



# WESSEX GARDENS PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

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## Newsletter

Spring Term — 7th February 2025 (Issue 19)

### Welcome to this week's Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. As always, it has been a busy and exciting time at Wessex Gardens, filled with wonderful learning experiences and achievements across all year groups.

I have seen our Reception children making some fantastic predictions based on a story they are reading—what could be on the seventh floor of the building? They have also designed some very imaginative gardens, complete with monkey bars and even sharks! In Year 3, the children have been learning all about different types of soils and making some brilliant discoveries along the way. Our Year 5 children impressed me with their debates about whether Romeo and Juliet should be allowed to be together—some very convincing arguments were made!

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our recent Book Fair—it was a great success and raised £424.82. It was fantastic to see so many children excited about new books. Your support helps foster a love of reading that will last a lifetime.

Mr Banks  
Headteacher

### Welcome to the SEND Section of our Newsletter!



#### Wessex Gardens Celebrates Boccia Success!



We're thrilled to share the amazing achievements of our **Years 3 to 6 students** at the recent **Boccia tournament in Barnet!** Competing against **29 schools**, Wessex Gardens entered two teams who played with skill, teamwork, and determination.

#### Green Team's Bronze Medal Triumph

Our **Green team** had a fantastic tournament, showing great accuracy and focus. Their hard work took them to the semi-finals, where a tense match ended in a draw before they clinched an exciting victory. Their efforts earned them **bronze medals** and a well-deserved **3rd place finish!**

#### White Team's Strong Performance

Our **White team** also performed brilliantly, finishing in a very respectable 5th place. Their enthusiasm and teamwork were inspiring throughout the tournament.

Both teams played four exciting matches in the first stage, giving their all and making us incredibly proud. A big thank-you to everyone who supported them – they've done Wessex Gardens proud! An even bigger thank you to Shakur and Mrs A for creating such an amazing opportunity for our SEND children! Here's to more sporting successes in the future!

### SCHOOL REMINDERS & INFORMATION



#### Dates for your diary

10.02.2025	Y6 Moat Mount parent meeting 9am
10-14.02.2025	Parent/Teacher consultation week
12.02.2025	Reception-Hearing & Vision Screening
13.02.2025	School Discos
14.02.2025	Y3 trip to Science Museum <i>amended</i>
17-21.02.2025	School Closed—half term holiday
24.02.2025	School reopens
25.02.2025	Y4 trip to Science Museum
25&26/02/2025	Y2 Parents Evening <i>dates changed</i>
03.03.2025	Y6—National offer day secondary school places
06.03.2025	World Book Day



Parent/Teacher Consultation meetings will be held after school week beginning 10th February  
Please see details below:

Nursery:	<i>Parents evening cancelled—please speak to Ms Chako if you would like a time to discuss your child's progress</i>
Reception	Monday 10th February <i>(Tuesday 11th February—appointments rearranged)</i>
1 Chestnut	Monday 10th, Tuesday 11th & Thursday 13th February
2 Redwood	<i>Parents evening has been moved to Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th February</i>
3 Hazel	Monday 10th & Tuesday 11th February
3 Cedar	Monday 10th & Tuesday 11th February
4 Oak	Monday 10th & Tuesday 11th February
4 Hawthorn	Monday 10th & Tuesday 11 February
5 Sycamore	Will be next half term—details to follow
6 Magnolia	Monday 10th, Tuesday 11th & Friday 14th February

Important: Please note changes to parents evening in **red** above. Apologies for any inconvenience.

Please book your appointment through our online booking system on schooling. **Closing date for bookings will be Sunday 9th February.**

#### School Disco

Thursday 13th February



**Reception—Year 2: 3.30pm-4.30pm**  
Tickets cost £2.50 & include a drink, crisps and chocolate treat.

**Years 3, 4, 5 & 6: 4.45pm-5.45pm**  
Tickets cost £2.00 and children to bring pocket money to buy drinks, crisps and/or chocolate treat  
Tickets on sale online at [www.schoolmoney.co.uk](http://www.schoolmoney.co.uk)

### Letters home this week

No letters home this week.



## Nursery

This week in Nursery, we have been exploring the fascinating world of sea creatures and warmly welcoming our new friends to the class. The children practised their cutting skills by creating colourful jellyfish, carefully snipping along the paper to form flowing tentacles. They also developed their physical coordination by moving like different sea animals—swimming like fish, gliding like turtles, and diving like dolphins. To support early numeracy, we sang nursery rhymes about fish, reinforcing counting to ten in a fun and engaging way. Throughout the week, we have continued to learn the importance of sharing and taking turns, helping to build positive relationships with our friends.

Next week, we will continue our underwater adventure, learning about sharks, whales, and many more incredible sea creatures. As a gentle reminder, please encourage your child to wipe their nose independently and to cover their mouth when coughing. If your child has a temperature, they should remain at home until they are feeling better. Additionally, we kindly ask you to read with your child daily to support their language and literacy development. Thank you for your continued support and the adventure continues next week.

## Reception

What a wonderful week in Silver Birch. The children have enjoyed reading our core story Errol's Garden. We learnt what plants need to grow, wrote down questions to ask a gardener and designed our own gardens. Our gardens included swimming pools, slides, monkey bars and even sharks. Come in and see them hanging up. In maths, we have been exploring number 6, 7 and 8. We have created some wonderful pieces of art work. We did some observational fruit drawing using chalk, oil pastels and paint. Our classroom looks like an art gallery. A huge thank you to all the parents that helped out at swimming, we really appreciate your help. Remember to read on Bug Club. Have a lovely weekend and see you on Monday.

## Year 1

This week in English, we've been learning about bossy words and how to construct a recipe, preparing for next week's recipe writing. In maths, the children have been working on deriving number facts to help solve larger number problems. In PHSE, we've explored the theme of friendship and discussed ways to solve conflicts. During DT, the children designed their own sandwiches, ready to create them next week. In RE, we've been exploring the Buddhist symbol and its meaning, while in science, we've been learning about the five senses. Please remember to sign up for Parents' Evening next week – I can't wait to share all the wonderful work your children have produced this term!

## Year 2

In maths, we have been continuing to explore multiplication and will soon be moving on to division. In English, we are continuing to focus on The Secret of Black Rock, including writing sentences using past tense verbs correctly and using time connectives to sequence events. In science, we have been observing and comparing materials used at home and school. In geography, we have been comparing the climates in London and Mogadishu as well as sorting human features. In PSHE we have been learning about safe and harmful substances. Many thanks for continuing to support your child with their homework. Please make sure your child completes all work given!

## Year 3

We had another fun and busy week!

In maths, we learned about equivalent lengths (m, cm, mm) and practised converting between different units of measurement. We also worked on adding and subtracting lengths measured in the same unit, then challenged ourselves with calculations involving different units. Please encourage your child to measure various objects around your house and practise their 3, 4, and 8 times tables.

In English, we used different literary devices, such as similes and metaphors, to enhance our descriptive writing about *The Iron Man*.

In science, we learned about how soil is formed and really enjoyed exploring different types of soil (sandy, clay, and loamy).

In geography, we discovered how volcanoes are formed and then explored their structure and the different types.

In D&T, we had fun making our own castles out of 3D cardboard shapes.

## Year 4

This week in Year 4 has been filled with fantastic learning experiences across all subjects! In maths, the children have been exploring perimeter, using their knowledge of known facts to calculate missing lengths in rectilinear shapes. In English, they have been putting the finishing touches on their edited and improved creative writing pieces, which are now proudly displayed in our corridors. The children are thrilled to see their hard work showcased! Science lessons have been particularly exciting, as we conducted practical experiments to study the digestive process and the effects of different foods. We investigated how acidic and sugary foods, as well as other liquids, impact our teeth. In geography, we have been comparing suburban, urban, and rural areas, learning about their unique characteristics. It has been a wonderful week of learning, and we can't wait to see what next week brings!

## Year 5

It's been a wonderful week of learning in year 5! In English, we've been diving deep into the world of persuasive writing. The children have developed their skills in crafting convincing arguments and using persuasive techniques. We took part in lively debates and roleplay, where the Montagues and Capulets from *Romeo and Juliet* argued in a fun and engaging way. This allowed us to not only sharpen our writing skills but also practise thinking critically and speaking with confidence to persuade others. In maths, we've been exploring fractions as operators, discovering the many ways fractions can be applied in problem-solving. Our class has been experimenting with different methods to find the most efficient approaches that work for each of us.

In history, our focus has been on the four caliphs and their significant impact on early Islamic civilisation. We gained valuable insights into the leadership and achievements of these caliphs, learning how they shaped the early years of Islamic history. In science, we have been studying adulthood and the physical and cognitive changes that occur during this life stage. This topic has sparked many thoughtful questions, and it's great to see the children so curious about the science behind human growth. In RE, we've been comparing local and global sacred spaces, exploring both their similarities and differences. The class has discussed how various cultures and religions create sacred spaces, and why these places are so important to their followers. We've shared ideas about how sacred spaces can hold different meanings for different communities, helping us develop a deeper understanding of global faith practices. Finally, in PSHE, our focus has been on friendships and resolving conflicts. We have been reflecting on how to maintain strong, healthy friendships and how to navigate disagreements in a respectful way. We've explored various conflict-resolution strategies, helping us gain the skills to build positive relationships both in and out of school.

## Year 6

What an incredible week we've had! Our budding barristers and lawyers have risen to the challenge of writing balanced arguments on whether animal organ donation should be permitted. Their beautiful work is now proudly displayed on our boards outside the classroom—do take a look!

In maths, we've been diving into algebra, exploring formulae, like terms, and substitutions. Our weekly maths problem-solving sessions with Miss Borhan have been keeping everyone sharp and engaged!

We're continuing our journey with the novel *Pig Heart Boy* in English, and in PSHE, we've been reflecting on difficult moments we've faced and the strategies we've used to overcome them.

Looking ahead, our Spring Term Parents' Evening will take place during the week beginning **10th February**.

- **Mrs. Alba:** 10th & 11th February at 6pm
- **Mrs. Borhan:** 14th February at 5pm

We look forward to seeing you there to celebrate the amazing progress your children are making in class!

## Attendance % this week

<b>Silver Birch</b>	<b>95%</b>
<b>Chestnut</b>	<b>94%</b>
<b>Redwood</b>	<b>88%</b>
<b>Cedar</b>	<b>99%</b>
<b>Hazel</b>	<b>93%</b>
<b>Hawthorn</b>	<b>99%</b>
<b>Oak</b>	<b>98%</b>
<b>Sycamore</b>	<b>97%</b>
<b>Magnolia</b>	<b>92%</b>

**No classes achieved 100% attendance this week  
Cedar and Hawthorn class—so close!**

## TREAT FROM THE CHEST



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

Chestnut	Lyan
Redwood	Nabil
Cedar	Ali
Hazel	Uzair
Oak	Noor
Hawthorn	Nadine
Sycamore	Natalie
Magnolia	Avesta

## Congratulations!

## Stars of the Week



## Superstars of the Week

Tomasz, Chestnut class  
Mia, Redwood class

## Certificate of Merit

Mohammed, Cedar class  
Yasin, Hazel class  
Kaleb, Oak class  
Rama, Hawthorn class  
Ramani, Sycamore class  
Zahra, Magnolia class

## Excellent Presentation Award

Sarah, Chestnut class  
Kabir, Redwood class  
Ridha, Cedar class  
Matar, Hazel class  
Yusuf, Oak class  
Olush, Hawthorn class  
Celin, Sycamore class  
Anik, Magnolia class

**Well done!**

## Childhood Flu Vaccine

It's not too late for your child to get a free flu vaccine.

Flu can be dangerous and cause serious illness. In recent weeks, London has seen an increase in hospitalisations of children and young people becoming extremely ill from flu.

Protect your child and others with the free childhood flu vaccine.

- Vaccinating children protects them against serious illness such as pneumonia
- It also stops them from passing on flu to older relatives and other vulnerable groups, who can suffer from the complications of flu.



There is still time to get a free flu vaccine for your child this flu season which continues until the end of March:

- Children aged 2 or 3 years: Any child aged 2 or 3 on 31 August 2024 (which includes those who may have turned 4 since then), can still get a flu vaccine at their GP surgery.
- School aged children (Reception to Year 11): Any primary or secondary school children (reception to Year 11) will usually get the flu vaccine at school. If they missed this, they should book an appointment via Vaccination UK's community catch-up clinics across Barnet.
- Children with certain long-term conditions: Any child aged 6 months to 17 years who have a long-term health condition can receive the flu vaccine at your GP surgery or a community catch up clinic. Please contact their GP surgery if you are unsure regarding eligibility.

The nasal flu vaccine prompts "natural" immunity without making your child ill:

- The nasal flu vaccine contains a live but weakened version of the flu virus. This prompts the immune system to produce its own protection against the influenza virus without giving the child flu or making them ill.

The nasal flu vaccine protects your child against illness from multiple strains of flu for the rest of the flu season:

- The nasal flu vaccine contains several different strains of weakened flu virus. This helps protect the child from catching any of these flu strains for the rest of the flu season.
- In contrast, children who catch the flu "naturally" may catch flu a second time in the season. This is because they have only developed immunity to the single strain of flu that they are infected with and can still get infected with other strains of the flu.

[Learn more about the child flu vaccine.](#)

**Ugbad Elmi**

**Public Health Office - Health Protection**

**Public Health Communities, Adults and Health Directorate**

**London Borough of Barnet**