



WESSEX GARDENS PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

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Newsletter

Autumn Term — 9th January 2026 (Issue 15)

Welcome to this week's Newsletter



Dear Families,

Welcome back to a new term and a brand-new year. It has been a pleasure to see our pupils return to Wessex Gardens this week with such positivity, enthusiasm and readiness to learn. Classrooms have been full of energy, curiosity and smiles as we begin 2026 together.

This week has been a busy and exciting one across the school. Pupils have quickly settled back into their routines and have already been engaging in thoughtful learning, lively discussions and creative activities. It has been wonderful to see how confidently they have picked up where they left off.

We were also delighted to welcome the Barnet Choir Lead into school this week. The visit was full of energy and inspiration, and pupils had a fantastic opportunity to experience high-quality singing and musical leadership. Auditions for those who would like to be part of the Barnet Choir will take place next week, and we are very proud of the enthusiasm and confidence our pupils have shown so far.

With the colder weather and rain this week, we would like to remind families to ensure pupils come to school dressed warmly, with coats and suitable footwear. We still aim to make the most of outdoor learning and play whenever possible, so being prepared for winter weather really helps pupils stay comfortable and ready to enjoy the day.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful staff. Their care, professionalism and commitment to our pupils is evident every day, and it has been especially appreciated during this busy first week back. Wessex Gardens continues to be a warm, nurturing and ambitious place because of their dedication.

As we step into 2026, we are excited about the many opportunities ahead — new learning, new experiences, and continued growth for every child. This is a year of possibility, and we look forward to working closely with you to support our pupils as they build confidence, curiosity and success.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. We wish you and your families a happy, healthy and hopeful start to the year.

Warmest wishes,
Mr. Banks and Ms Sharif

SCHOOL REMINDERS & INFORMATION



Dates for your diary

16.02.-20.02.2026 Half term holiday—school closed
23.02.2026 School reopens



Swimming this 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.

Letters home this week



- Y1-5 Dance club letter (schooling)
- Y1-3 Multisport club letter (schooling)

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 3rd September – Friday 24th October
 HALF TERM
 HOLIDAY: Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October
 SECOND HALF: Monday 3rd November – Friday 19th December
 INSET DAY: Thursday 11th December

SPRING TERM 2026

FIRST HALF: Monday 5th January – Friday 13th February
 HALF TERM
 HOLIDAY: Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February
 SECOND HALF: Monday 23rd 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

Nursery

Welcome to all our new families and children joining Nursery – it has been lovely getting to know you. We are also delighted to welcome back our returning children. Everyone has settled in really well and are enjoying their time in Nursery. This week, the children have been exploring ice through sensory play. They enjoyed touching, observing, and talking about the ice as it melted, supporting their curiosity and language development. We have been developing cutting skills, practising how to safely use scissors to cut along lines and shapes. This helps to strengthen hand muscles and build fine motor control. The children have also been making letters using a variety of materials, supporting early mark-making and letter recognition in a fun, hands-on way. The name writing I have seen this week has been incredible! In our role play area, the children have enjoyed hospital role play, taking on different roles such as doctors, nurses, and patients. This has encouraged imaginative play, communication, and social skills. Outdoors, we have been practising ball skills, including rolling, throwing, and catching, helping to develop coordination and physical confidence. Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions or would like to share anything about your child, please feel free to speak to a member of the Nursery team.

Reception

Welcome back! We hope you all had a lovely break. The children have returned to school happily and have settled back into routines very well. This week, the children have been exploring ice through a range of hands-on activities. They enjoyed observing how it feels and changes, while developing their speaking and listening skills. During our PE lesson, the children used the large climbing equipment, helping them to build confidence, balance, and coordination as they climbed, balanced, and moved in different ways. The children have been practising writing CVC words and simple captions independently. It has been lovely to see their confidence grow as they apply their phonics skills. Please remember to support your child to complete their weekly home learning. In Maths, we have been exploring the number zero, learning that it represents 'nothing' and finding examples of zero in practical situations. The children have also enjoyed mixing colours during creative activities, experimenting with paint to discover how new colours are made. Remember swimming starts Tuesday! Have a lovely weekend everyone!

Year 1

Welcome back everyone! This week, we enjoyed a fun and engaging start to our learning. In English, we wrote our New Year resolutions and made cupcakes as an exciting hook lesson. In Maths, we practised counting objects and writing numbers correctly. Our Science topic this term is *Animals, Including Humans*, and in Geography we have begun learning about our local area, with plans to visit places in the local neighbourhood. Swimming lessons will be for Group 1 this term, so please ensure your child brings their swimming kit on swimming days.

Year 2

Welcome back to lovely Year 2! We have missed you! This week has been a great deal of fun. We have begun our new Maths topic on money. Please let your children count the coins in your wallet and ask them to help you add up items when you go to the shop. The children have loved using play coins and notes to help them with their calculations. In English we have begun our new text - *The Secret of Black Rock*. What an exciting adventure this is! Ask them all about it and what the secret is! It has been incredibly interesting to learn about Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia in our new Geography topic. We will be comparing Mogadishu and London to look for similarities and differences. This term in Science we are exploring materials and their properties. Go on a material hunt in your homes to see what you can find! Have a wonderful weekend. The Year 2 Team.

Year 3

Happy New Year and welcome back to the Spring 1 term! The children have returned with great enthusiasm, and it has been lovely to see how eager they are to learn. This term, Year 3 will be exploring the exciting topic of **Ancient Egypt**, alongside our daily class reading of *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes, a much-loved children's classic. This week, we have been finishing our **Knowledge Organisers** and reviewing last term's learning to prepare us for our new topics. A reminder that **swimming takes place every Monday** for girls this term. Please ensure your child brings their swimming kit each week. Thank you for your continued support—we look forward to a positive and successful term ahead. Wishing you all a very Happy New Year!

Year 4

This week in Year 4, we've been reading our new class novel, *Krindlekrax*. We have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the characters and exploring the mysterious story. Alongside this, we have been developing our retrieval and inference skills, answering thoughtful questions and using evidence from the text to support their ideas. In Maths, we have been focusing on multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100. We have worked hard to understand how digits move and have shown growing confidence when applying these skills to problem-solving activities. In Computing, we've been learning about recording audio and exploring different input and output devices. We particularly enjoyed discussing how technology is used in everyday life. It's been a fantastic week of learning, and we're really proud of the enthusiasm and effort shown across all subjects.

Year 5

Happy New Year and welcome back! We were delighted to welcome the children back after the holiday and see them so excited and ready to take on new challenges. This week, we began with assessments in Maths and reading. We were very pleased to see the children demonstrating their knowledge and skills so confidently. In Maths, we have started our new topic: Multiplication and Division. The children are learning to: Multiply up to a 4-digit number by a 1-digit number and Multiply 2-digit numbers by 2-digit numbers. In English, we launched our exciting new book, *Romeo and Juliet*. The children have been describing objects, characters, and settings linked to the story and making interesting predictions about what might happen next. In Science, we have been exploring the different stages of human development, learning how humans grow and change over time. In RE, we discussed truth and explored how people decide what is true, thinking about different perspectives and ideas. In Design & Technology, we had a lot of fun exploring motors and designing and creating a motorised product – our very own Wobble Bots! It has been a fantastic start to the term, and we are looking forward to all the exciting learning ahead.

Year 6

This week, the children explored a range of exciting new learning across the curriculum. In **Science**, they began a new topic on *Living Things and Their Habitats*, learning about classification and the work of **Carl Linnaeus**. They explored how living things can be grouped into **microorganisms, plants, and animals**, identifying and comparing their key characteristics, and also spent time revising this knowledge. In **Maths**, the focus was on **angles and triangles**, where children practised recalling triangle facts as well as **measuring and drawing angles** accurately. In **English**, the class started reading *Pig Heart Boy*. The children took part in debates about **heart transplants**, developed their **inference skills**, and made **predictions** as they read and discussed the text together.

TREAT FROM THE CHEST



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

- | | |
|------------|--------|
| 1 Hawthorn | Isabel |
| 2 Oak | Iviyan |
| 3 Sycamore | Mia |
| 4 Acacia | Joud |
| 5 Mahogany | Nour |
| 5 Cedar | Talia |
| 6 Magnolia | Ersi |

Congratulations!

Stars of the Week



Superstars of the Week

Rateb, Hawthorn class
Shivya, Oak class

Certificate of Merit

Heitor, Sycamore class
Zahra, Acacia class
Darren, Cedar class
Nirvan, Mahogany class
Annis, Magnolia class

Excellent Presentation

Seosy, Hawthorn class
Ezdan, Oak class
Kabir, Sycamore class
Mohamed, Acacia class
Brooke, Mahogany class
Rama, Cedar class
Jana A, Magnolia class

Well done!