



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 — 16th January 2026 (Issue 16)

Welcome to this week's Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy and exciting week at Wessex Gardens, full of wonderful achievements and moments that make us so proud.

One of the highlights this week was our **Boccia sports event**. A huge well done to the group of pupils who represented our school and came back with a **bronze medal** – what a fantastic achievement! They showed determination, teamwork and great sportsmanship, and they should all be incredibly proud of themselves.

We also held our **choir auditions**, and it was truly lovely to see just how many pupils wanted to take part. The level of enthusiasm and confidence was wonderful, and it shows just how much our children enjoy expressing themselves through music. We are very excited to get the choir up and running and look forward to sharing their performances with you later in the year.

We have lots more exciting learning and events coming up, so please keep an eye on future updates. We hope you all have a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Warm wishes,

Mr Banks and Ms Sharif

Attendance % this week

Silver Birch	84%
1 Hawthorn	94%
2 Oak	90%
3 Sycamore	88%
4 Acacia	97%
5 Cedar	98%
5 Mahogany	97%
6 Magnolia	95%

No classes achieved 100% attendance this week

SCHOOL REMINDERS & INFORMATION



Dates for your diary

22.01.2025	Y3 trip to British Museum
16.02.-20.02.2026	Half term holiday—school closed
23.02.2026	School reopens

English for Speakers of Other Languages



ESOL Classes run every Thursday afternoon from 1pm-3pm from 15th January to 26th March 2026.

Newcomers welcome.

Letters home this week



Y3 Trip to British Museum 22.01.2026

TERM DATES AND HOLIDAYS 2025-2026

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

SECOND HALF: Tuesday 2nd June – Friday 17th July

Term dates for September 2026-July 2027 are at the end of this week's Newsletter

Nursery

This week has been packed with fun and learning! We introduced our new core book, *Dinosaurs Love Underpants*, which sparked lots of laughter and imaginative discussion. The children explored their creativity through observational dinosaur painting, carefully looking at shapes, colours and details. Our role play area became a busy hospital, supporting communication, cooperation and imaginative thinking. We also embraced the wet weather and had great fun playing in the rain, developing resilience and joy in outdoor learning. Alongside this, group social games helped to build teamwork, turn-taking and positive friendships. Have a wonderful weekend!

Reception

This week has been full of exciting learning experiences! We enjoyed exploring our new core book, *It's Your World Now*, which sparked thoughtful discussions and creativity. The children have been developing their early literacy skills through CVC writing, showing growing confidence with sounds and words. A big milestone was reached with first-time swimming sessions, where the children showed great courage and enthusiasm. In Art, we explored the piece *Composition A*, focusing on shapes, colour and layout. Come in to see their artwork hanging up. They look incredible!! We also worked together to create our own town, including Tower Bridge and Big Ben.

It has been a busy and rewarding week of learning and discovery.

Year 1

This week in Year 1, we began reading our new class book *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* in English. We focused on using adjectives and practising capital letters, question marks, and exclamation marks. In Maths, we counted up to 20 and used number lines to help us find answers within 20. In Science, we learned about different types of animals, including reptiles, amphibians, fish, and mammals, as well as their diets — herbivores, omnivores, and carnivores. In Geography, we will be learning about weather and the seasons. In RE, we are exploring how different religions and worldviews understand knowledge and beliefs. In PSHE, we learned about how the things we put into our bodies can affect us. Please remember to read regularly on BUG Club.

Year 3

This week in Year 3, we have made a fantastic start to our new Science topic: Rocks and Soil. The children have begun learning about the three main types of rocks—igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic—terms they are already becoming familiar with. We have also started hands-on scientific investigations, using careful observation to explore the properties of different rocks, which the children have approached with great enthusiasm.

In History, the children are beginning to delve deeper into Ancient Egypt, and their curiosity has been wonderful to see. They are full of thoughtful questions and fascination about this ancient civilisation. To support this learning at home, you may wish to visit the library or share reading books related to Ancient Egypt.

Our class text this term remains *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes. In English, we have been focusing on figurative language, exploring how authors carefully choose words to create mood and atmosphere. This has supported the children in developing their own descriptive writing skills as confident and imaginative writers.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support at home. It makes a real difference to the children's enthusiasm and progress, and we greatly value our partnership with you.

Year 4

This week in Year 4, we began with creative character descriptions of the key characters in *Krinklekrax*. The children shared their ideas with confidence and creativity, presenting their work wonderfully to one another. In Art, we completed our sculptures, drawing inspiration from the sea and exploring different shapes and textures.

In RE, we discussed the difference between belief and truth, and learned how people find their truths from a variety of sources, such as prayer, places of worship, and sacred texts. We showed thoughtful engagement and respect for different viewpoints throughout these discussions and thoroughly enjoyed sharing our own beliefs!

Year 5

This week, Year 5 pupils have been working hard across the curriculum and showing great enthusiasm for their learning.

In **Mathematics**, we focused on multiplying 3- and 4-digit numbers by 2-digit numbers. The children challenged themselves further by applying these skills to solve a range of multiplication problems, demonstrating resilience and strong problem-solving strategies.

In **English**, we thoroughly enjoyed exploring *Romeo and Juliet*. Pupils took on the role of different characters, which helped them develop strong emotive language in their writing. We also worked on improving sentence structure by using fronted adverbials and relative clauses to build complex and engaging sentences.

In **History**, pupils learned about the Early Islamic Civilisation. They interpreted historical clues to explain what kind of civilisation it was, developing their enquiry and reasoning skills.

In **Science**, we investigated changes during childhood and pre-puberty. Pupils explored the physical and emotional changes that occur during puberty, gaining a better understanding of how our bodies grow and develop.

Well done to Year 5 for their fantastic effort and positive attitude to learning!

Year 6

Year 6 have had a fantastic and productive week of learning across the curriculum. In Maths, the children developed their understanding of angles, area and perimeter, applying these skills to a range of shapes including triangles, rectangles and squares. They worked through increasingly challenging problems and explained their mathematical reasoning with confidence. In Geography, the children learned about supply and demand and how trading works between countries. They worked collaboratively in groups, each representing a different country, and presented the natural resources their country could trade, considering the needs of others. In English, the children are preparing to plan and write a key scene from the novel *Pig Heart Boy*, focusing on character, emotion and atmosphere. In Science, the children are studying classification, learning how living things are grouped and identifying the key characteristics that define each group. Overall, it has been a great week with high levels of engagement and enthusiasm across all subjects. We are looking forward to another great week of learning!

TREAT FROM THE CHEST



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

1 Hawthorn	Malak
2 Oak	Jack
3 Sycamore	Razeem
4 Acacia	Elias
5 Mahogany	Nirvan
5 Cedar	Oliwier
6 Magnolia	Reagan

Congratulations!

House Points

This week are

Citrine 353

Emerald 378

Ruby 334

Sapphire 300

Stars of the Week



Superstars of the Week

Safiya, Hawthorn class
Ethen, 2 Oak

Certificate of Merit

Nabil, Sycamore class
Asma, Acacia class
Alaa, Mahogany class
Raham, Cedar class
Marianna, Magnolia class

Excellent Presentation

Chris, Hawthorn class
Anum, Oak class
Barin, Sycamore class
Zach, Acacia class
Abdulo, Mahogany class
Nadine, Cedar class
William, Magnolia class

Well done!

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SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2026 / 2027

AUTUMN TERM 2026

FIRST HALF:	Thursday 3rd September – Friday 23rd October
HALF TERM HOLIDAY:	Monday 26th October – Monday 2nd November
SECOND HALF:	Tuesday 3rd November – Friday 18th December

SPRING TERM 2027

FIRST HALF:	Tuesday 5th January – Friday 12th February
HALF TERM HOLIDAY:	Monday 15th February – Monday 22nd February
SECOND HALF:	Tuesday 23rd February – Thursday 25th March

SUMMER TERM 2027

FIRST HALF:	Monday 12th April – Friday 28nd May
MAY DAY:	Monday 3rd May
HALF TERM HOLIDAY:	Monday 31st May – Monday 7th June
SECOND HALF:	Tuesday 8th June – Thursday 22nd July