



# WESSEX GARDENS PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

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## Newsletter

Autumn Term — 7th November 2025 (Issue 8)

### Welcome to this week's Newsletter



Welcome back after the half term!

It has been wonderful to see everyone return refreshed and ready for the new half term.

The afternoons are getting darker much earlier now, so please remind your children to *Be Bright and Be Seen!* The weather is also becoming more unsettled, but it's still so important for children to enjoy fresh air at lunchtime. Please ensure your child brings a coat to school each day so we can still go outside, even when it's lightly raining.

A huge thank you to everyone who donated to the Jamaica Hurricane Appeal. We raised £220.00, which will be sent to the British Red Cross to support families affected by the recent storm.

Have a lovely weekend.  
Mr Banks  
Headteacher

### SCHOOL REMINDERS & INFORMATION



#### Dates for your diary

- 10.11.2025 Odd Socks Day—Anti bullying
- 10.11.2025 Inclusion Coffee Afternoon 2.30-3.30pm (see details later in this Newsletter)
- 11.11.2025 9.00am Y6 Remembrance Day Assembly—Parents invited
- 18.11.2025 School Photographer—individual and sibling photos
- 19.11.2025 Flu vaccinations (catch up for children who missed first session)
- 04.12.2025 Christmas Fair 3.30-5.00pm
- 10.12.2025 Christmas Lunch
- 11.12.2025 Nursery & Reception Christmas Sing-a-Long
- 16.12.2025 Y1 & Y2 Christmas Nativity production
- 19.12.2025 End of term—school closing 1.15pm

### Letters home this week



Rec-Y6 Flu Vaccination catch up visit (sent by schooling)

#### TERM DATES AND HOLIDAYS 2025-2026

##### AUTUMN TERM 2025

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

##### SPRING TERM 2026

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

##### SUMMER TERM 2026

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



#### Reminder for Years 5 and 6

As the darker evenings are upon us, lone travelling children may only travel alone from school at 3.30pm. Those children attending after school clubs or trips/events that finish after 3.30pm are to be collected from school. Thank you for your support.



#### Swimming this half term

1 Hawthorn	Group 2	Wednesdays <i>changed</i>
2 Oak	Boys	Thursdays <i>changed</i>
3 Sycamore	Boys	Mondays
4 Acacia	Boys	Wednesdays <i>changed</i>
5 Cedar	Girls	Wednesdays
5 Mahogany	Girls	Thursdays
6 Magnolia	Boys	Thursdays
	Girls	Thursdays

#### Attendance % this week

<b>Silver Birch</b>	<b>93%</b>
<b>1 Hawthorn</b>	<b>96%</b>
<b>2 Oak</b>	<b>97%</b>
<b>3 Sycamore</b>	<b>97%</b>
<b>4 Acacia</b>	<b>95%</b>
<b>5 Cedar</b>	<b>97%</b>
<b>5 Mahogany</b>	<b>98%</b>
<b>6 Magnolia</b>	<b>90%</b>

**No classes achieved 100% attendance this week**

## Nursery



We hope you all had a lovely break and enjoyed some special family time over the holiday! The children have come back full of energy and excitement, ready for another fun-filled half term of learning and discovery. This week, we have been busy exploring a range of creative and active activities: The children loved expressing themselves through colourful firework artwork! Using paint and chalk, they created dazzling night-sky displays while practising their fine motor skills and talking about how to stay safe around real fireworks. As we approach Remembrance Day, we have been learning why the poppy is such a special and important symbol. The children have shown great empathy and curiosity as we talked about peace, remembrance, and saying thank you to those who help keep us safe. The children had lots of fun with the balls in the big playground. We are developing their coordination, sharing, and turn-taking skills — all while having lots of fun!

## Reception



We've had a busy and exciting week in Silver Birch! The children have enjoyed creating beautiful poppy paintings as we learned about why the poppy is such a special symbol. We also made bright and colourful firework artwork, using chalk, paint and glitter to celebrate the season. In maths, we've been exploring numbers within 10, practising counting, recognising numerals, and playing our favourite Monster Maths game on the hoppers to make learning active and fun! The children have been working hard on their name writing, showing great progress and pride in their achievements. Please continue to practise with your child at home. Outdoors, we've loved pumping up our new footballs which was great for our gross and upper body strength. We have been developing our ball skills through group games. Autumn has certainly arrived, and we've been busy collecting all the leaves in the playground to use for counting, sorting, and creative play. What a fantastic week of learning, exploring, and teamwork!

## Year 1



Welcome back to Autumn 2! We've had a few changes to our Year 1 team this term. Mr. Cameron will be joining us to provide support, and Miss Ahmed, our student teacher, will be working with us until February. In English, we've started our new core text *Jack and the Beanstalk*. In Maths, we are exploring different ways to make numbers using the part-part-whole model. Our Science topic is Seasonal Changes, and in History we are learning all about Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot. In PSHE, we've been talking about what makes us unique and celebrating our differences. Please remember to log on to Bug Club and Numbots daily to keep practising your reading and maths skills

## Year 2



This week Year 2 couldn't believe their luck when they discovered a treasure chest in their classroom! Inside it was lots of money, gems, silver candlesticks and an ancient map. They were given a treasure map which they had to follow around the playground to discover where X marked the spot! They found an enormous diamond! Our new class text is called, 'How to Find Gold'. In History, Year 2 began learning about the Great Fire of London. They became archaeologists unlocking clues from the past. What could a burnt map and a candle suggest? What an exciting start to the week it was! In maths we have been continuing practising our number bonds to 10 and 20, using this knowledge to help us solve sums including 3 digits. We are very excited to all be back in school and have lots of fun things planned this term!  
Mrs McDuling

## Year 3



Welcome back to a new half-term. The children have settled in well and made a positive start. Thank you to all parents who attended Parent Consultation Evening. If you were unable to attend, please contact us to arrange another time — strong communication between home and school really supports your child's learning. We are completing our Stone Age topic this week. The children have enjoyed it greatly and can share plenty of facts at home. Next week, we begin our new topic on the United Kingdom. In English, we have started our new book, *The Moon Man*, and the children are engaging well with the story so far. A reminder that swimming this term is for boys, and their sessions take place on **Mondays**. Please also continue practising the 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10 times tables at home, as these are key foundations for maths. Thank you for your continued support.

## Year 4



This week in Year 4 we started a new story: *The Ice Palace* by Robert Swindells, an exciting adventure set in a dark, icy land where the young hero Ivan lives ... he must face the bitter cold and the fearsome villain Starjick when his brother is stolen. We have been exploring our ideas and using figurative language to describe the captivating setting! In Design & Technology we have launched their next topic on pavilions. We have been busy planning our pavilion designs and creating initial models of our own — it's brilliant to see such creativity. In Maths we brought our topic on addition and subtraction to a close and I am delighted to report that we have made great progress! We celebrated how much we've achieved and how much more confident we are! Until next week!

## Year 5



We've had a fantastic first week back — full of enthusiasm, curiosity, and hard work! In Maths, we began our new topic on *Multiplication and Division*. The children explored multiples and common multiples, as well as factors and common factors, showing great perseverance and strong reasoning skills when solving problems. In English, we started reading *Stormbreaker* by Anthony Horowitz. The children made thoughtful predictions and inferences using visual and dramatic clues, and described Alex Rider's character traits using evidence from the text. We were so impressed by their detailed responses and growing confidence in justifying their ideas. Our new Geography topic took us on a journey across Europe! Pupils learned to identify and locate European countries and their capital cities, using precise geographical vocabulary to describe features and locations accurately. In Guided Reading, we continued exploring *The Children of the Benin Kingdom*. Pupils demonstrated excellent comprehension and inference skills, discussing characters and events with insight and enthusiasm. To round off the week, we created a detailed Knowledge Organiser reviewing everything we've learned so far in *History – Ancient Greece and Science – Changing Materials*. The children did a wonderful job recalling key facts and making links between topics. Swimming Reminder: A reminder that girls will be swimming this term. Please ensure your child brings their swimming kit, including a towel and goggles, on the correct day.

## Year 6



Welcome back to a brand-new term filled with opportunities for learning and excelling! Thank you to all the parents who attended the recent meetings — it was lovely to meet with you and discuss the children's progress and achievements. In English, the children have started reading *Goodnight Mister Tom* by Michelle Magorian. This touching story is set during World War II and follows a young boy, Willie Beech, who is evacuated from London to the countryside, where he meets Mr Tom Oakley. Through their friendship, both characters experience healing, growth, and newfound hope amidst the backdrop of war. In History, the children have begun exploring our new topic: World War II. They are already very enthusiastic and have been learning about continuity and change across different centuries, understanding how life evolved before, during, and after the war. In Guided Reading, the children will be starting *War Horse* by Michael Morpurgo. This powerful and emotional story is set during World War I and tells the tale of Joey, a brave farm horse, and his young owner, Albert. The story explores courage, friendship, and the deep bond between humans and animals during times of hardship. In Maths, we have been focusing on fractions — identifying equivalent fractions, simplifying them, and placing fractions accurately on a number line. In PSHE, our theme has been mental health and wellbeing. The children have discussed different emotions and explored positive ways to cope when they are having a difficult day. It's been a fantastic start to the term — well done, Year 6!

# TREAT FROM THE CHEST



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

- |            |        |
|------------|--------|
| 1 Hawthorn | Safiya |
| 2 Oak      | Max    |
| 3 Sycamore | Razeem |
| 4 Acacia   | Hans   |
| 5 Mahogany | Ehsan  |
| 5 Cedar    | Darren |
| 6 Magnolia | Jana   |

**Congratulations!**

## House Points

<b>Citrine</b>	1891
<b>Emerald</b>	2208
<b>Ruby</b>	2174
<b>Sapphire</b>	2917

## Stars of the Week



**Superstars of the Week**  
Lilia, Hawthorn class  
Ace, Oak class

**Certificate of Merit**  
Hassan, Sycamore class  
Julian, Acacia class  
Roham, Magnolia  
Rawda, Cedar class  
Roman, Magnolia class

**Excellent Presentation**  
Mohamad, Hawthorn class  
Orbelle, Oak class  
Freya, Acacia class  
Nour, Mahogany class  
Amarni, Cedar class  
Lewis, Magnolia class

**Well done!**



**One**

# Inclusion Team Coffee Afternoon



We are hosting first  
Inclusion Team Coffee Afternoon!

Come and join us for an opportunity to meet other parents and carers and to find out different ways to support your child.

**Who:** Parents and Carers of Children with Additional Needs.

**Where:** Media Room, Wessex Gardens Primary School

**When:** Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025 2:30pm

Please let Ms Kyle or Ms Takemoto know if you are able to attend by. Thank you!