

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

Spring Term — 12th January 2024 (Issue 15)

Welcome to this week's Newsletter

Dear Parent's and Carers,

Happy New Year! I do hope you all had a wonderful break and are looking forward to a great 2024!

Our first week back has been full of great learning, school visits and more! I was so proud of our Year 2 children who represented the school so perfectly during their visit to St Paul's Cathedral. I am also so proud of the Year 6 girls who represented us so well yesterday at the football tournament. You showed great team work and a tremendous sporting attitude. Well done!

Home learning

We currently have a focus on home learning. Thank you for supporting your child with the online platform we are using. Any difficulties, please do talk to the class teacher or Miss Sharif.

Ms Charteris

Ms Charteris who is our Business Leader, is retiring at the end of the month. She has been a member of the Wessex Gardens team for the past 35 years and we will miss her terribly. If you would like to make a donation to a leaving gift, please see Mrs Baker in the office.

Wishing you a relaxing weekend.

Alexander Banks
Headteacher



SCHOOL REMINDERS & INFORMATION

Dates for the Diary:

Dates for your diary

18.01.2024	Coffee morning EYFS and KS1 parents—Home learning
05.02.2024	Parent/Teacher Consultation Evening
06.02.2024	Parent/Teacher Consultation Evening
08.02.2024	School Discos TBC
12-19.02.2024	School closed half term holiday
20.02.2024	School reopens (Tuesday)

Parent/Teacher consultation evenings will commence week of 5th February. Please look out for Schooling messages (booking system) to make an appointment with your child's class teacher. Thank you.



Coffee Morning

Thursday 18th January 2024

Mrs Sharif and Mrs Alexandrou will be holding a coffee morning on Thursday 18th January from 9.15am in the Media Room for parents/carers of children in Early Years and KS1 to talk about help and support with home learning and homework. Please do come along to find out how you can be supported with this. Looking forward to seeing you then. Thank you.

Attendance % this week

Chestnut	98%
Maple	93%
Palm	100%
Redwood	93%
Cedar	95%
Hazel	95%
Hawthorn	99%
Oak	94%
Acacia	98%
Sycamore	99%
Magnolia	100%
Mahogany	98%

Well done Palm and Magnolia Classes on 100% attendance this week!

Letters home this week

Rec-Y6	Letter from Mayor of London—UFSM
Nurs-Y6	Reading Poster Competition
Oak	Letter from Obinna—Permission letter



TERM DATES AND HOLIDAYS 2023-2024

SPRING TERM 2024

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

SUMMER TERM 2024

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

Please see term dates for the academic year 2024-2025 later in this Newsletter

Nursery

This week we have been welcoming back the children to Nursery and revisiting the daily routine and expectations. We have also been busy settling in some new children. Our September starters have been very good role models!! We had lots of fun exploring different weather conditions this week including the frost and couldn't wait to mark make using different tools and our fingers. We are continuing to enjoy dancing in the outdoor area and learning new songs. Have a lovely weekend!

Reception

What a wonderful week of learning in Silver Birch! We have started exploring our Power of Reading story Stanley's Stick. We created incredible safety posters and drew pictures of the main character Stanley. We cannot wait to continue reading our Power of Reading story next week. In maths, we have been exploring how zero is represented. In our outside classroom, we have been playing a new phonics game called catch the phonemes. It was great fun! The children used the magnifying glasses to look carefully at parts of daffodils before creating wonderful paintings of them. Have a lovely weekend everyone and we cannot wait for more adventures next week!

Year 1

Welcome back to a new and exciting term in Year 1! We hope you had a wonderful break filled with joy and relaxation. As we embark on this term, we have some exciting updates to share about what your children will be learning. In maths, the children will be diving into the world of numbers within 20. Through engaging activities and hands-on experiences. This term, our literary journey (Power of Reading text) takes us to the vibrant and culturally rich setting of India, specifically Kerala. In history, the children will be exploring school days in the past, drawing comparisons with the present. This journey through time will help them appreciate the changes and continuities in education over the years. Get ready for an exploration of the wonders of seasonal changes in our science lessons! The children will observe and discuss the transformations happening around them, connecting classroom learning to the natural world they experience daily. Our religious education curriculum will focus on understanding different holy books, including the Bible, Quran, and Torah. Through this exploration, children will gain insights into various religions, fostering respect and appreciation for diversity. Your continued support and involvement in your child's education are truly appreciated. If you have any questions or would like to contribute to our classroom activities, feel free to reach out. We're looking forward to a fantastic term filled with growth, discovery, and joy!

Year 2

Happy New Year everyone! We hope you had an enjoyable festive season! It has been lovely to see the children starting the New Year so enthusiastically. This week Year 2 children have been learning the names and exploring the properties of 3D shapes in our maths lessons. We were counting the number of faces, vertices and edges in many 3D shapes. In English we were describing characters and objects from our new story for this term 'The Secret of Black Rock'. We have also been writing predictions about the story and what might be hidden under the stone. In science we were recapping some common materials and their properties. On Wednesday we went on an exciting trip to St Paul's Cathedral. We learned so much about this historical place and really enjoyed ourselves. Thank you to all parent who helped on the day, as always we really appreciate your support. Please let us know if you have any issues accessing the websites for your child's home learning

Year 3

Welcome back and a very happy New Year to all our families! A short term ahead of us filled with so many different topics! In history, we are continuing our learning into the Roman Empire, this week we looked into the different tools they used. Ask your child what used instead of a pencil? In English, we are so excited to start our Iron Man book by Ted Hughes and have begun the process of writing our diary entry. In PSHE, we are concentrating on our social, emotional and physical wellbeing while in science we focused on learning the key vocabulary for our new topic, light. In maths we continue our work in multiplication and division - please ask children to access their timetable rockstar to support their learning. In whole class reading, we have been supporting our learning in topic and looking at everyday lives in the Romans. Year 3 will be uploading all home learning and the children learning timetable of lessons they have completed onto our year page on our website. We kindly request that you access any information online to support with your child's learning. Have a lovely weekend and as always, we appreciate you!

Year 4

Welcome back Year 4! It's so wonderful to see you back with such enthusiasm for our new topics! We've started our new science topic - States of Matter. This has been great fun already. We observed the properties of sugar, flour and rice and discussed how they could be poured when they are in fact solids! We also tested the viscosity of different liquids (ketchup, mayonnaise, water and oil). In geography we are learning about rivers which works well with our new English text - The Rhythm of the Rain. In art, we've begun learning about how animals have been represented throughout history. Our maths topic is continuing to learn about multiplication and division. We've also begun thinking about the role that religion plays in the residents of Barnet as part of our RE topic and thought about why people might avoid certain foods in PSHE. What a busy week! It's great to be back!

Year 5

The Year 5s have started the new term concentrating on a fictional book in their English lesson namely 'Way Home'. The students have been engaging with the text and the illustration. The students have had to be the leading character, so they have had to express the feelings and personality for the character. The students have been writing in the first person and been refining the discussion and debating skills. Within maths it has been a more challenging week for the students, as they have been learning about multiplication with 2 and 3 digit numbers. Many have been persevering and when they have achieved the challenge they have been ready and engaged for the next. It has been quite a triumphant week watching them grow and learn.

Year 6

This week in English, Year 6 explored Second World War propaganda posters, before going on to plan their own campaigns targeted at children during the war. They designed posters thinking carefully about their audience, message, slogan, image/s and use of colour. Their final drafts are fantastic, so please do ask them all about their ideas and finished pieces. In maths, we have been using various methods to multiply and divide fractions, before going on to solve challenging reasoning and problem solving tasks. Please encourage your children to use Mathematics and Time Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) at home, as this will hugely support their learning. In history, we have been learning about the causes of the Second World War, and how in many ways, the Second World War was a direct result of the First World War. In science, the children investigated shadows using opaque materials, bright torches and rulers. They drew diagrams accompanied by explanations of their findings. Wishing you all a wonderful weekend!

TEA WITH THE HEAD



The children invited to Tea with the Head were:

Silver Birch	Sultan
Chestnut	Rasan
Maple	Yaqub
Palm	Rumayso
Redwood	Yasin
Cedar	Kamaya
Hazel	Megan
Oak	Ramani
Hawthorn	Rehan
Acacia	Denis
Sycamore	Leila
Mahogany	Dauhud
Magnolia	Kristella

Stars of the Week



Superstars of the Week

Nina, Silver Birch class
Aresema, Chestnut class
Zhivan, Maple class
Jana, Redwood class

Certificate of Merit

Darren, Cedar class
Bora, Hazel class
Lewis, Oak class
Victoria, Sycamore class
Daniel, Mahogany class
Sumaya, Magnolia class

Reader of the Week

Rihan, Silver Birch class
Mahoor, Chestnut class
David, Maple class
Arvin, Palm class
Nazanin, Redwood class
Rayan and Kaleb, Cedar
Samuel, Hazel class
Holly, Oak class
Celine, Hawthorn class
Yusuf, Acacia class
Alex, Sycamore class
Jedidiah, Mahogany class
Dina, Magnolia class

Class Merit

Palm class
Hawthorn class
Acacia class

Well done!

WESSEX GARDENS PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2024 / 2025

AUTUMN TERM 2024

FIRST HALF: Wednesday 4th September – Friday 25th October

HALF TERM HOLIDAY: Monday 28th October – Friday 1st November

SECOND HALF: Monday 4th November – Friday 20th December

SPRING TERM 2025

FIRST HALF: Monday 6th January – Friday 14th February

HALF TERM HOLIDAY: Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February

SECOND HALF: Monday 24th February – Friday 4th April

SUMMER TERM 2025

FIRST HALF: Tuesday 22nd April – Friday 23rd May

MAY DAY: Monday 5th May

HALF TERM HOLIDAY: Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May

SECOND HALF: Tuesday 3rd June – Friday 18th July

Dr Bikes

Due to the success of the Dr Bikes in December in Barnet's car parks, particularly among parents/carers and children, there has been demand to continue these into the new year. I can therefore announce we will continue to run these through January, February and March at the following locations/dates/times on a rotating basis each month:

Location Name	Location Description	Date	Time
Lodge Lane car park	Yellow chevrons immediately to the right of the entrance to the Car Park	10/01/2024	4pm to 7pm
Middlesex University	Pavement on The Burroughs outside Middlesex University opposite Babing-	17/01/2024	4pm to 7pm
Temple Fortune	By Bike racks outside entrance to M&S Food Hall at 820 Finchley Road,	24/01/2024	4pm to 7pm
Stapylton Rd car park	Area immediately to the right of carpark entrance (EN5 4LR)	31/01/2024	4pm to 7pm
Lodge Lane car park	Yellow chevrons immediately to the right of the entrance to the Car Park	07/02/2024	4pm to 7pm
Middlesex University	Pavement on The Burroughs outside Middlesex University opposite Babing-	14/02/2024	4pm to 7pm
Temple Fortune	By Bike racks outside entrance to M&S Food Hall at 820 Finchley Road,	21/02/2024	4pm to 7pm
Stapylton Rd car park	Area immediately to the right of carpark entrance (EN5 4LR)	28/02/2024	4pm to 7pm
Lodge Lane car park	Yellow chevrons immediately to the right of the entrance to the Car Park	06/03/2024	4pm to 7pm
Middlesex University	Pavement on The Burroughs outside Middlesex University opposite Babing-	13/03/2024	4pm to 7pm
Temple Fortune	By Bike racks outside entrance to M&S Food Hall at 820 Finchley Road,	20/03/2024	4pm to 7pm
Stapylton Rd car park	Area immediately to the right of carpark entrance (EN5 4LR)	27/03/2024	4pm to 7pm

The free Dr Bike sessions will be run by qualified bicycle mechanics. 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, all for free.

