



WESSEX GARDENS PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

Wessex Gardens, Golders Green, London NW11 9RR
Tel: 020 8455 9572 Email: office@wessexgardens.barnet.sch.uk
Headteacher: Alexander Banks Deputy Headteacher: Leila Sharif



Newsletter

Autumn Term — 10th October 2025 (Issue 5)

Welcome to this week's Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,



It's been another wonderfully busy week across the school, with lots of great learning taking place in every classroom. There have been so many highlights, one of the most heart-warming has been seeing how our older pupils support and include our younger children during playtimes. The care, kindness, and sense of community they show truly reflect our school values in action.

A special mention goes to Zahra in Year 5, who suggested that we hold a Halloween-themed non-uniform day to raise money for the school. This is a fantastic idea and shows just how much our children care about their school community! We're delighted to say that we will be going ahead with this; our Halloween Non-Uniform Day will take place on Friday 24th October, the last day before the half term break. Pupils are invited to come to school in Halloween-themed outfits (nothing too scary, please!) and bring a £1 donation to support school funds.

Please note:

To help our children become more independent and organised, we will no longer be calling home if swimming kits or other items are forgotten. I will be reminding pupils about this in assembly so that they can take responsibility for being ready each day.

As always, thank you for your continued support. We're so proud of our pupils' achievements and their thoughtfulness towards others.

Have a super weekend!
Mr Banks
Headteacher

SCHOOL REMINDERS & INFORMATION



Dates for your diary

24.10.2025	Non Uniform Day—Halloween dress up PTA fundraising day
27.-31.10.025	School Closed—Half Term Holiday
03.11.2025	School reopens
03-07.11.2025	Parent/Teacher consultation week (Y1-Y6)



Many thanks to all the families who came and supported our Book Fair. The Book Fair raised an excellent amount of £323.00.

Attendance % this week

Silver Birch	88%
1 Hawthorn	99%
2 Oak	94%
3 Sycamore	97%
4 Acacia	93%
5 Cedar	98%
5 Mahogany	87%
6 Magnolia	97%

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

Letters home this week

Y4-6	Basketball Club
Rec	National Child Measurement Programme letter and leaflet
Rec-Y6	Flu Vaccination catch up session letter (for children who did not receive Vaccination last visit but would like to).



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



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



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.

Nursery

This week in Nursery we have had lots of fun and adventures. We have been learning new nursery rhymes like Pat a Cake Bakers Man and Five Little Ducks Went Swimming. We have been exploring the home corner and making lots of food for the teachers. Their tummies are very full! We have enjoyed lots of games outdoors such as What's the Time Mr Wolf? and Duck Duck Goose. Please remember book changing day is Wednesday. Have a lovely weekend!

Reception

This week's learning has been full of creativity and exploration! We've been enjoying our core book 'We're Going to Find the Monster,' using it to help us with story mapping and understanding how stories are structured. In Maths, we've been exploring the numbers 1,2 and 3, using practical activities to help us recognise, count, and represent them in different ways. We have been creating models of junk using recycled materials, showing great imagination and problem-solving skills. We have had buses, zombies and butterflies being created! To finish the week, we've started work on a large-scale map of our local area, adding in local buildings and our mini-mes to make it truly unique! Have a wonderful weekend!

Year 1

This week in Year 1, we have been very busy! In Maths, we reviewed the concept of 1 more and 1 less, using numbers to help us count and compare. In English, we used the story of *The Three Little Pigs* to inspire our own amazing stories. In Science, we explored different materials and their properties, testing to see if they were stretchy, bendy, transparent or absorbent. In History, we pretended to be Victorian children and found out what it was like to follow very strict rules! In RE, we talked about how everyone has different beliefs, and in PSHE, we explored what makes us unique, thinking about our own strengths and qualities. Keep up the great reading at home on Bug Club – you're doing a fantastic job!

Year 2

We've had another busy week in Oak Class! We are very pleased with all the wonderful effort the children are putting into their learning. In English, we have been learning about 'homophones' which are words that sound the same but are spelt differently e.g son and sun, bear and bare, flour and flower. We enjoyed writing a summary this week and book review! In Maths, we have been consolidating counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. We are using lots of practical resources to support our learning. In Geography, we have been using maps and globes to locate the equator, north and south poles. We were very excited to use atlases this week to do some wonderful research about the continent we live in, Europe! In PSHE, we have been writing about our 'healthy day.'

What does being healthy mean to you?

Please continue to support your child with their home learning and write a comment weekly in your child's Reading Record. Please support your child with reading the books allocated to them on Bug Club. Many thanks for all your support. Have a relaxing weekend!

Oak Class

Year 3

We've had another positive and productive week in Year 3. The children are settling well into routines and showing great enthusiasm for their learning.

In RE, we have now finished our work on angels and are moving on to creation stories from the three Abrahamic religions, as well as other cultural traditions. It would be wonderful if you could talk to your child about any creation stories from your own culture or religion, and explore similarities and differences with what they're learning in school.

In Maths, we are finishing our unit on place value and beginning to focus on addition and subtraction, building fluency and accuracy as we go.

In History, the children continue to enjoy our Stone Age topic. We are now exploring how the development of farming changed life in prehistoric times and led to important innovations.

A quick reminder: children should be reading at home daily for 20-30 minutes and recording their reading in their yellow journals. These journals are checked each week, so please ensure they are returned every Wednesday along with homework.

Thank you for your continued support.

Year 4

It's been another exciting and creative week in Year 4! In English, we've stepped into the world of journalism, exploring the features of newspaper reports. We had great fun role-playing as reporters and witnesses, using speech marks and formal language to share what we saw and heard. Everyone showed brilliant imagination and teamwork during our news interviews!

In Maths, we've been rounding numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1,000. The children have been working carefully to follow the rounding rules and explain their reasoning clearly.

In Art, we've been experimenting with the *stippling* technique to create stunning pieces of work. We've also been mixing different tints and shades to show light, shadow and effect – the results are truly impressive!

It's been a week full of creativity, confidence and curiosity – well done, Year 4!

Year 5

Hello everyone! We've had a very exciting few weeks in Year 5, full of learning, creativity, and fun challenges.

In Maths, we've been improving our mental maths skills by using clever strategies like compensation and adjustment. We have also been practising the column method to add and subtract whole numbers with more than four digits, building accuracy and confidence with larger numbers.

In English, we have been developing our reading comprehension skills – learning to retrieve, infer, and explain key information from information reports. We also took part in an exciting debate about which Greek god or goddess is the most powerful, using facts and persuasive arguments to support our points of view. Additionally, we explored how to use formal language suitable for informative writing.

Our History lessons have taken us back in time to Ancient Greece. We've been exploring what made Greek art and architecture so special and discovered how their ideas still inspire buildings and artists today.

In Science, we have been investigating mixtures and materials. The children learned how to separate mixtures through filtering and sieving, and conducted comparative tests to observe and record the properties of selected materials.

In Art, we have been developing our creative ideas by experimenting with different materials and techniques. The children produced unique self-portraits, showing great imagination and individuality in their final pieces.

Year 6

This week in Year 6 has been a fantastic one, filled with learning and growing confidence across all subjects. In Geography, the children explored vegetation belts and discovered how different plants and climates shape the way people live around the world. They also discussed how climate can affect human settlement and global trade, showing great curiosity and thoughtful connections in their work. In Maths, the children have been focusing on short division and using factor pairs to divide. It's been wonderful to see their confidence in arithmetic slowly increasing – many are now tackling tricky calculations with greater independence. We've also been really impressed with how responsibly they have been bringing their CGP books to lessons each day. Please can we remind everyone to continue looking after these books carefully, as they are an important part of their learning. In English, the focus has been on grammar and descriptive writing, with pupils using adverbials and fronted adverbials to make their paragraphs more vivid and engaging. In Science, the children enjoyed a fun and colourful experiment exploring how we see rainbows and colours in bubbles – a real highlight of the week! Finally, a quick reminder that booster classes will now take place once a week rather than twice.

TREAT FROM THE CHEST



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

1 Hawthorn	Haowen
2 Oak	Anum
3 Sycamore	Rania
4 Acacia	Zahra
5 Mahogany	Hamza
5 Cedar	Rama
6 Magnolia	Roman

Congratulations!

House Points

Citrine	1369
Emerald	1335
Ruby	1359
Sapphire	1467

Stars of the Week



Superstars of the Week

Ahmed, Hawthorn class
Jacob, Oak Class

Certificate of Merit

Ines, Sycamore class
Lucas, Acacia class
Noor, Mahogany class
Pia, Cedar class
Jana, Magnolia class

Excellent Presentation

Faiza, Hawthorn class
Xhemi, Oak class
Ola, Sycamore class
Izzy, Acacia class
Jalil, Mahogany class
Harun, Cedar class
Lewis, Magnolia class

Well done!