



# WESSEX GARDENS PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

Wessex Gardens, Golders Green, London NW11 9RR  
Tel: 020 8455 9572 Email: office@wessexgardens.barnet.sch.uk  
Headteacher: Alexander Banks Deputy Headteacher: Antonia Alexandrou



## Newsletter

Autumn Term — 1st December 2023 (Issue 12)

### Welcome to this week's Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

Another great week in Wessex Gardens with class assemblies, trips and lots of great learning! Some children have also been busy planting daffodil bulbs under our 'Living Fence' in the Junior playground. These were donated by the Greening Our Neighbourhood project who have been working with the school since July. It is lovely to see so many children showing an interest in planting and growing.

Our School Council continue to be very proactive. I took our Year 5 School Councillors to meet members from 6 other School Councils at Brookland Junior School. They had a great time sharing their ideas and offering suggestions to each other. Well done Rayhana, Musa, Greta and Aaminah!

### Christmas

We are currently preparing for the Christmas season. As we celebrate different festivals from different faiths, we focus on how similar the celebration of different festivals are. Please don't forget our Christmas Fair on 14th December. Last year's was such a great event with the highlight being visiting Santa in his Grotto! To collect items for the Fair we are having a non-uniform day next week where we ask the children to bring in tins and bottles for the Tombola. The Tombola is where you buy raffle tickets and see if your number matches one stuck on a bottle or a tin! It's great fun!

Can't wait to see you there!

Have a relaxing weekend ,

Alexander Banks  
Headteacher

### SCHOOL REMINDERS & INFORMATION



#### Dates for your diary

- 04.12.2023 Year 3 visit to Sikh Temple
- 05.12.2023 Sycamore Class Assembly 9.15 parents invited
- 06.12.2023 Christmas lunch (to be pre-ordered on Parents.feedinghungryminds.co.uk)
- 07.12.2023 Year 5/6 trip to ROH—Nutcracker performance
- 08.12.2023 Non uniform day (children to bring in tins and bottle donations for Tombola prizes (Christmas Fair))
- 11.12.2023 Year 6 trip to Churchill War Rooms
- 12.12.2023 KS1 Nativity—Year 1 Parents to watch 9.15am *change*
- 13.12.2023 KS1 Nativity—Year 2 Parents to watch 9.15am *change*
- 14.12.2023 Christmas Fair 3.00-5.00pm
- 20.12.2023 Last day of term school closing early

### Attendance % this week

<b>Chestnut</b>	<b>91%</b>
<b>Maple</b>	<b>92%</b>
<b>Palm</b>	<b>92%</b>
<b>Redwood</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Cedar</b>	<b>96%</b>
<b>Hazel</b>	<b>98%</b>
<b>Hawthorn</b>	<b>96%</b>
<b>Oak</b>	<b>95%</b>
<b>Acacia</b>	<b>97%</b>
<b>Sycamore</b>	<b>99%</b>
<b>Magnolia</b>	<b>97%</b>
<b>Mahogany</b>	<b>97%</b>

**Congratulations Redwood class on 100% attendance this week!**

### Letters home this week



Nurs-Y6 Information regarding reduction of Reception intake by Schooling

### TERM DATES 2023-2024

#### AUTUMN TERM 2023

FIRST HALF:	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September – Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October
HALF TERM HOLIDAY:	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October – Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October
SECOND HALF:	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October – Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December

#### SPRING TERM 2024

FIRST HALF:	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January – Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February
HALF TERM HOLIDAY:	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February – Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February
SECOND HALF:	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> February – Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March

#### SUMMER TERM 2024

FIRST HALF:	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April – Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May
MAY DAY:	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May
HALF TERM HOLIDAY:	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May – Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June
SECOND HALF:	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June – Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> July

## Nursery

This week we have been focusing on the traditional tale, The Gingerbread Man. All of the children have demonstrated a good understanding of the events in the story. We have enjoyed making our own characters from the story while developing our threading skills. We have also enjoyed making marks in play dough using different tools and techniques. We are continuing to join in with songs and actions during our music sessions with lots of enthusiasm. We are becoming very good at waiting for our turn to ride different trikes, bikes and scooters. We are continuing to develop our awareness of space. **Our P.E session is on a Tuesday. Please make sure your child is wearing trainers which they can take off and put on independently. All children must wear socks (no tights).** Many thanks for your support  
The Nursery Team

## Reception

The children have had a very active week in Silver Birch. It has been full of amazing adventures. We have learned four new phonemes this week in our phonics sessions (practise your phonemes during the weekend in your home learning books). We are really starting to apply our phonics learning. It is amazing to see! We have created captions, played cross the river and a reading fishing game. In maths, we have been learning about squares and rectangles. We went on a shape hunt and made incredible shape paintings. Can you find any shapes at home? We have enjoyed exploring how to use the bebops and coding them with simple directions. The children have enjoyed playing outside and finding ice as the weather grows colder. Wessex Gardens Hospital will be closing this week, however Santa's grotto will be open to children from next week. We are all very excited! Have a lovely weekend everyone.

## Year 1

In science, the children have continued to learn about their senses. They tasted different varieties of apples to enhance their sense of taste. Additionally, they immersed themselves in the world of smell by making different scented playdough. The children have been developing a strong mathematical foundation and this week they were busy with addition and subtraction using part-whole models and bar models. In English, our imaginative minds have been at work retelling stories from a first-person perspective and also writing a narrative about the adventures of the Robot and the Bluebird. Their storytelling skills are truly blossoming. The Year 1 classes have been hands-on in design and technology, constructing small shelters using a variety of materials and equipment. It's been a wonderful opportunity for them to unleash their creativity and explore the properties of different materials. In religious education, the children have been comparing and contrasting religious celebrations such as Christmas and Diwali. This has provided them with insights into the diverse traditions and festivities that enrich our world. In geography the children have been learning about the different settlements a city, a town and a village and the differences between the three. We had a blast at the school Disco and Dojo party! The children danced, laughed, and enjoyed every moment of these special events. The adventure continues next week. Wishing all our Year 1 families a lovely weekend

## Year 2

It's been a wonderful week in Year 2 and we have been doing some amazing learning. In English, we have been looking at narrative writing and writing our own story adventure which takes place in a rainforest. We came up with amazing ideas for our stories.

In maths we finished our addition and subtraction block and started with shapes. We have been comparing 2D and 3D shapes and learning about the different features of some shapes.

Science was fun as we got to use tablets to carry out research to find out about different animals in a habitat; what they eat and where they shelter.

In history we have been learning about different explorers whose discoveries made an impact on the world. We looked at Christopher Columbus and Neil Armstrong.

In R.E, we have been learning about the nativity and the importance of the Christmas story to the Christians who celebrate Christmas.

Please don't forget that swimming is back on and that the boys are swimming for both Palm and Redwood. Please ensure that they have their swimming kits.

Have a wonderful weekend!



## Year 3

Another week filled with exciting learning! A huge thank you to all our parent helpers who assisted on the British Museum trip. We had such an incredible time at the British Museum looking at all the different artefacts which complemented our last terms topic 'Through the ages'. We have thoroughly enjoyed learning our geography topic and looking deeply into 'north, east, south and west' and the inter cardinal points. In maths, we have excitingly begun our multiplication topic, please consolidate learning on websites like Timestable Rockstars and Top Marks. In science, we have been carrying out some experiments looking at using force meters and friction. In English, we have looked into poetic features and writing our poem on wishes. A reminder that our R.E trip to the Sikh Temple will be next Monday. please dress warm and wear appropriate footwear.

As always, have a lovely weekend, we appreciate all you do.

## Year 4

This week in Year 4, we have been putting our festive hats on and getting creative! We have been brainstorming ideas for Christmas decorations and used a variety of materials to help make Christmas crafts and decorate our hallways! Please do take a peek - we hope they bring you some much needed festive cheer this season! In Year 4 we have also been busy creating looms and weaving wool. It has been absolutely incredible to observe each others talents! We hope to try some artistic techniques next and can't wait to carry on next week! Until then, we wish you a lovely weekend!

## Year 5

Maths

It has been busy for the Year 5s as they have been learning about fractions.

Within that learning about equivalent fractions, comparing fractions and subtracting. The students have had fun learning this unit as it has been interactive and they have been able to work out their learning independently but also in groups.

In geography lessons this week the Year 5s have been learning about time zones, climate zones, vegetation belts and biomes. The students have been looking at the map of the world and comparing similarities across the vegetations belts and biomes. the UK has similar climate to most of the UK, but also some parts of South America and Southern Africa, this surprised many of the students.

Music as always has been fun. The students have been learning to lead and the other students have been able to follow.

Well done Year 5s for getting involved and working together well.

## Year 6

It has been another successful week in year 6! In maths, we have been using different methods to add and subtract fractions with different denominators. Please encourage your children to use Mathletics and Times Tables Rock Stars as this will support their mental arithmetic and reasoning and problem solving skills really well. In English, we are using the 'show, don't tell' technique to write a World War II narrative. In history, we been learning about factors that influenced so many men to volunteer their services in WWI. We are very excited to begin Christmas preparations. We have been learning a song (chosen buy us) to sing in the lead up to Christmas as well as making decorations for our corridors. Stay warm!

## TEA WITH THE HEAD



The children invited to Tea with the Head were:

Chestnut	Iris
Maple	Yaquib
Palm	Chloe
Redwood	Ruqyya
Cedar	Yusuf
Hazel	Izabela
Oak	Deenah
Hawthorn	Jana
Acacia	Aywel
Sycamore	Victoria
Mahogany	Angelo
Magnolia	Enam

Congratulations!

## Stars of the Week



## Superstars of the Week

Enzo, Chestnut class

Rania, Maple class

Asma, Palm class

Elias, Redwood class

## Certificate of Merit

Abdulo, Cedar class

Oliwier, Hazel class

Ioane, Oak Class

Rehan, Hawthorn class

Rayhana, Acacia class

Hussain, Sycamore class

Sadiyah, Mahogany class

## Reader of the Week

Joel, Chestnut class

Zhirvan, Maple class

Diya, Palm class

Aleksandre, Redwood class

Hussein, Cedar class

Xhansu, Hazel class

Manveen, Oak class

Sumiyah, Hawthorn class

Yusuf, Acacia class

Neil, Sycamore class

Yassine, Mahogany class

Vidi, Magnolia class

## Class Merit

Magnolia class

Well done!

# Dr Bike

## Free Safety Checks

Barnet Council's Parking team has arranged free Dr Bike sessions run by qualified bicycle mechanics in December. Members of the public can take along their bicycles to have a free, full safety check, which includes the condition of tyres, rims, gears, brake function and tyre pressure and adjustments can be made if required.

The sessions will take place on the following dates between 9am and 3pm.

Lodge Lane Car Park, North Finchley, N12	02/12/2023
Watling Avenue Car Park, Burnt Oak, HA8	03/12/2023
Stapylton Car Park, Barnet, EN5	09/12/2023
Marsh Drive Car Park, West Hendon, NW7	10/12/2023
Watling Avenue Car Park, Burnt Oak, HA8	16/12/2023
Lodge Lane Car Park, North Finchley, N12	17/12/2023
Marsh Drive Car Park, West Hendon, NW7	23/12/2023
Stapylton Car Park, Barnet, EN5	30/12/2023

