



WESSEX GARDENS PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

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Newsletter

Spring Term — 10th January 2025 (Issue 15)

Welcome to this week's Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all keeping warm during this freezing weather! The children have certainly enjoyed examining the ice that has coated our playgrounds!

I am very sorry that I missed the last couple of days of last term. I want to express my heartfelt thanks for all the wonderful cards and gifts you sent at the end of last term; your thoughtfulness means so much to me and I hope you had a wonderful Christmas break.

It has been lovely to see the children return to school full of energy and enthusiasm, ready to learn and excited to be back in their classes.

Thank you for your continued support, and here's to a productive and successful term ahead!

Mr Banks
Headteacher



SCHOOL REMINDERS & INFORMATION



Dates for your diary

23.01.2025	Nursery—Chatty Children Workshop
28.01.2025	Year 6 trip to Unicorn Theatre
	Pig Heart Boy
04-07.02.2025	Book Fair
17-21.02.2025	School Closed—half term holiday
24.02.2025	School reopens

Reminder that clubs will start next week.

Safety Warning



If your child wears a hijab to school please make sure these are fastened with safe clips. Magnets or scarf pins must not be worn. Thank you.



Welcome to the SEND Section of our Newsletter!

We're excited to introduce this new area, dedicated to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Here, you'll find updates on everything SEND-related, including information about support groups, courses, new initiatives in Wessex, and much more to help you and your child thrive. There's a lot to catch up on, and we're here to keep you informed.

Need Assistance?

For any SEND-related matters, please contact:

- Mrs. Alba (SENDCo)
- Miss Takemoto (SEN Assistant)

Exciting News of the Week:

We've launched a new SEND webpage! It features our updated SEND Policy, Accessibility Plan, SEN Information Report, and details about the fantastic opportunities we're offering to students and staff.

Visit the page here: <https://www.wessexgardens.co.uk/KeyInformation>

[SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES](#)

Best wishes,
Mrs Alba

Swimming this half term



Children swimming this half term will be the same as those who were due to swim last half term (as lessons were missed due to pool closure).

1 Chestnut Group 2	Friday
2 Redwood Boys	Thursday
3 Cedar Girls	Thursday
3 Hazel Girls	Friday
4 Oak Boys	Friday
4 Hawthorn Boys	Thursday
5 Sycamore Boys	Monday
6 Magnolia Boys	Monday

Please make sure your child comes to school with full swimming kit on their swim day. Thank you.

Letters home this week



	Immunisation Pop Up Clinic
	Information for parents of 0-5-year olds
Rec-Y2	Social Club lunchtime Tuesdays & Thursdays
Y3-6	Social Club lunchtime Thursdays
Y1&2	Puzzles and Board Games club Fridays
Y5	Face Painting club lunchtime Thursdays
Y3	Monday Football club after school
Y5	Tuesday Basketball club after school
Y6	Tuesday Football club after school
Y4-6	Wednesday Multi-Sports club after school
Y1	Thursday Multi-Sports club after school
Y2	Friday Multi-Sports club after school

Nursery

Happy New Year

Welcome back to a brand-new term at Nursery. We hope you had a restful and joyful break and are ready for an exciting journey ahead. It is wonderful to see all the children settling back into the Nursery routine, and we are so proud of how quickly they are adjusting after the holidays. This week, our topic is Dinosaurs. The children have been diving into the fascinating world of these prehistoric creatures, learning all about their sizes, shapes, and even the sounds they might have made. In maths, the children have been practising their counting skills through fun activities, songs, and games. Throughout the week, we have been enjoying singing new songs, listening to engaging stories, and playing games that encourage taking turns and sharing with friends. A warm welcome to our new friends who have joined us this term. We are so excited to have you as part of our Nursery family, and we know you will have a fantastic time exploring and learning with us. We are looking forward to a wonderful term filled with curiosity, creativity, and lots of happy memories

Reception

Welcome back! This week, the children enjoyed reading *The Gingerbread Man*, focusing on key events and characters. To help with comprehension, they created story maps to recall the story's parts in order, developing their sequencing skills. The children also engaged in puppet-making activities, crafting their own Gingerbread Man and other characters using materials such as paper, felt, and sticks. Additionally, the children baked gingerbread men. The children participated in a daffodil painting activity, preparing for the arrival of spring by creating vibrant yellow flowers. They loved discussing the shapes and colours of daffodils as they painted. In maths, the children explored the concept of zero, learning that it represents 'none' or 'nothing'. They used objects to demonstrate zero. This lesson helped build a foundation for early mathematical skills. Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the cold weather with gloves, a hat, and a scarf. Please continue to read with your child daily on Bug Club. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to a wonderful term ahead!

Year 1

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful break. We have jumped straight back into learning with great enthusiasm this term. In mathematics, the children have been working on counting objects up to 20 and strengthening their understanding of early place value concepts. In English, we've begun exploring our new core book, *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* by Judith Kerr. As an engaging introduction to the story, the children participated in a hands-on baking activity, making delicious fairy cakes. Our PSHE lessons have focused on the important topic of hygiene. The children participated in an interesting experiment demonstrating how germs can spread, which helped them understand the importance of good hygiene practices. In history, we reviewed the Gunpowder Plot, with the children actively participating in role-play to understand the historical events. We discussed the symbolism of bonfires and their significance in remembering this important historical event.

Important Reminder: Please ensure your child brings in their reading books on their designated reading day!

Year 2

We were pleased to welcome all of the children back to school this week after the festive break! In maths, we have been learning about the value of different coins and notes. We have been adding different amounts of money and discovering how much we have in total. In English, we introduced our new focus story for this term; *The Secret of Black Rock* by Joe Todd-Stanton. We have been finding out about what the tricky words in the story mean. Some of us used dictionaries to help us! We learnt some interesting facts about dream catchers and made some of our own, with lots of enthusiasm. In R.E, we talked about which book is special to us and why?. In science, we have been exploring different materials and describing their properties. Many thanks for all your support with your child's homework. Year 2 team

Year 3

A big welcome back! We hope you had a relaxing and refreshing break and are ready for another exciting term in Year 3. This week, we've dived straight into our new story, *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes. We have been captivated by the mysterious beginning and are already making predictions about what might happen next. We'll be exploring this story in depth over the coming weeks, so do ask us about our favourite part so far! In maths, we've been recapping how to multiply by 10 and 100. We have been spotting patterns and noticing how the digits move one place to the left each time. Perhaps you can test us at home—ask us what happens when you multiply 36 by 10 or 100! We're looking forward to a term full of learning and discovery. We can't wait to share more of our adventures soon!

Year 4

It's been great to be back in school after the break! This week, Year 4 has been busy with some fantastic writing in English, focusing on using both present and past tense. We've also started a lovely new book, *KrindleKrax*, which the children have been thoroughly enjoying during our reading sessions. In maths, we've introduced our new topic on multiplication and division, and the children have been practising multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100 with great success. Well done to everyone for their amazing homework over the half-term break—it's clear how much effort has been put in! We're looking forward to a full and exciting term ahead. Keep up the brilliant work, Year 4!

Year 5

Great first week back in Year 5! We've been having an exciting week exploring new topics and developing our skills across a range of subjects. In English, we explored our new text - *Romeo and Juliet*. We looked into the theme of tragedy and have been analysing the character's personalities and traits. In maths, we focused on multiplying two digit numbers by two digit numbers, and we encourage all children to keep practising their timetables at home, as this will really help with this multiplication and division unit. In science, we started our new topic on Animals including Humans, as we learned all about the different developmental stages from infancy to old age! In PSHE, we learned about the importance of mental wellbeing and how it affects overall health. We made our own mental wellbeing plans, we reflected on our personal experiences, thought about what made us feel stressed, and chose strategies that can help us feel better!

Year 6

Happy New Year! We hope you have had an amazing holiday firstly filled with rest and lots of fun! The children are back raring to go! We have been introduced to our new novel *Pig Heart Boy* which is quite fitting considering we have just finished learning about all things heart in Autumn 2! We have been tapping into our inner lawyers and barristers and debating whether heart transplants should be permitted. We hope your children have enjoyed reading their book over the holidays and will continue to do so in class. We are finishing a few more lessons from our very meaty topic of WWII and we have begun looking at spreadsheets in computing - very useful for our future accountants! In maths, we have had such a successful run with our arithmetic Mondays that now we will be introducing Reasoning Tuesdays with Mrs Alba, this will help to consolidate and support your children in preparation for their SATS which is not too far away now. Apart from studying for the SATs in maths our new topic is Ratio! Please remember we have a final trip before our SATs to the Unicorn Theatre on the 28th January to watch our very own *Pig Heart Boy* - please do finalise any pending payments if you haven't done so already and see myself or Ms Borhan if you would like to attend the trip to support. We appreciate your support always!

Attendance % this week

Silver Birch	90%
Chestnut	90%
Redwood	96%
Cedar	95%
Hazel	93%
Hawthorn	94%
Oak	96%
Sycamore	94%
Magnolia	96%

No classes achieved 100% attendance this week

TREAT FROM THE CHEST



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

Chestnut	Sarah
Redwood	Inas
Cedar	Ethan
Hazel	Julian
Oak	Ehsan
Hawthorn	Mohammed
Sycamore	Tawaab
Magnolia	Aaminah

Congratulations!

Stars of the Week



Superstars of the Week

Malak, Chestnut class
Ines, Redwood class

Certificate of Merit

Arvin, Cedar class
Nuh, Hazel class
Jalil, Oak class
Matin, Hawthorn class
Sirine, Sycamore class
Adonis, Magnolia class

Excellent Presentation Award

Mona, Chestnut class
Ishaq, Redwood class
Basit, Cedar class
Sedat, Hazel class
Mia, Oak class
Xhansu, Hawthorn class
Deenah, Sycamore class
Liba, Magnolia class

Well done!

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know our school is supporting the Barnet Smartphone Free School Campaign.

When children first started getting smartphones a decade ago, there was no research about their impact. Now there is, and it's overwhelming. Exposing children to things their brains aren't yet developed enough to deal with can cause a whole host of problems, from triggering anxiety and eating disorders, to opening the door to cyberbullying or sexual predators, according to the latest research. As schools we want to work together with parents to protect our students from harm. The Smartphone Free School Campaign is not just about 'phones in school' but is about recognising that social media use will impact on children's development and mental health and ultimately on their learning outcomes.

The recent documentary on Channel 4 *Swiped* highlights that as parents we may not be as tuned-in to what our children are doing online, even though we think we do, and reinforces that this is a significant safeguarding concern.

There is a borough wide meeting on 23rd January on this issue where professionals from mental health and tech will be sharing their expertise and providing solutions. We would encourage parents to go along to the meeting on 23rd so that you can be informed and make sound choices to keep your children safe. Please see details below.



PARENTING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Supporting parents and schools in **BARNET** navigating smartphones and social media with children

A talk with Children's Mental Health Advocate and SFC North London Regional Leader **Nova Eden** and tech expert **Kevin Tibble**



Thursday 23rd January 2025, 19.00-20.30
Saracens School, Corner Mead, NW9 4AS





Benefits

Housing

Domestic Abuse

Education



Caring for people, our places and the planet

Barnet
A Sure Start Children's Centre

Child and Family
Early Help

Reception Class 2025

If your child was born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021, you will need to apply for a reception class place for the school year beginning September 2025.

Please ask at your local Children's Centre if you would like any support completing the online application.

[Starting Reception in September 2025 | Barnet Council](#)



Key dates

1 September 2024	start of application process
15 January 2025	closing date for on-time applications
16 April 2025	Primary National Offer Day
30 April 2025	deadline for response to offers
2 May 2025	deadline for late applications to be considered for second round of offers
12 - 16 May 2025	second round offers



Child and Family
Early Help



Childrens
Centres



www.barnet.gov.uk/directories/childrens-centres
www.barnet.gov.uk/earlyhelp



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Admissions

Final Reminder

Admissions for reception school places to start September 2025 is now open. The closing date for applications is 15th January 2025. Applications for both to be made online at www.eadmissions.org.uk