



WESSEX GARDENS PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

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Newsletter

Autumn Term — 29th November 2024 (Issue 11)

Welcome to this week's Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has been filled with fantastic learning opportunities, with a special focus on writing. It's wonderful to see the creativity and progress our students are making!

We also said a heartfelt goodbye to one of our long-standing governors, Mr. Franklin Dannenberg, who has served our school with dedication for over 25 years. A lovely assembly was held to honour his incredible contributions, and we wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

Exciting news for Key Stage 2! We have introduced a *Superstar Award* to recognize excellent behaviour when out and about the school. Ask your child about how the class can earn a Superstar!

I hope you are all excited for our **Christmas Fair on Thursday, 5th December from 3.30-5.00pm**. It's going to be a wonderful event with lots of fun activities for everyone! Mark your calendars and join us in celebrating the festive season together.

I would like to encourage you to sign up for the **Smartphone-Free Childhood Campaign**. This initiative promotes healthier habits and encourages children to engage more with the world around them. We're excited to support this movement and invite you to explore how you too can foster a balanced, tech-free environment for our young learners. Please click on the link for more information.

<https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/join>

As always, thank you for your continued support in making our school such a wonderful place to learn and grow.

Mr Banks
Headteacher



Join the growing movement of parents choosing to delay. It takes 30 seconds - and could change the world!

SIGN THE PARENT PACT

SCHOOL REMINDERS & INFORMATION



Dates for your diary

05.12.2024	Christmas Fair 3.30pm-5.00pm <i>amended</i>
09.12.2024	Rec-Y6 Pantomime (afternoon)
11.12.2024	Christmas Lunch
13.12.2024	Rec-Y6 Flu vaccinations for children who missed first session
18.12.2024	KS1 Christmas Nativity 9.30am <i>date change</i> Parents invited
20.12.2024	Last day of term school closes at 1.15pm
20.12.2024	After school club closed

Attendance % this week

Silver Birch	82%
Chestnut	90%
Redwood	77%
Cedar	96%
Hazel	98%
Hawthorn	100%
Oak	94%
Sycamore	90%
Magnolia	97%

Congratulations Hawthorn class on 100% attendance this week

Letters home this week



Rec-Y6 Pantomime 09.12.2024
Rec-Y6 Flu vaccination offered to children who have not yet received vaccination

TERM DATES AND HOLIDAYS 2024-2025

AUTUMN TERM 2024
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

Nursery

This week in Nursery has been filled with exciting activities and new learning opportunities. We have been busy making salt dough Christmas decorations, which the children have thoroughly enjoyed shaping and decorating in preparation for the festive season. In P.E., the focus has been on catching and throwing skills, encouraging the children to develop their hand-eye coordination. In maths, we have been practising counting up to five and ten, helping the children to build confidence with numbers. We have also been exploring the days of the week and the months of the year, supporting their understanding of time. As part of our creative activities, the children have worked on Thanksgiving crafts, expressing their creativity and learning about gratitude.

This week, we have also been learning about dental health, including the importance of brushing our teeth properly and understanding how sweets can cause cavities. Music with Sally has been a highlight, with the children enjoying singing and rhythm-based activities. Our focus book has been *The Three Little Pigs*, which the children have loved exploring through story time and discussions. We kindly encourage you to read with your child at home. The adventure resumes next week!

Reception

This week in Reception, the children have enjoyed a range of exciting activities. We explored story maps, using pictures and symbols to retell our core text 'Look up!' which helped develop their sequencing and storytelling skills. Baking cheese straws was a big hit—everyone loved mixing, rolling, and shaping the dough. They were so proud of their delicious creations and they tasted yummy too! Outdoors, we got creative with chalk, designing colourful meteors while learning a little more about space. We went on a shape hunt around the school and playground, spotting squares and rectangles. The children also loved playing *What's the Time, Mr Wolf?*, which encouraged listening skills, teamwork, and plenty of laughter!

Looking ahead to next week, we're excited to start creating our very own Santa's Grotto in the classroom. The children will help design and decorate the grotto, which will bring lots of festive cheer to our learning environment. If you happen to have any spare decorations or craft materials at home, we would be very grateful for donations to help bring the grotto to life. Please continue to read with your child on Bug Club. Thank you for your continued support—have a wonderful weekend.

Year 1

What a busy week we had in year 1! In maths, the children have been learning subtraction using the part-whole model by breaking numbers into parts, understanding that when a smaller part is removed, the whole becomes smaller, helping them visualise and solve simple subtraction problems. In English, the children have started to write their own magical stories based on Jack and the Beanstalk. They had to think of their own character and the magical item. We can't wait to share the stories with you! In science, we are carrying on with our topic, seasonal changes. We have been recording the weather weekly. In PSHE, we have started to learn about money and where it comes from and how it is used. In history, we looked into the reasons why the Gunpowder Plot happened. Please keep on reading on Bug Club!

Year 2

We've had another enjoyable week in Year 2! In maths, we have been focusing on recognising 2D shapes, sorting them and looking closely at their different properties. In English, we have been continuing to explore the story 'How to Find Gold' by Viviane Schwartz, in more detail, including; editing our work and writing a final draft of the story remembering to use adjectives, conjunctions and expanded noun phrases to make our writing more interesting to the reader! In R.E, we have been reading different scenarios and matching these to different religious teachings in Christianity, Islam and Buddhism. In PHSE, we have been talking about the importance of making good spending and saving choices. In history, we have been talking about fire safety rules put in place following the Great Fire of London. We created some wonderful Fire Safety posters to demonstrate our understanding. In science, we have been focusing on how different animals can adapt to different environments, including: the forest, aquatic, Arctic and desert. Many thanks for supporting your child with their homework and returning it on time!

Have a lovely weekend.

Year 2 Team

Year 3

This week in Year 3, we've had a wonderfully creative and hands-on time exploring some exciting projects across our subjects!

In geography, the children have been bringing the UK to life by making 3D models of London, complete with its iconic landmarks. They've also been using modelling clay to recreate the incredible physical features of our country, from the towering Ben Nevis to the serene Lake District. Their attention to detail has been amazing, and it's been wonderful to see their enthusiasm for learning about these incredible places.

Our art and D.T. lessons have also been a splash of colour this week as we explored different watercolour painting techniques. From washes and blends to creating texture, the children have been experimenting with how to use watercolours to bring their ideas to life. They've shown such creativity and a keen eye for detail in their work.

It's been a fantastic week, full of creativity and learning. We're so proud of how the children are applying themselves to these projects and showing their skills across a range of subjects!

Year 4

Another great week of learning in Year 4. To start, every student has received their Times Tables Rock Stars login, so be sure to practise regularly to improve your fluency and speed with your times tables. This is a great tool to help build confidence with multiplication and division facts. In maths, we've been exploring and deepening our understanding of multiplication and division, focusing on how to apply these facts in different problems. In English, we've been working on our creative writing skills by writing the climax and alternative endings to our version of *The Ice Palace* by Robert Swindells. It's been exciting to see all the different and imaginative ideas they've come up with!

In history, we've been comparing the Roman Empire with the Anglo-Saxons and looking at how life in the past differs from modern times. We've learned about Anglo-Saxon customs, laws, and culture, which has helped us understand how society has evolved over time. In science, we've continued experimenting with sound, exploring amplitude and volume through various investigative stations. It's been a lot of fun experimenting with different materials and discovering how sound works! We look forward to even more exciting learning ahead!

Year 5

Year 5 have had a fantastic and productive week! In English, we've been writing exciting adventure stories, using different writing techniques to make our tales more thrilling. In maths, we've been learning how to convert fractions into mixed numbers and improper fractions, which has been both challenging and fun. In geography, we explored various types of maps, including political, physical, and climate maps, to understand the world better. Our computing lessons have been creative as we've been using tools to produce detailed vector drawings. We've also been working really well together as a class, and to get into the Christmas spirit, we made some beautiful Christmas decorations. What a great week Year 5!

Year 6

Last week we had such a lovely lesson about financial literacy where we were taught how to save and spend our money. This week in science, we looked at arteries, veins, capillaries, oxygenated blood and deoxygenated blood. We had a little experiment where we explored how blood travels through the veins and arteries. In history, we have explored the cause and effects of the war. In English we are beginning to write our narrative flashbacks and I must say their writing is truly transforming, including the description and handwriting. In maths we have begun to look at our second part of fraction dividing. Our CGP books have arrived and our packs should be coming home. We expect the children to complete these daily. There is a timetable in their books which shows which days to bring in which homework. This will help consolidate all the learning we have been doing in class and also prepare us for secondary school and SATS. Have a lovely weekend.

TREAT FROM THE CHEST



The children invited to take a treat from the chest were:

Chestnut	Eve
Redwood	Enzo
Cedar	Amelia
Hazel	Layan
Oak	Jalil
Hawthorn	Oliwier
Sycamore	Shae
Magnolia	Denis

Congratulations!

Stars of the Week



Superstars of the Week

Najlae, Chestnut class
Inas, Redwood class

Certificate of Merit

Ali, Cedar class
Yasin, Hazel class
Afsa, Oak class
George, Sycamore class
David, Magnolia class

Excellent Presentation Award

Malak, Chestnut class
Zhivan, Redwood class
Aqil, Cedar class
Nazi, Hazel class
Yusuf, Oak class
Ahyan, Hawthorn class
William, Sycamore class
Liba, Magnolia class

Class Merit

Hawthorn class

Well done!



Child Car Seat Checking Events – your views matter

Around 90 child car seats were checked by an expert from Good Egg during six events in Barnet with a total of 180 errors reported. The events took place in supermarket carpark during August – October 2024 and future events are planned next year. We’d love to hear your thoughts on how we can host these events to best meet your needs. Please take a few minutes to fill out this survey: [Child Car Seat Survey](#) or scan the QR code.

