

WESSEX GARDENS PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

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Newsletter

Spring Term — 19th January 2024 (Issue 16)

Welcome to this week's Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another great week at Wessex Gardens. We are all well into the term and 2024 and have re-established a great working routine.

Some of our wonderful Governors visited the school on Tuesday and were so impressed with our children. They met with the School Council to ask them questions about the school and what we can do to make it even better, then visited each class to see the great learning taking place. The feedback from them was very positive.

School Governors

The role of a School Governor is to contribute to the work of the Governing Board in ensuring high standards of achievement for all children and young people in the school by:

- setting the school's vision, ethos and strategic direction
- holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Become A School Parent Governor - we need you!

Our Governing Body is in need of another parent governor. I will be holding an information meeting on Thursday 25th at 9:00am for anyone who may be interested in supporting our school by becoming a school Governor. Please do come along to see if this is something you would love to do!



Alexander Banks
Headteacher

Letters home this week

Y4 Trip to River Lee Country Park (04.03.24)



SCHOOL REMINDERS & INFORMATION

Dates for the Diary:

Dates for your diary

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)
04.03.2024	Y4 trip to Lee Valley

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.

Attendance % this week

Chestnut	92%
Maple	100%
Palm	95%
Redwood	96%
Cedar	98%
Hazel	93%
Hawthorn	98%
Oak	94%
Acacia	100%
Sycamore	100%
Magnolia	92%
Mahogany	99%

Congratulations Maple, Acacia and Sycamore classes on 100% attendance this week

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

Our topic for this half-term is 'Starry Night.' This week we have been exploring the story 'Goodnight, Magic Moon' by Janet Bingham and Rosalind Beardshaw. We were amazed to find out about what the moon was made from! The story is about the magic of sharing, which we all work hard to develop during our time in Nursery. We have enjoyed creating night time pictures, filling different size containers with rice and beans to develop our hand and eye co-ordination, exploring moving in different ways during P.E and following simple instructions.

Have a lovely weekend!

The Nursery Team

Reception

Enchanted by Stanley's Stick, our children dove into the world of books, crafting a beautiful class poem and expressing creativity through charcoal stick drawings. The big playground transformed into a phonics wonderland with our "Catch the Phoneme" game, and chalk writing added extra fun to our learning journey. In Maths, the children explored equal and unequal groups, fostering a love for learning through interactive activities. They turned plain paper into vibrant masterpieces with cotton ball painting. Musical moments with Alice brought joy, and P.E. sessions showcased the children's growing confidence. Despite the cold, our little explorers embraced the Winter weather in search of ice. Thank you for your ongoing support in making our classroom a hub of curiosity, creativity, and learning. Exciting adventures await in the coming weeks

Year 1

In maths, we continued with place value, our focus has been developing a solid understanding of the numbers 20. The children have been actively engaged in learning about one more and one less. Additionally, we delved into the concept of the number line up to 20, making learning both interactive and fun.

In our English sessions, we've continued our journey with our Power of Reading book, Pattan's Pumpkin by Chitra Soundar. The children are getting to know the characters and their enthusiasm for storytelling and literacy is truly blossoming. Our science explorations have centered around the seasons, with a particular focus on Winter. The children have been actively sorting various objects associated with different seasons, enhancing their understanding of the changes that occur in the world around them.

In R.E, the children have had a unique opportunity to explore stories from both the Christian and Jewish religions. We compared elements common to both narratives and discussed the valuable lessons embedded in these stories. We encourage you to share stories from your own religious or cultural backgrounds, fostering a rich exchange of experiences within our diverse class. In history we had a special visitor who talked to the children about Wessex Gardens over 60 years ago. We appreciate your continued support and involvement in your child's education. Should you have any questions or wish to contribute to our lessons, feel free to reach out. Thank you for being an essential part of our vibrant Year 1 community!

Year 2

Good day Parents,

It has been another wonderful week of learning in Year 2.

In maths, we came to the end of our Shapes block and we have started on our new block which is all about Money. We recapped identifying the different coins and counting amounts using different coins. Practising at home with real coins can be a good way to help us.

In English we continued with our Power of Reading text "The Secret of Black Rock." We got to describe a character in the story and write a letter to the main character. We have been building our vocabulary bank which will help us with our writing.

In science we have been looking at natural and human-made materials and identifying these materials around our school. In geography we have been looking at human and physical features in the United Kingdom. In RE we looked at the importance of symbols and their meaning.

Other Information: Swimming for 2 Redwood is now on Friday. This will begin from next week. PE for both Year 2 classes is now on Wednesday. EVERY child needs to be in their PE kit please as they are doing Gymnastics this term. Have a great weekend and stay warm!

Year 3

The children have settled back into routine and are working as hard as ever! In maths we continue our topic of multiplication and division, we are supporting our children to develop their timetable and arithmetic skills. Please continue to support your children with general questions E.g if $3+4 = 7$ what does $30+70 = ?$

In English, we have really been enjoying our Iron Man text, we have been looking into language techniques E.g similes and onomatopoeia and our children are really beginning to understand how to create their own descriptive sentences. In PSHE, we continue our journey of self love and appreciation! We found and wrote all the things we love about ourselves and all the things we should say to pick us up and how to speak to others and ourselves kindly. In R.E, we have been studying about Christianity, Buddhism and Sikhism. We have had the opportunity of looking at different religious attires and symbols which represent these beautiful religions. The children have been very intrigued and have been creating mindmaps on all 3 religions.

Year 4

Crackle! Swish! Pop! Year 4 have been learning all about onomatopoeia this week! They have been listening closely to different sounds of water and exploring how they could describe the way water moves all around them. Their class novel, The Rhythm of the Rain has delved into the role of water in the wonderful world around us. From the colossal whales in the deepest oceans to the emerald dragonflies in the creaking rainforests - water has a role to play wherever you go. We wonder... how is water important to you?

Year 5

The Year 5s have been continuing with 4 digit multiplication sums in maths. Their perseverance has paid off and many have been able to tackle the difficult sums. They have now gone onto division and this has been taken on with great enthusiasm, again the Year 5 perseverance is paying off.

In English they are also reading and writing poems and looking into the role of a character and the emotions - well done to all the Year 5s.

Year 6

Another week full of wonderful learning opportunities in Year 6! In English, we have been learning about Ann Frank and her family, who were forced into hiding during the Second World War. We will be writing our own diary entries next week from the perspective of a Jewish child. In maths, we have been revising previous learning in preparation for our SATs in May. In history, the children learned about alliances in the Second World War and all of the different ways that Britain prepared to go to war. Please encourage your children with completing their home learning. Have a wonderful weekend!

TEA WITH THE HEAD



The children invited to Tea with the Head were:

Silver Birch	Arthur
Chestnut	Nabil
Maple	Rania
Palm	Mohamed
Redwood	Filip
Cedar	Noor
Hazel	Shirley
Oak	Annis
Hawthorn	Nikki
Acacia	Aywel and Denis
Sycamore	Greta
Mahogany	Munai
Magnolia	Enam

Congratulations!

Stars of the Week



Superstars of the Week

Sarah, Silver Birch
Mia, Chestnut
Moussa, Maple class
Amelia, Palm class
Yahye, Redwood class

Certificate of Merit

Mia, Cedar class
Rama, Hazel class
Zainab, Oak class
Lulu, Hawthorn class
Hamdan, Acacia class
Anna and Alisa, Mahogany class
Kayrne, Magnolia class

Reader of the Week

William, Silver Birch class
Ismaeel, Chestnut class
Gabi, Maple class
Davi, Palm class
Arthur, Redwood class
Cedar class
Rawda, Hazel class
Reagan, Oak class
Sirine, Hawthorn class
Adonis, Acacia class
Nour, Sycamore class
Elena, Mahogany class
Vidi, Magnolia class

Class Merit

Sycamore 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