

WESSEX GARDENS PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Alexander Banks Deputy Headteacher: Leila Sharif



Newsletter

Autumn Term — 26th September 2025 (Issue 3)

Welcome to this week's Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a wonderfully busy week at Wessex Gardens! On Monday, our Chair of Governors visited school to talk to the children about the Jewish New Year, bringing in apples and honey to share.

Throughout the week, we have also been collecting for charities. A huge thank you to everyone who donated to Macmillan Cancer Support for the cake sale, and to all pupils who took part in the non-uniform day. Special thanks go to Mrs Baker for organising the event, our Year 6 pupils for running the stall, and to Mohammed's mum (Y5) for stepping in to help when needed!

We have also been collecting donations for Food Bank Aid and will be celebrating our Harvest Festival on Monday. Please do keep sending in items—we are very grateful for your support.

As Autumn gradually creeps up on us, the weather is turning cooler. Please make sure your child brings a coat to school each day.

We will let you know soon how much we raised for Macmillan Cancer Support

Mr Alexander Banks

SCHOOL REMINDERS & INFORMATION



Dates for your diary

30.09.2025	Harvest Festival Assembly
07-10.10.2025	Book Fair
09.10.2025	Y6 School—Nursing Team: National Child Measurement Programme
27.-31.10.2025	School Closed—Half Term Holiday
03.11.2025	School reopens

Admissions

Admissions for **Secondary school** places to start September 2026 is now open. The closing date for applications is 31st October 2025.

Admissions for **Reception school** places to start September 2026 is now open. The closing date for applications is 15th January 2026.

Applications for both to be made online at www.eadmissions.org.uk

EOL English for Speakers of Other Languages

This is a fun and friendly way to improve your English and will give you the opportunity to meet other parents. To take part, please come along every Thursday from 1.00-3.00pm.

Please report to the school office on arrival. Thank you.

Letters home this week



Nurs-Rec	Letter from UK Health Security Agency—Pre-school immunisation Reminder
Nurs	Changes to Nursery sessions

TERM DATES AND HOLIDAYS 2025-2026

AUTUMN TERM 2025

FIRST HALF: Wednesday 3rd September – Friday 24th October

HALF TERM

HOLIDAY: Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October

SECOND HALF: Monday 3rd November – Friday 19th December

SPRING TERM 2026

FIRST HALF: Monday 5th January – Friday 13th February

HALF TERM

HOLIDAY: Monday 16th February – Monday 23rd February

SECOND HALF: Tuesday 24th February – Friday 27th March

SUMMER TERM 2026

FIRST HALF: Monday 13th April – Friday 22nd May

MAY DAY: Monday 4th May

HALF TERM

HOLIDAY: Monday 25th May – Monday 1st June

SECOND HALF: Tuesday 2nd June – Friday 17th July

Nursery

Hi Parents and Carers,

Book bags have now gone out and are due back every Monday. Please read with your child and note down in their reading logs. The coming week we will be looking at seasons, specifically Autumn. Have a lovely weekend!"

Reception

What a fantastic first full week we've had at school! The children have settled in really well, and it's been lovely to see them beginning to form friendships, explore the classroom, and get stuck into their learning. Here's what we've been up to:

This week we've been focusing on recognising, spelling, and writing our names. The children have enjoyed using name cards, puzzles, and a range of writing tools to help them become more confident. Please continue practising at home – it really does make a difference!

We've been practising our counting to 10 through songs, games, and hands-on activities. Whether we were counting our steps, toys, or even how many times we could clap, the children are becoming more confident with numbers and one-to-one correspondence. We are looking forward to more exciting adventures next week. Have a lovely weekend!

Year 1

This week, we've been learning all about **1 more and 1 less**. To help us remember, we've been using our friendly crocodile to "chomp" the bigger number and work out which is more and which is less! The children are becoming confident in spotting patterns in numbers and using number lines to help. We've started retelling the story of **The Three Little Pigs!** We created our own **story planners** to map out the beginning, middle, and end, then used them to rewrite the story in our own words. Our History topic continues as we explore **toys from the past**. This week, we've been comparing old toys with the ones we play with today. In PSHE, we've been learning how to **spot people's feelings** by looking at facial expressions. We've been thinking about the question: **"What do Christians believe God is like?"** The children have listened to stories from the Bible. We're very excited to have started our new DT project – **making puppets!** Thank you as always for your support. Don't forget to check book bags for reading books!

Year 2

We've had another busy week in Oak Class! We were so impressed with the children's wonderfully creative models of Islands. In English, we have been working hard to develop our oracy skills and write the beginning, middle and end of Rapunzel! In Maths, we have enjoyed working together to achieve an investigation about number patterns linked to the story. In Geography, we enthusiastically learnt new facts about the 5 Oceans. In D.T; we have been developing our recording skills; linked to creating a healthy wrap which includes foods from at least 2 of the different food groups. A BIG THANK YOU for all of your contributions to Macmillan and the Food Bank. Your very kind donations are really appreciated!

Our swimming day is Wednesday; girls swim this half term and boys will be doing P.E. Whole class P.E. will take place on a Monday morning.

Please continue to support your child with their home learning and write a comment weekly in your child's Reading Record. Many thanks for all your support. Have a lovely weekend.
Oak Class

Year 3

We've had a fantastic start to the term, and the children are working really well!

In **History**, we have delved into our Stone Age topic, learning key vocabulary such as *Paleolithic* (Old Stone Age), *Mesolithic* (Middle Stone Age), and *Neolithic* (Late Stone Age). The children are beginning to understand how humans developed farming, hunting, and the use of fire, and even had a go at making their own Stone Age jewellery.

In **Science**, we are exploring the human skeleton and muscles, and how they work together to create movement.

We'd like to remind parents of the importance of **Bug Club** as a reading resource. Passwords can be found inside the cover of reading journals, and we encourage regular use at home to support fluency and comprehension.

Well done Year 3 for another great week of learning!

Year 4

What an exciting start to the week! Our trip to The Pirate Castle gave us the chance to enjoy an adventurous kayaking session, where the children showed teamwork, courage, and lots of energy out on the water. Back in the classroom, we kept the momentum going with our very first Big Write of the year in English. Acacia class impressed us with their imagination and determination, and we can't wait to see how their writing continues to grow this term.

Year 5

We have had another busy and exciting week in Year 5!

In **Maths**, we have been consolidating our place value knowledge by partitioning, comparing, ordering and identifying numbers on a number line up to 1,000,000.

In **English**, we explored how to make our writing more engaging by using adverbs to describe characters and settings, similes and alliteration to add creativity, and speech marks to write dialogue that develops characters and adds to the action.

In **History**, we investigated what artefacts and myths can tell us about Ancient Greece, and compared how different Greek city-states were ruled.

In **Science**, we enjoyed hands-on investigations. We compared and grouped materials based on conductivity and magnetic responses, and explored solubility and solutions.

In **Art**, we identified the features of self-portraits by analysing the work of famous artists such as Van Gogh and Kumari Burman, looking at similarities and differences in style and considering the effects they create. Well done Year 5 for your hard work and creativity this week!

Year 6

This week has been full of exciting learning across the curriculum. In English, the children planned and wrote persuasive letters to Hansel and Gretel's father, convincing him to make the right choices. In Maths, we explored common factors, multiples, and the rules of divisibility, as well as completing a reasoning paper together to identify areas we need to work on. In Science, the focus was on light and vision, where the children investigated how we see and how refraction changes the way light travels. In Geography, the children began learning about climate zones and the different biomes around the world, making links to real-life examples. In PSHE, the class learned about peer pressure, risks, and the effects of alcohol and drugs, finding the lessons both insightful and thought-provoking. We also had a road safety workshop delivered by the Met Police, which the children thoroughly enjoyed. Tuition has made a fantastic start, with pupils showing great eagerness and enthusiasm, and overall the children continue to show an excellent attitude to their learning.

TREAT FROM THE CHEST



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

1 Hawthorn	Mia
2 Oak	Sultan
3 Sycamore	Nabil
4 Acacia	Asma
5 Mahogany	Nour S
5 Cedar	Talia
6 Magnolia	Ranim

Congratulations!

Stars of the Week



Superstars of the Week

Annabel, 1 Hawthorn class
Dane, 2 Oak class

Certificate of Merit

Joel, 3 Sycamore class
Bushra, 4 Acacia class
Raya, 5 Mahogany class
Oliwier, 5 Cedar class
Ramani, 6 Magnolia class

Excellent Presentation

Sachi, 1 Hawthorn class
Orabelle, 2 Oak class
Grace, 3 Sycamore class
Rickai, 4 Acacia class
Antwon, 5 Mahogany class
Izabela, 5 Cedar class
Nikki, 6 Magnolia class

Well done!

SUNDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER

BIG COMMUNITY RIVER

CLEAN UP DAY



1.30PM-4.00PM
CLITTERHOUSE BROOK

MEET AT THE CAFÉ IN OUR YARD,
CLITTERHOUSE FARM.

SOME GLOVES AND WELLIES WILL BE
AVAILABLE, BUT PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN
IF POSSIBLE.

UNDER-18S MUST BE WITH A
RESPONSIBLE ADULT.
TAKE CARE NEAR THE RIVER TO AVOID
WATER INTAKE OR INJURY.

RIVER CLEAN
PANEL DISCUSSION OVER
TEA AND CAKE WITH:

LAWRENCE KERSHAN- ENVIRONMENTAL
MEDIATOR

THAMES 21 - RIVERS TRUST

WILDROOTSOUTDOORLEARNING@GMAIL.COM



OUR YARD
at Clitterhouse Farm

For Kids 4+
Donations
£8 per
session



Book on Eventbrite

Kids Garden Club

**EXPLORE, LEARN, GROW AND
CREATE**

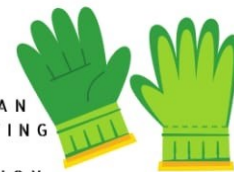
CHILDREN WILL HAVE THE CHANCE TO GET
THEIR HANDS DIRTY AND LEARN ABOUT:

- SEED SOWING
- SOIL PREPARATION
- GERMINATION
- PLANTING & PLANT CARE
- PINCHING AND PRUNING
- WEEDING
- COMPOSTING

Date & Time
4-5:30pm

12th September
19th September
26th September
3rd October
10th October
17th October
24th October

THE SUGGESTED AGE IS 4+
HOWEVER, YOUNGER CHILDREN CAN
PARTICIPATE WITH AN ACCOMPANYING
ADULT
PARENTS OF CHILDREN 6+ CAN ENJOY
SOME COFFEE & CAKE FROM OUR
LOVELY SHOP AND COLLECT THE
CHILDREN AFTER THE CLUB SESSION.



Find us in Clitterhouse Playing Fields, off Claremont Rd NW2 1AP
cultivate@clitterhouse.com - www.ouryard.org



Free Child Car Seat Safety Checks

Barnet Council is offering **free child car seat checks** to help families ensure their children are travelling safely.

Wednesday 8th October, 10am – 3pm

Tesco car park, Coppetts Centre, North Circular Rd, N12 0SH

A trained expert from Good Egg Safety will be on hand to check seats and offer advice – no booking required.

Last year, 92% of car seats checked in Barnet had errors, most of them serious enough to put children at risk of injury or death in a collision. Let's work together to keep children safe on the roads.

road.safety@barnet.gov.uk / [Barnet - Child Seat Community Checking Event | Facebook](#)