th August: [The Mayor's Benevolent Fund | Barnet Council](#)

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](#). 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. 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](#)

BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK AND THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS

We wish everyone who celebrates on or between 12TH July until 31st August a very happy birthday:

Children in Reception Year:	Kayan & Ollie in Green Farhah, Maahir, Nina & Neeva in Red
Children in Year One:	Sara, Ilaria, Yahya, Louis & Koda in Turquoise, Omar, Luka & Yuto in Yellow
Children in Year Two:	Raphael, Charlotte, Adam, Rheese & Romeo in Pink Yotam, Hiroki, Lena & Kivanc in Orange

A very happy birthday also goes to Miss Khimji, Miss Christine, Miss Sosena and Mr Shepherd who celebrate over the holidays.