

WESSEX GARDENS PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Alexander Banks Deputy Headteacher: Leila Sharif



Newsletter

Autumn Term — 14th November 2025 (Issue 9)

Welcome to this week's Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

This week at Wessex Gardens has been one of **Reflection, Kindness, and Remembrance**.

On **Tuesday 11th November 2025**, our **Year 6 pupils led a moving and thoughtful Remembrance Assembly**, helping the whole school to reflect on the importance of remembering those who have served and sacrificed for peace. They shared reflections, and spoke with maturity about courage, hope, and gratitude. Following the assembly, the **whole school observed a two-minute silence at 11 o'clock**, together in quiet unity. It was a powerful moment — the corridors and playground completely still — as pupils and staff took time to remember and give thanks.

This week also marked **Anti-Bullying Week**, with the national theme **"Power for Good."** Our assemblies and class discussions explored how each of us can use our actions and words as a power for good — standing up for others, showing kindness, and helping everyone feel safe and valued. Across the school, there were powerful discussions about empathy, respect, and the small ways we can all make a difference. It has been wonderful to see pupils demonstrating these values around the school — being kind, inclusive, and supportive of one another.

We were also deeply saddened this week to hear of the passing of Zanaba, who worked at Wessex Gardens for over 20 years. She was a much-loved member of our school family who touched the lives of so many children, parents, and colleagues with her warmth, patience, and care. We are keeping her family and loved ones in our thoughts at this difficult time and will be finding ways to honour her remarkable contribution to our school.

As we look ahead to the coming weeks, our focus remains on nurturing pupils who are **kind, reflective, and resilient learners**, ready to use their own power for good both in and beyond the classroom.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership.

Mr Banks
Headteacher

Attendance % this week

Silver Birch	98%
1 Hawthorn	97%
2 Oak	94%
3 Sycamore	93%
4 Acacia	97%
5 Cedar	100%
5 Mahogany	99%
6 Magnolia	96%

Congratulations Cedar Class on 100% attendance this week Well done!

SCHOOL REMINDERS & INFORMATION



Dates for your diary

- 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

School Uniform

Please see list of the required school uniform later in this Newsletter. Please be reminded that for children who wear earrings, that for safety reasons, only small plain studs are permitted. Thank you for your support.



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.

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

Letters home this week

Nur-Y6 Remembering Zanaba
Y1 & 2 Speech and Language Workshop



Nursery



This week, the children enjoyed reading and retelling *The Three Little Pigs*, using expressive language and sequencing the events of the story. They had a wonderful time creating their own versions of the three houses and making character puppets, which they then used to act out the tale with their friends. Outdoors, the children worked together to build local scenes in the garden using Lego, showing fantastic creativity and collaboration. They also explored mark making with chalk, experimenting with shapes and patterns on the playground. In addition, we continued developing our ball skills, practising throwing, catching, rolling, and kicking with growing confidence and control. Have a lovely weekend everyone!

Reception



This week, the children thoroughly enjoyed making their own puppets, carefully choosing materials and using their imaginations to bring their characters to life. In maths, we have been exploring the concept of "one more than" a given number, using practical resources to support understanding. The children also developed their finger strength through pipette play, squeezing and transferring water with great concentration and control. In phonics, we are beginning to blend and segment CVC words, and the children are becoming increasingly confident in hearing the individual sounds and putting them together to read simple words. Please support your child to complete their phonics home learning booklet. Have a wonderful weekend!!

Year 1



This week in Year 1, we have been very busy! In English, we learned when to use capital letters and exclamation marks in our writing. In Maths, we explored number bonds within 10 using Unifix cubes and Numicons to help us understand the connections between numbers. In Science, we have been measuring the temperature daily to observe how it changes. In History, we discovered what London looked like in 1605, and in PSHE, we discussed our qualities and differences. In RE, we talked about where we come from and what makes each of us special. We hope the children are enjoying Numbots and continuing to read on Bug Club at home. Thank you for your support!

Year 3



We've had a great start to the week, and the children have been working hard across all subjects. In Maths, the children have begun using the column method for addition and subtraction and are making excellent progress. Please continue to support them at home with their number bonds to 10, doubles, and the 2, 3, 4, 5, and 10 times tables, as these are essential foundations that will help them as we move on to more efficient calculation strategies. In English, we are now in our second cycle of *The Moon Man*. Next week, the children will begin planning and writing their own versions of the story. They have been practising using expanded noun phrases and prepositional phrases to make their writing more descriptive. In Geography, we started our new topic this week. The children have been introduced to counties within the United Kingdom, exploring the differences between coastal, rural, and urban counties. The children have also continued with their Bounce project from last term and are enjoying the activities and discussions involved. Thank you for your continued support.

Year 4



This week in DT, we have been busy designing and building our own pavilions. We used modelling clay and paper straws to create stable and imaginative structures, thinking carefully about shape, strength, and design. Everyone showed fantastic creativity and teamwork! In Maths, we have been learning all about area. We became real maths whizzes as we practised finding the area of different shapes. We also discussed how area is used in real life — for example, when decorating a room, laying carpet, or designing a garden. In Science, we started our new topic on sound. We explored how different instruments produce sounds and discovered how vibrations travel through the air to our ears. The children really enjoyed experimenting and sharing what they noticed! We've had a busy and exciting week of learning, and it's been wonderful to see everyone's enthusiasm and curiosity shine through in every subject. Please note that swimming for Year 4 has been changed to Thursdays at 2.00pm. We're looking forward to another great week ahead!

Year 5



We've had another exciting week of learning in Year 5, full of curiosity, creativity, and great teamwork! In Maths, we explored prime numbers, square numbers, and cube numbers, discovering patterns and relationships between them. We also practised multiplying by 10, 100, and 1,000, showing our understanding of place value and applying these skills to problem-solving tasks. In English, we have been working hard to make our writing exciting and powerful, inspired by the book *Alex Rider: Stormbreaker*. The children learned how to use different sentence lengths and structures to build tension and keep the reader hooked. They used wonderful descriptive language to bring their settings, characters, and atmosphere to life. We also practised using fronted adverbials to link ideas smoothly and experimented with punctuation to create rhythm, tension, and emotion in our stories. In Geography, we had lots of fun playing "Guess the Country" — using clues to locate and explore different countries around the world. We practised using geographical vocabulary to describe physical and human features accurately. In Science, we worked like real scientists, exploring forces in action. We learned that gravity is a force that pulls objects towards the Earth and discussed how it affects movement in our everyday lives. In PSHE, we had thoughtful discussions about setting goals and identifying the steps needed to achieve them. We talked about perseverance, self-belief, and how small steps can lead to big successes.

Year 6



This week, the children have engaged in a rich and varied range of learning across the curriculum. In RE, they explored and compared different worship practices, looking closely at how and why people express their beliefs in diverse ways. In History, the class began studying the causes of World War II in detail, gaining a deeper understanding of the events and tensions that led to the conflict. Our English lessons focused on semi-colons, expanded noun phrases, and using the five senses to describe William's journey in *Goodnight Mister Tom*, helping pupils create vivid and atmospheric writing. In Maths, we completed our Fractions A unit, where the children worked confidently on adding and subtracting mixed numbers, converting between mixed and improper fractions, simplifying fractions, and solving multi-step problems. In PSHE, the children learned about empathy, exploring real-life examples and discussing ways to show understanding and kindness towards others. It has been a productive and thoughtful week filled with excellent progress.

TREAT FROM THE CHEST



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

1 Hawthorn	Rateb
2 Oak	Arthur
3 Sycamore	Zhivan
5 Mahogany	Zahra
5 Cedar	Shirley
6 Magnolia	Ramani

Congratulations!

House Points

Citrine	2442
Emerald	2674
Ruby	2644
Sapphire	3336

Stars of the Week



Superstars of the Week
Eman, Hawthorn class
Sarah, Oak class

Certificate of Merit
Savanna, Sycamore class
Oliwier, Cedar class
Kaydon, Mahogany class
Mohamed, Magnolia class

Excellent Presentation
Shreya, Hawthorn class
Anum, Oak class
Aresema, Sycamore class
Xhansu, Cedar class
Afsa, Mahogany class
Bronek, Magnolia class

Well done!



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Alexander Banks
 Headteacher

Leila Sharif
 Deputy Headteacher

Uniform - Reception to Year 6

BOYS	GIRLS
UNIFORM	UNIFORM
Dark grey trousers	Dark grey skirt or tunic (knee length)
Royal blue sweatshirt with school logo	Dark grey uniform trousers
White polo shirt	Royal blue sweatshirt/cardigan with school logo
Grey/black socks	White polo shirt
Black school shoes	White socks or grey/black tights
	Black school shoes
OPTIONAL SUMMER UNIFORM	OPTIONAL SUMMER UNIFORM
Grey school shorts	Blue and white checked dress
Royal blue sweatshirt with school logo	Royal blue sweatshirt /cardigan with school logo
White polo shirt	White socks
Grey /black socks	Black school shoes
Black school shoes	
SPORTS WEAR	SPORTS WEAR
White T Shirt	White T Shirt
Blue shorts	Blue shorts
Plimsolls	Plimsolls
Tracksuit	Tracksuit

Headscarves must be plain, black, white or royal blue

Hair bands and any other hair accessories must be plain, black, white, or blue. Hair must be neat and tidy and natural colour.

Make-up may not be worn to school

Nail varnish may not be worn to school

No jewellery, apart from:

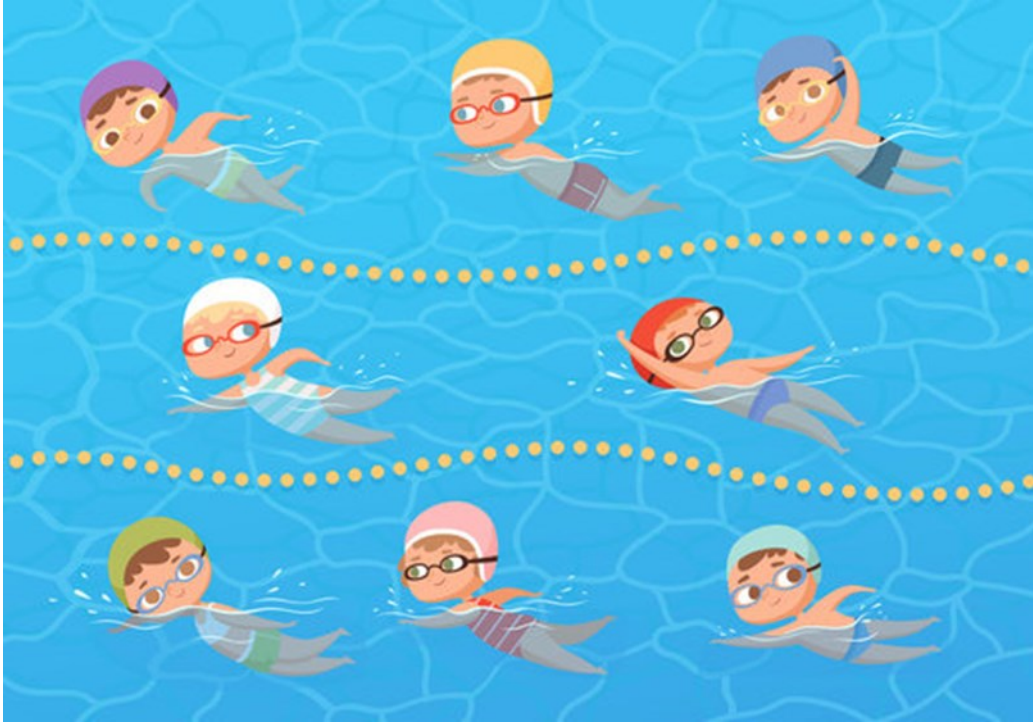
- One single or one pair of plain silver or gold **stud earrings** to be worn in the lobe of the ear.
- One necklace only which carries a religious symbol worn inside the shirt

Trainers may only be worn for certain sporting activities.

Items may be purchased from our uniform supplier: **School Wear, 140 Brent Street, Hendon NW4 2DR (Tel: 020 8202 2203) www.schoolwearofhendon.com**

In order to keep costs of the uniform to a minimum, we have ensured parents have the opportunity to source most elements of our uniform from **any** supplier. Wessex Gardens however has the final say in whether it is acceptable as school uniform.

Saturday Afternoon Swimming Lessons
At Wessex Gardens Primary School Pool
Starting 20th November 2025—30.30pm-5.30pm
Bookings are for half an hour lessons



*****Special offer for children attending Wessex Gardens*****

£10.50 for half hour lesson (usual cost is £12.50)

Run by the school swimming teacher and accompanied by another highly qualified and experienced teacher. Fun lessons, teaching clear techniques and building water confidence and awareness of health and safety around water.

Age range: 4 years - Adults

For more information or to book lessons please contact Bryony direct by Text/WA 07943788100

Or email: knightsbryony@gmail.com



Free Child Car Seat Checks

Friday 21st November, 10am – 3pm

**Asda Colindale car park
off Capitol Way, Edgware Rd, London NW9 0AS**

Barnet Council is offering free child car seat safety checks to ensure children are travelling safely. A trained expert from Good Egg Safety will be available to **inspect seats, fix errors and provide advice**, no booking required.

A check can be made on your child car seat even if your child isn't with you — but if they are, we can also check they are seated correctly and safely.

Last year, **92% of seats checked in Barnet had errors**, many serious enough to endanger children in the event of a collision. Unfortunately, errors on seats are very easily made, but the great news is that they tend to be easy to fix.

Don't miss this opportunity to get peace of mind and help make Barnet's roads safer for everyone.

Road.safety@barnet.gov.uk

07483 474617

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