

WESSEX GARDENS PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Alexander Banks Deputy Headteacher: Antonia Alexandrou

Newsletter

Spring Term — 9th February 2024 (Issue 19)

Welcome to this week's Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

Another great week at Wessex Gardens. Thank you to all the parents who came to the parents' evening. If you didn't get a chance to meet with your class teacher, please make an appointment after the half term.

As part of our Children's Mental Health week we held non-uniform day today which raised a fantastic £201.60 which will go to our Eco Committee to help improve our environment. Thank you to everyone for contributing.

We wish you all a great half term break! Please remember school starts again on Tuesday 20th February.

Happy Chinese New Year to all who celebrate.

Alexander Banks

SCHOOL REMINDERS & INFORMATION

Dates for your diary

| | |
|------------|----------------------------|
| 20.02.2024 | School reopens (Tuesday) |
| 04.03.2024 | Y4 trip to Lee Valley |
| 07.03.2024 | World Book Day |
| 10.03.2024 | Mothering Sunday |
| 13.04.2024 | Y1 trip to London Aquarium |

Dates for the Diary:

Attendance % this week

| | |
|----------|------|
| Chestnut | 92% |
| Maple | 96% |
| Palm | 94% |
| Redwood | 93% |
| Cedar | 91% |
| Hazel | 93% |
| Hawthorn | 98% |
| Oak | 94% |
| Acacia | 100% |
| Sycamore | 97% |
| Magnolia | 96% |
| Mahogany | 98% |

**Congratulations
Acacia Class on 100%
attendance this week**



**Monday 12th February—Monday 19th February
School Closed—Half Term Holiday
School Reopens Tuesday 20th February 2024**

Swimming next half term

Children in each class will be swimming as follows:



| | | |
|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| Reception | Mixed | Wednesday |
| Maple | Mixed (all) | Monday |
| Chestnut | Mixed (all) | Monday |
| Palm | Boys | Tuesday |
| Redwood | Boys | Wednesday |
| Cedar | Girls | Wednesday |
| Hazel | Girls | Friday |
| Oak | Girls | Wednesday |
| Hawthorn | Girls | Wednesday |
| Acacia | Boys | Wednesday |
| Sycamore | Boys | Wednesday |
| Magnolia | Boys | Friday |
| Mahogany | Boys | Friday |



A huge thank you to everyone who attended the Book Fair this week. The Book Fair raised £551.80 which means that school will be able to receive more books for the school.



TERM DATES 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 |

Dates for the academic year 2024-2025 are shown later in this Newsletter

Years 3 & 4 Level 1 Bikeability Training

The children in Years 3 and 4 have been given the opportunity to take part in Level 1 Bikeability Training on Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd February. Letters were sent home earlier this week. If you would like your child to take part in this training, please complete and return the consent form to the school office as soon as possible. The children will need to bring their bike and cycle helmet to school with them on both of these days. Thank you.

Letters home this week

| | |
|--------|--|
| Y6 | Moat Mount—school journey letter |
| Nur-Y6 | MMR letter from Public Health and Prevention, Barnet |
| Y3/4 | Level 1 Bikeability training letter |



Nursery

We've enjoyed another busy week in Nursery! This week we have been learning about 'Chinese New Year.' We have been talking about how the New Year is celebrated. We enjoyed making our own lanterns, dragons and tasting noddles. We are continuing to enjoy spending lots of time outdoors exploring different activities. We have become very good at tidying up both indoors and outdoors. Many thanks for attending your meeting to discuss your child's progress and achievements this week. Wishing you all an enjoyable half term holiday!!
The Nursery Team

Reception

What a wonderful half term full of adventures and incredible learning! The children loved cooking pancakes this week. The pancakes tasted delicious. The children then wrote wonderful recipes to share with Mrs Sharif. She was very impressed and cannot wait to make pancakes with her family over the half term holidays. The children were very busy creating posters to remind the children in Year 1 and 2 to make sure their rubbish goes into the bin and does not end up flying around our playground. When you drop your children to school see if you can stop their posters hanging in the playground. In maths, the children have been exploring capacity. We have been using the vocabulary empty, half full and full to describe different containers. The children have been learning about Chinese New Year and created wonderful colourful dragons. Have a lovely half term and remember to read on Bug Club!

Year 1

Year 1 team would like to congratulate all the children for working extremely hard this term! This week, both classes had a class party to celebrate their achievements and to say good bye to Sofia, our wonderful student. We will miss her very much. In English, we enjoyed writing about different seasonal poems and also had a go at writing instructions to make a dragon stick puppet. In maths, we have been learning about additions and subtractions using various methods such as bar model, part-whole model, number line and our knowledge of number bonds to 20. For Mental Health Week, we have been talking about 'our voice matters' and how we can use our voice. In art we did printing using our collagraph that we made last week. Please remember to have a go at completing the topic quest. Have a wonderful half term!

Year 2

Hope you all have had a great week. We have been very busy in Year 2 with our learning. In maths we continued with our money block. We have been learning how to add amounts and workout change using different notes and coins.

We were amazed with the beautiful and well organised leaflets about London that the children created in our English lessons. Also we were writing a magical potion recipe, including bossy verbs in our instructions.

In geography, we were identifying similarities and differences between London and Mogadishu (Somalia) when comparing the cities.

In science, we were learning how to be make our planet more sustainable by reusing, reducing and recycling materials.

Next term our PE lessons will be again on Thursday and the boys will be swimming on Friday.

Thank you for all the support this term! Have a wonderful half term break!

Year 3

This term has flown by so quickly! We have had opportunities in English to write an amazing newspaper report, formal letter and learnt so many amazing language techniques. Our comprehension groups have been supporting the children's inference and deduction skills this term - a huge thanks to Heiro and Jess for supporting. In maths, our students have astonished us with their understanding of cm, mm and m and on top of that their conversion of the different metric units. In our topic and science we have assessed the children's knowledge on what we have learnt this term. We thank all those who were able to come for the parents evening this week it was lovely to share the improvements and progress that your children have made.

The year 3 team wish you all a lovely and well deserved break and we look forward to seeing you next term.

Year 4

This week Year 4 have published their water cycle explanation texts. We have been so impressed with the children's understanding of the processes involved. They have also demonstrated an excellent understanding of states of matter in science. In maths, we have been learning how to solve perimeter problems including finding missing lengths. The children had a great time learning about the Bankura horses of Panchmura and were inspired to create their own versions using clay. They've learnt how to coil, score and join pieces of clay using slip and demonstrated a good understanding in these practical sessions. What a busy and exciting half term we've had! Please note that the girls will be swimming after half term on Wednesdays

Year 5

The Year 5s have had a very interesting week in their subjects.

In design technology (DT), they have been architects, they have learnt the timeline from Neolithic to Roman and then been looking at the classical era, then learning how to build the Athenian buildings. This incorporates looking at the features of the buildings. Then to deepen their learning they had to build a classical building from that era, using only cardboard, paper and straws, the evidence is still in the classroom, fantastic work. They have also been learning about flowing plants in science and what that entails, the students learnt all the main names of the parts of the flower and what their functions are. They researched, drew and also had real flowers, to stick and label into their books. Well done Year 5s, you have been working very well.

Year 6

This week in Year 6, the children have been writing non-chronological reports in English and history. They thought carefully about their grammar and vocabulary choices and proofread regularly, checking for errors and ways to improve. They have produced amazing finished pieces that really showcase their learning about Light Theory and the Battle of Britain. In maths, we went through the mock tests that the children sat last week, checking our methods and procedures and paying close attention to errors. Thank you for attending the parents' meeting on Tuesday about the outdoor residential trip. We do hope the children take up this wonderful opportunity, as it will serve them well in the future. Please encourage your children to complete their online home learning. We recommend a 'little and often' approach at home when it comes to home learning, as this is much more beneficial to the children. Finally, we would like to say a huge thank you for all of your support this half term- we really appreciate and value it! Wishing you a peaceful, relaxing half term break.

TEA WITH THE HEAD



The children invited to Tea with the Head were:

| | |
|--------------|---------|
| Silver Birch | Eve |
| Chestnut | Alessia |
| Maple | Gabi |
| Palm | Zach |
| Redwood | Emily |
| Cedar | Hamza |
| Hazel | Olus |
| Oak | George |
| Hawthorn | Sumiya |
| Acacia | Liba |
| Sycamore | Nour |
| Mahogany | Yassine |
| Magnolia | Anisa |

Congratulations!

Stars of the Week



Superstars of the Week

Layan, Silver Birch class
Ilyas, Chestnut class
Sofia, Maple class
Filip, Redwood class

Certificate of Merit

Darren, Kaydon and Yusuf, Cedar class
Aisha, Hazel class
Manveen, Oak class
William, Hawthorn class
Aliynah, Acacia class
Hussein, Sycamore class
Az-Zahra, Mahogany class
Zoya, Magnolia class

Reader of the Week

Ezdan, Silver Birch class
Cassius, Chestnut class
Razeem, Maple class
Hans, Palm class
Elias, Redwood class
Zahra, Cedar class
Rahaam, Hazel class
Jannah, Oak class,
Rehan, Hawthorn, class
Muse, Acacia class
Aaminah, Sycamore class
Aris, Mahogany class
Max, Magnolia class

Class Merit

Palm class

Well done!

7 February 2024

Dr Janet Djomba
Interim Director of Public Health and Prevention
Barnet Council

Dear Parents and Carers,

Is your child protected against measles?

As schools break up for half term, I am writing to urge you to ensure that your family is fully protected through vaccinations and ready to return to school without risking serious illness or the need to self-isolate.

Measles is circulating

Measles continues to be of increasing concern, as cases continue to rise in neighbouring boroughs. Most of these are young children who have not had their MMR vaccine.

Current figures show that only 73% of under 5s in Barnet are fully vaccinated against measles. This is worryingly below the 95% that is needed to prevent an outbreak, as set by the World Health Organisation.

The possibility of a major measles outbreak in Barnet will continue to grow unless MMR vaccination rates improve.

We urge you to please make sure your family is up to date with their MMR vaccinations to avoid serious illness and stop a measles outbreak from happening in London.

What is measles?

Measles is a highly contagious disease and can lead to complications such as ear infections, pneumonia, and inflammation of the brain which require hospitalisation and on rare occasions can lead to long term disability or death. Spending 15 minutes or more in direct contact with someone infected with measles is enough to catch the infection.

People whose immunity is compromised, pregnant women and unvaccinated children are at increased risk of severe disease. Measles symptoms to be aware of include:

| | |
|------------|--------------------------------------|
| High fever | Aching, and feeling generally unwell |
|------------|--------------------------------------|

Any child identified as a close contact of a measles case without satisfactory vaccination status may be asked to self-isolate for up to 21 days, based on risk assessment.

Children who are vaccinated do not need to be excluded from school or childcare.

Measles can easily spread among unvaccinated children. Measles is prevented by the MMR vaccine, which also protects against mumps and rubella.

There is no link between the MMR vaccine and autism. Many studies have investigated this and found no link. If you would like to learn more about the studies and their findings, visit the Oxford University Vaccine Knowledge Project: www.vaccineknowledge.ox.ac.uk/mmr-vaccine.

Make sure your child is up to date with their vaccinations:

If you're unsure your child is due for vaccination or would like to know more, you can:

Check your child's 'Red Book' to check their vaccination status
Contact the school immunisation team on 0208 447 3622 or email clcht.barnetimmunisationteam@nhs.net
Contact your child's GP
Call the free NHS helpline 111

If your child has missed any routine childhood vaccinations, book an appointment with the immunisation team or with their GP to catch up.

I wish your child, your family and you a happy and healthy Spring Term.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Janet Djomba
Interim Director of Public Health and Prevention
Barnet Council

Further information – website links:

For more information, visit www.nhs.uk/vaccinations
Read about why vaccines are important and the safest way to protect your child: www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/why-vaccination-is-important-and-the-safest-way-to-protect-yourself/
For more information on routine childhood vaccinations, check here: nclhealthandcare.org.uk/keeping-well/baby-and-childhood-vaccinations

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

BARNET Fostering



Our offer to you:

- 24/7 SUPPORT
- EXTENSIVE TRAINING
- DEDICATED SOCIAL WORKER
- PEER SUPPORT



Join our fostering community today and see how you can change a child's life:

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Did you know 'Any Of Us' can work and be a Foster Carer?

Approximately 900 new foster families are needed in the London region to meet the current demand. Prompted by this challenging statistic, Barnet has joined with over 80 other Local Authorities in the production of a short fostering film called 'Any Of Us'. The film was launched nationally on the 26th September 2023 and shared on various social media platforms e.g., Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, SKY Ads and Barnet's website. You can view film [here](#).

'Any Of Us' looks at fostering through the lens of a young girl called Chloe and three very different adults who could be her foster carer. The film tells a story about Chloe who needs to come into foster carer, and one of these three people will become Chloe's foster carer, the film shows us her journey into fostering.

The rising cost of living and the Pandemic greatly impacted fostering and our ability to recruit sufficient numbers of fostering households to meet the needs of children. The aim of this film is to come together nationally to raise the profile of fostering and shine a light on the national shortage of foster families that are so urgently needed.

Barnet Council continues to provide good quality support to existing foster families. We believe by encouraging the community in Barnet to consider offering to care for the children and young people who need foster families, because they are unable to live in their own family's'. Any of us can foster a child or young person and make a difference to the lives of children and young people.

We hope this film will inspire you to learn more about fostering, please contact our Carer Recruitment Team today on 0208 359 6274 or fostering@barnet.gov.uk.

Follow our social media



Website: <https://www.barnet.gov.uk/fosteringinbarnet>

