



WESSEX GARDENS PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

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Newsletter

Spring Term — 7th March 2025 (Issue 22)

Welcome to this week's Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers, and Friends of Wessex Gardens,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and that you've had a wonderful week! It has certainly been an exciting time here at school, and I'm thrilled to share some of this week's highlights with you.

World Book Day Celebrations

What a fantastic World Book Day we had! We were delighted to see our children and staff come together to celebrate the joy of reading with some truly **amazing character costumes**. It was wonderful to see both **adults and children** so creatively embracing their favourite literary characters. A special thank you to all who participated!

EYFS Drama Performance

Our **EYFS team** treated us to a **spectacular drama performance** of *The Three Little Pigs* during our World Book Day assembly. The children were absolutely brilliant, and it was a joy to watch them bring this classic story to life. It's always a pleasure to see our young learners so engaged and confident!

Learning Environment & Displays

It's been a pleasure to walk around the school and see the **beautiful displays** in both the classrooms and communal areas. A huge well done to all of our staff for their hard work in creating such **inspiring learning environments** for our children. The care and attention to detail is greatly appreciated, and it really brings out the creativity in our pupils.

Exciting News: Reopening of Our New Library

We are absolutely delighted to announce that in the **coming week**, we will be **reopening our newly revamped library!** This is an exciting step for our school, and we can't wait for our pupils to enjoy the new space filled with books, imagination, and adventure. Stay tuned for more details on our reopening event!

Visitor Feedback

We are always striving to provide the best possible environment for our pupils, and it's wonderful to hear such **positive feedback** from recent visitors to the school. Here's a snippet of what they had to say:

- "Wessex Gardens is a **welcoming** and **nurturing** school."
- "Pupils display excellent attitudes to learning and are eager to engage with their studies."
- "I always come back to visit Wessex Gardens because I appreciate the adults who worked with my kids ."

It's incredible to hear such praise and it reflects the effort, care, and dedication of both our staff and pupils.

Feedback and Suggestions

Finally, we will be sending out **feedback/suggestion letters** today. We would love to hear your positive views about our school and any thoughts and ideas about how we can continue to improve and make Wessex Gardens the best it can be. Please take a few moments to share your responses with us!

Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to another week of learning and growth at Wessex Gardens.

Warm regards,

Alexander Banks- Headteacher
Leila Sharif- Deputy Headteacher



Welcome to the SEND Section of our Newsletter!



Short Breaks

What are Short Breaks?

Short Breaks provide opportunities for disabled children and young people to have fun, develop independence, and spend time with friends, just like their peers. These breaks also offer families and caregivers valuable time to rest and recharge.

What Do Short Breaks Include?

- ✓ Day, evening, overnight, and weekend activities
- ✓ Support in the home, community, or residential settings
- ✓ Flexible options ranging from a few hours to several days, based on individual needs

Short Breaks ensure that children and young people with SEND can access enriching experiences while giving families time to focus on their well-being.

Short Breaks Statement 2021

For more details on Barnet's Short Breaks services, visit the links below:

 [Barnet Social Care Services for SEND](#)

 **Contact Us:** short.breaks@barnet.gov.uk

SCHOOL REMINDERS & INFORMATION

Dates for
the Diary:

Dates for your diary

11/12.03.2025	Y5 Parents Evening
21.03.2025	Comic Relief fundraising Day
	Non uniform day –bring £1 for Comic Relief
04.04.2025	Last day of term—school closes early 115pm
07-22.04.2025	School reopens

TERM DATES AND HOLIDAYS 2024-2025

SPRING TERM 2025

FIRST HALF:	Monday 6 th January – Friday 14 th February
HALF TERM HOLIDAY:	Monday 17 th February – Friday 21 st February
SECOND HALF:	Monday 24 th February – Friday 4 th April

SUMMER TERM 2025

FIRST HALF:	Tuesday 22 nd April – Friday 23 rd May
MAY DAY:	Monday 5 th May
HALF TERM HOLIDAY:	Monday 26 th May – Friday 30 th May
SECOND HALF:	Tuesday 3 rd June – Friday 18 th July

TERM DATES AND HOLIDAYS 2025-2026

AUTUMN TERM 2025

FIRST HALF:	Wednesday 3 rd September – Friday 24 th October
HALF TERM HOLIDAY:	Monday 27 th October – Friday 31 st October
SECOND HALF:	Monday 3 rd November – Friday 19 th December

SPRING TERM 2026

FIRST HALF:	Monday 5 th January – Friday 13 th February
HALF TERM HOLIDAY:	Monday 16 th February – Monday 23 rd February
SECOND HALF:	Tuesday 24 th February – Friday 27 th March

SUMMER TERM 2026

FIRST HALF:	Monday 13 th April – Friday 22 nd May
MAY DAY:	Monday 4 th May
HALF TERM HOLIDAY:	Monday 25 th May – Monday 1 st June
SECOND HALF:	Tuesday 2 nd June – Friday 17 th July

Attendance % this week

Silver Birch	94%
Chestnut	93%
Redwood	93%
Cedar	98%
Hazel	92%
Hawthorn	97%
Oak	95%
Sycamore	93%
Magnolia	97%

No classes achieved 100% attendance this week

Letters home this week



Y5 Trip to British Museum 19.03.2025
Nurs-Y6 Feedback letter

Nursery

What a wonderful week we have had in Nursery! The children have enjoyed learning about different cultural and religious celebrations. We talked about Ramadan, exploring its significance and the traditions that come with it. We also discussed the start of Lent and marked the occasion by making delicious pancakes for Pancake Day, which the children thoroughly enjoyed. Our classroom was filled with creativity as we decorated our door in the theme of The Very Hungry Caterpillar, an activity that was both fun and engaging. The children also performed the poem Pancakes with great enthusiasm, showcasing their growing confidence in language and expression. A highlight of the week was watching *The Three Little Pigs* brought to life by our teachers, which captivated the children and encouraged their love for storytelling. We kindly ask you to read with your child daily and please encourage your child to practise dressing and undressing independently, as this helps to build their confidence and self-sufficiency. Thank you for your continued support in your child's learning journey.

Reception

We have had a wonderful week in Reception, full of exciting learning experiences. The children have enjoyed making their own Lion booklets, using their creativity to draw, write, and share what they have learned about these amazing animals. We have also been busy planting seeds and exploring how things grow, encouraging the children to observe changes over time. World Book Day was a fantastic celebration, with everyone dressing up as their favourite book characters and sharing stories throughout the day. A special highlight was our beautifully decorated gingerbread door, which added a magical touch to our classroom and sparked the children's imaginations. In maths, we have been focusing on number bonds to ten, using fun and practical activities to help the children understand how numbers work together. The children have shown great enthusiasm and growing confidence in their number skills. To end the week with some extra excitement, the teachers performed a special pantomime, bringing lots of laughter and joy to everyone. It has been a fantastic week, and we are so proud of how engaged and enthusiastic the children have been. We look forward to another week of fun and learning ahead.

Year 1

It has been an exciting and busy start to the term for Chestnut Class. We had a wonderful time on our trip to London Zoo, where the children were able to see a wide variety of animals and consolidate their learning from last term's Science topic. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to observe different species and apply their knowledge in a real world setting. They were especially excited to learn more about animal habitats and behaviours! In English, we have just finished reading *The Jolly Postman of Other People's Letters*, a delightful story that has inspired lots of discussions and writing activities. The children are now beginning to create their own invitations, drawing on the ideas and formats from the book. In Art, the children explored different types of lines while listening to water-themed music. The music served as a fantastic stimulus, helping the children create flowing and dynamic line drawings. This term, we are excited to share that we have a gymnastics teacher who will be teaching us gymnastics every Wednesday. The children are enjoying the new skills they are learning, from balance to coordination. A quick reminder to please log in to Bug Club! We will be selecting Bug Club stars every week, so be sure your child is engaging with the reading materials and earning rewards. It's a fun way to encourage reading and support their learning at home!

Year 3

This week, we had an incredible time preparing for World Book Day! We decorated our classroom door in the style of our favourite book, *Dog Man* by Dav Pilkey, bringing the characters and comic book style to life with our amazing artwork. *Harry Potter* was a close second, and we had lots of fun sharing ideas about how we could transform our door into a magical masterpiece. On World Book Day itself, we arrived in fantastic outfits and truly became our favourite characters. It was wonderful to see everyone's enthusiasm for reading and storytelling! In History, we have been loving our topic on Ancient Egypt. This week, we explored some of our favourite pharaohs, learning about their fascinating achievements and legendary stories. We have been amazed by the power and influence these rulers had, and we can't wait to discover more next week!

Year 4

Year 4 have had a fantastic week of learning! They have been thoroughly enjoying *Varjak Paw*, exploring the story and its intriguing setting. In English, they have been using descriptive adjectives and adverbs to bring Varjak's city to life in their writing. In Maths, the children have been learning about mixed fractions and improper fractions, using number lines to understand and convert between them. In Geography, they have been discovering the world of trade, exploring different ways produce is transported globally, including through port cities, markets, and tourism. Next week, they are excited to start their new Science topic on electricity. Please ensure children are reading on Bug Club to improve fluency and inference skills. We are looking forward to another wonderful week of learning.

Year 5

It's been a fantastic week of learning in Year 5! In English, we have been analysing the character traits and motivations of Beowulf and Grendel. We've also been expanding our vocabulary and incorporating figurative language to write vivid and exciting battle scenes. In Maths, we've been exploring percentages and their relationship to fractions. We've made connections between percentages, fractions, and decimals, helping us understand how they all link together. In Science, we've started our new topic on Earth and Space. We've been learning about the planets in our solar system and how they relate to the sun. In PSHE, our focus has been on negotiation and compromise in teamwork. Through various group activities, the children have been reflecting on what makes effective teamwork and how they can improve in working together. In RE, we've been exploring the unique aspects of different religions, looking at their music, chants, art, symbols, and more, to understand what makes each one distinct.

Year 6

Thank you to our parents for their contributions to reading, we have renovated and renewed our library books with up to date and new novels to really engage our children with their love for reading. Please do engage with Bug Club reading to support your child's reading, they are officially 9 weeks till SATs! We had such a lovely immersive experience in the Antarctic last week. This week we have been planning and writing a setting description based on the famous Shaggy's journey. Lots of decimal work in maths in preparation for that all important arithmetic test. Please do have a look on BBC bitesizes website which can support the learning for your child. Also have a look at our Year 6 page to see all the amazing learning we do! On April 3rd there will be a trip to the Tower of London to complete a workshop on Henry VIII wives - how exciting! Thank you to Miss Borhan who organised this trip.

TREAT FROM THE CHEST



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

Chestnut	Mona
Redwood	Rania
Cedar	Basit
Hazel	Rickai
Oak	Hamza
Hawthorn	Nadine
Sycamore	Mohamed
Magnolia	Nour

Congratulations!

Stars of the Week



Superstars of the Week
Santiago, 2 Redwood class

Certificate of Merit

Nazi, 3 Hazel class
Lucas, 3 Cedar class
Mia, 4 Oak class
Cynthia, 5 Sycamore class
Denis, 6 Magnolia class

Excellent Presentation Award

Najlae, 1 Chestnut class
Ishaq, 2 Redwood class
Ines, 3 Hazel class
Ali, 3 Cedar class
Yusuf, 4 Oak class
Shirley, 4 Hawthorn class
William, 5 Sycamore class
Lisa, 6 Magnolia class

Class Merit

Chestnut class
Hawthorn class

Well done!