



# 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 — 19th December 2025 (Issue 14)

### Welcome to this week's Newsletter

What a lovely end to this term. I was incredibly proud of our Early Years and Key Stage 1 children for their wonderful performances. They sang beautifully and spoke with such confidence. Thank you so much for coming in to support the children – it truly made the performances extra special for them.



The children have also enjoyed their end-of-term parties, and once again, thank you for your generosity in providing treats to share. I would also like to say a heartfelt thank you, on behalf of all staff, for the thoughtful cards and gifts. These are never necessary but are always very gratefully received.

#### Dunelm Delivering Joy

Each year, Dunelm at Staples Corner supports local schools and other community-based projects by organising presents for some of our children. We were delighted to receive so many deliveries this year! Sadly, there were not enough for every child, so names were pulled out of a hat. I wonder if your child was one of our lucky recipients? A huge thank you to Dunelm and to Brooke's mum (Year 5) for organising this.

Wishing you all a restful and peaceful Christmas break. I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.  
School reopens on Monday 5th January.  
Mr Banks

### Attendance % this week

<b>Silver Birch</b>	<b>91%</b>
<b>1 Hawthorn</b>	<b>98%</b>
<b>2 Oak</b>	<b>93%</b>
<b>3 Sycamore</b>	<b>98%</b>
<b>4 Acacia</b>	<b>98%</b>
<b>5 Cedar</b>	<b>99%</b>
<b>5 Mahogany</b>	<b>95%</b>
<b>6 Magnolia</b>	<b>94%</b>

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

### Letters home this week



- Y4-6 Football Club
- Y1-3 Multisports Club
- Y1-5 Dance Club
- Y2 Schooping—online bookings for parents evening

### SCHOOL REMINDERS & INFORMATION



#### Dates for your diary

22.12.2025-	
02.01.2026	School closed Christmas holiday
05.01.2026	School and Nursery reopen
05.01.2026	Y2 Teacher Parent Consultation evening <i>changed</i>
06.01.2026	Y2 Teacher Parent Consultation evening <i>changed</i>
07.01.2026	Y2 Teacher Parent Consultation evening <i>changed</i>

Y2 parents/carers—please look out for Schooling to book new appointment to meet with your class teacher—apologies for any inconvenience.



#### Swimming next half term

1 Hawthorn	Group 1	Wednesdays
2 Oak	Girls	Wednesdays
3 Sycamore	Girls	Mondays
4 Acacia	Girls	Thursdays
5 Cedar	Boys	Wednesdays
5 Mahogany	Boys	Thursdays
6 Magnolia	Boys	Thursdays
	Girls	Thursdays

Silver Birch will start swimming on Tuesdays at 3.00pm—further details to follow when we come back after the holiday.

#### English for Speakers of Other Languages



ESOL classes start again on Thursday 15th January 2026. 1.00-3.00pm. Newcomers welcome.

#### 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
INSET DAY:	Thursday 11 <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 – Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February
SECOND HALF:	Monday 23 <sup>rd</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

## Nursery

What a fun final week we have had! It was wonderful to welcome parents, carers and families to join us for our Christmas celebrations. The children took part in a Christmas sing-along and sang incredibly. We also enjoyed a Christmas party filled with festive fun, games, and treats. It was a wonderful way to celebrate the season together and share these joyful moments. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## Reception

What a week! We were delighted to welcome parents, carers and families to join us for our Christmas celebrations. The children took part in a Christmas sing-along and a Christmas story performance, proudly sharing the songs and storytelling they had been practising. We also enjoyed a Christmas party filled with festive fun, games, and treats. It was a wonderful way to celebrate the season together and share these joyful moments. The children have worked incredibly hard over this term. We are proud of all their achievements. Have a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year! See you all in January!

## Year 1

What a fantastic week to end the term! Hawthorn Class sang beautifully in the Nativity show on Tuesday — we are so proud of their wonderful performance. We also enjoyed a lovely visit to the church, where the children learned about how Christians celebrate this special time of year. On Wednesday, we had a fun-filled party, which the children thoroughly enjoyed. In History, we finished our learning about Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot, and in Science, we concluded our work on weather changes in winter. In English, we worked together to write a lovely class book titled *How to Grow a Magic Bean*. The children have worked incredibly hard this term, and Mr Cameron and I are very proud of the effort and enthusiasm they have shown. Well done, everyone — and we wish you all a lovely holiday!

## Year 2

What an incredible Christmas week we've had! It started with a fantastic dress rehearsal for the school on Monday, followed by performing our Nativity for parents on Tuesday and then our Christmas party on Thursday! What an exciting week! This week we finished our Maths unit on addition and subtraction. We looked at missing number problems and thought about how best to solve them. Please practise the 2, 5 and 10 times tables with your children over the holidays. Have a wonderful break and a very Happy New Year! We look forward to seeing you all in January!

## Year 3

As we come to the end of the term, it has been a pleasure teaching Year 3. The children are growing in confidence across the curriculum and developing as writers, mathematicians, and independent learners.

To support continued progress, regular practice at home—especially with key skills—makes a real difference.

Next term, our History topic will be Ancient Egypt. Please ensure your child completes the Topic Quest, creates an Ancient Egyptian art project where possible, and completes the times tables booklet focusing on the 3, 4, and 8 times tables.

We look forward to welcoming the children back next term and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## Year 4

This week, we wrapped up our History topic on the Anglo-Saxons. We learned about the important changes that took place after the Romans left Britain, including the shift from Roman Emperors to Kings and Kingdoms. We explored how power and leadership changed during this time and reflected on how this shaped early Britain. In Computing, we completed our work on FMS Logo. We developed our coding skills by creating repeated patterns and learning how to use commands and repetition to produce accurate and effective designs. In English, we finished writing our warning narratives inspired by *The Ice Palace*. The writing has been particularly vivid and engaging. We successfully used a range of features, including modal verbs and rhetorical questions, to build tension and address the reader directly. We are very proud of the progress the children have made in developing their writing style. Well done to everyone, and we hope you have a lovely Winter break!

## Year 5

We have had a busy and enjoyable week in Year 5, full of learning, teamwork, and festive fun!

### ✚ Maths

In Maths, the children worked hard on subtracting from mixed numbers. They learned how to subtract from a mixed number by *breaking the whole* when needed and practised subtracting two mixed numbers accurately. Pupils showed great perseverance and growing confidence when explaining their methods.

### 📖 English

In English, we prepared poems and short plays to read aloud and perform. The children focused on using intonation, tone, and volume to make the meaning clear and engaging for an audience. It was wonderful to see their confidence grow as they performed expressively.

### 🌐 Geography

In Geography, we explored Europe's cultural diversity, identifying similarities and differences between countries. The children described different cultural traditions and explained how geography, such as climate and landscape, affects culture and daily life.

### 🔬 Science

In Science, we carried out a hands-on investigation to explore how levers can increase the force applied, allowing heavier objects to be lifted with less effort. The children worked like real scientists—predicting, testing, and discussing their results.

### 🎉 Celebrations

To end the term, we thoroughly enjoyed our Christmas parties and fun activities together, celebrating everyone's hard work this term.

We would like to wish all our families a restful holiday, a very **Merry Christmas**, and a **happy and successful New Year**. Thank you for your continued support!

## Year 6

During the final week of term, Year 6 successfully completed their mock assessments, including reading, SPaG and spelling tests. The children approached these assessments with maturity and resilience, demonstrating the progress they have made this far. In Science, pupils thoroughly enjoyed a heart dissection, which brought their learning to life after an entire term studying the circulatory system. They thoroughly enjoyed this experience. To conclude our topic work, the children completed post-assessments in Science and History, where they collated and applied their knowledge of the circulatory system and World War II, clearly showing how much they have learned. Please ensure that children complete their homework during the Christmas break, as this will help to consolidate their learning and support a smooth transition into the new term. Have a lovely and well deserved break.

# TREAT FROM THE CHEST



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

- |            |         |
|------------|---------|
| 1 Hawthorn | Sachi   |
| 2 Oak      | Max     |
| 3 Sycamore | Nicolas |
| 4 Acacia   | Rickai  |
| 5 Mahogany | Kaydon  |
| 5 Cedar    | Oliwier |
| 6 Magnolia | Roman   |

**Congratulations!**

## House Points

**Citrine** 3287

**Emerald** 3481

**Ruby** 3452

**Sapphire** 4429

## Stars of the Week



**Superstars of the Week**  
Milan, 1 Hawthorn

## Certificate of Merit

Ismail, Sycamore class  
Arvin, Acacia class  
Tawaab, Magnolia class

## Excellent Presentation

Marwa, Hawthorn class  
Layan, Oak class  
Santiago, Sycamore class  
Mohammed, Acacia class  
Mia, Mahogany class  
Harun, Cedar class  
Deenah, Magnolia class

## Class Merit

Oak class  
Mahogany class  
Cedar class

**Well done!**