

WESSEX GARDENS PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

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Newsletter

Autumn Term — 23rd January 2026 (Issue 17)

Welcome to this week's Newsletter

Dear Families and Carers,

Despite the gloomy weather this week, it has been wonderful to see such positive spirits across the school. Pupils have continued to approach their learning with enthusiasm and resilience, bringing energy and joy into their classrooms. It has been lovely to see smiles, kindness, and a strong sense of community throughout the week.



Year 3 had a fantastic trip to the British Museum as part of their Ancient Egyptian topic. Pupils were captivated by the artefacts and displays and asked thoughtful questions that showed their growing curiosity and understanding of history. Experiences like these really bring learning to life, and we are proud of how well Year 3 represented the school.

Across the school, many classes have been enjoying hands-on science learning. Pupils have been exploring, investigating, and experimenting, showing great curiosity and teamwork. Practical learning helps pupils deepen their understanding and develop important scientific skills, and it has been wonderful to see their excitement and engagement.

It has been wonderful to see the fantastic writing in Reception this week, with pupils proudly sharing their stories and sentences and showing great progress in their early writing skills.

We would also like to warmly welcome **Mr G**, our new Nursery teacher, to the Wessex Gardens team. We are delighted to have him join us and look forward to the positive impact he will have in our Early Years setting.

Thank you to all staff for their continued hard work and dedication, and to families for your ongoing support.

Warm regards,
Mr Banks and Ms Sharif



SCHOOL REMINDERS & INFORMATION



Dates for your diary

05.02.2026 Reception Hearing and Vision screening
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



Rec *Hearing and Vision information*

Attendance % this week

Silver Birch	94%
1 Hawthorn	91%
2 Oak	90%
3 Sycamore	88%
4 Acacia	90%
5 Cedar	97%
5 Mahogany	93%
6 Magnolia	95%

No classes achieved 100% attendance this week

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

Nursery

It has been a busy week in the Nursery. The children have been getting used to the new class teacher, Mr Goolam-Hossen.

The children have been building pathways and structures with the large wooden blocks outside and exploring how the large plastic blocks connect together. There has been lots of teamwork, communication and roleplaying construction workers.

Inside the class the children have been learning about dinosaurs, they have been using their bodies to mimic the movement of dinosaurs on two and four legs, long necks and tails, sharp teeth and claws and scary faces.

They have role played being archaeologists and discovered dinosaurs frozen in ice using hammers to open them up.

Can you please remember that your children need a change of clothes left at school. Thank you for your continued support and please get in touch if you have any questions.

Mr G and the Nursery Team

Reception

This week, the children have been enthusiastically applying their phonics skills in their writing, using the sounds they know to spell words and confidently record their ideas. We have been learning about the artist Wassily Kandinsky and exploring his use of colour, shape and pattern through a range of creative activities. Their artwork looks incredible!

In our small world area, the airport provision inspired imaginative play, role play and storytelling, with children working together to create journeys and scenarios. The large wooden blocks proved very popular, encouraging collaborative building, problem-solving and communication as the children designed and constructed a variety of structures. Alongside this, the children enjoyed designing and building their own LEGO models, showing creativity, perseverance and developing their fine motor skills. It has been a busy and engaging week full of learning through play. Have a wonderful weekend!

Year 1

This week in Year 1, the children planned, drafted, and wrote their own version of *The Tiger Who Came to Tea*, creating stories with different endings. In Maths, we compared two and three numbers using number tracks and Numicon. In Science, we identified, described, and compared amphibians, birds, and reptiles, and had an exciting hands-on opportunity to touch a fish to help us identify its features. In Geography, we learned about the seasons and how the weather can change throughout the day. In DT, we are finishing off making our windmills. In RE, we explored different artefacts and practised asking questions about them. In PSHE, we learned how to keep ourselves healthy and why hygiene is an important part of a healthy lifestyle.

Year 2

This week we have had a huge amount of fun! We enjoyed paying for items in our 'shop' on Tuesday during Maths. We thought carefully about how much change we would need and took turns to play the role of 'shopkeeper'. In English we have enjoyed creating our own alternative endings to the story, *The Secret of Black Rock*. What imaginative ideas! We enjoyed creating our own little booklets to 'publish' them and read them to the children in Year 1. In geography, we have been thinking about the differences in climate between London and Mogadishu while in Science we have been continuing to explore the properties of different materials. Have a lovely weekend!

Year 4

This week in Year 4, we have been exploring the digestive system in Science, following the journey of food as it moves from the mouth through the body and learning about the role of each organ.

In Art, we have been developing our wire art skills, experimenting with shaping and joining wire to create different forms.

In PSHE, we have been learning about how to keep personal information private and why this is important. We discussed what information should only be shared with trusted adults and how to stay safe both online and offline.

We have shown fantastic enthusiasm and focus throughout the week and are very proud of the effort and creativity we have brought to our learning!

Year 5

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week in Year 5, we have had a very busy and productive week of learning across the curriculum.

In Maths, we introduced short division. The children have been learning how to divide a 4-digit number by a 1-digit number, including solving problems with remainders. They have shown great focus and resilience when tackling these new and challenging methods.

In English, we were extremely impressed by the vocabulary choices and writing devices used when retelling the story of *Romeo and Juliet*. The children successfully applied fronted adverbials and a range of descriptive language techniques to enhance their writing.

In Science, we enjoyed creating a personal hygiene and health plan. This helped the children develop their understanding of the changes during puberty and learn how to maintain good hygiene and health through effective self-care routines.

In History, we improved our understanding of Early Islamic Civilisation. The children explored how the life and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) led to significant change and were able to explain the role of the Caliphates after Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) death.

In RE, the children explored the idea that within one non-religious worldview, there can be many different perspectives and interpretations, encouraging thoughtful discussion and respect for differing views.

Well done to Year 5 for another fantastic week of learning!

Year 6

This week in Year 6, our learning has been rich and varied across the curriculum: in Maths, we are moving into a strong geometry focus, with next week concentrating on the area of shapes and angles (including polygons, quadrilaterals and triangles), followed by work on perimeter, reflections and translations, and in the coming weeks extending our understanding of 2D and 3D shapes, similar shapes, volume of cuboids, parallel and perpendicular lines, line symmetry and coordinates; in Science, pupils have been classifying vertebrates and invertebrates, developing a deeper understanding of their key characteristics; in Guided Reading, the children are thoroughly enjoying the text *I Am Not a Label* and engaging thoughtfully with its themes; and in English, the children have successfully completed their narrative writing based on the hospital scene, showing growing confidence in structure, description and emotional impact.

TREAT FROM THE CHEST



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

- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| 1 Hawthorn | Hussain |
| 2 Oak | Maneel |
| 3 Sycamore | Jena and Isaq |
| 4 Acacia | Arvin |
| 5 Mahogany | Roham |
| 5 Cedar | Shirley |
| 6 Magnolia | Natalie |

Congratulations!

House Points

This week are

Citrine 490

Emerald 524

Ruby 609

Sapphire 549

Stars of the Week



Superstars of the Week

Shreya, Hawthorn class

Malak, Oak class

Certificate of Merit

Jana, Acacia class

Kamaya, Mahogany class

Sharanya, Cedar class

Jana A, Magnolia class

Excellent Presentation

Eman, Hawthorn class

Orabelle, Oak class

Inas, Sycamore class

Arifah, Acacia class

Eshan, Mahogany class

Rawda, Cedar class

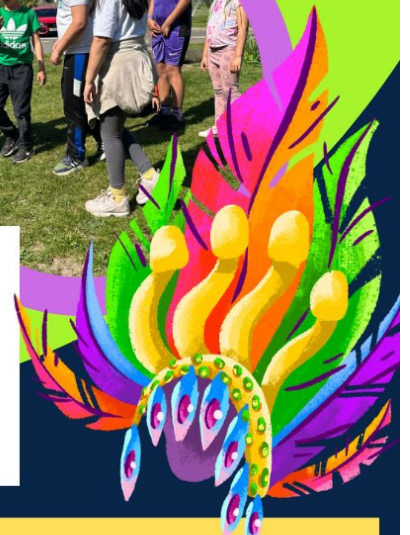
Ramani, Magnolia class

Class Merit

Sycamore class

Well done!

AFS Kids



SPORTS & ACTIVITY CAMP OR FOOTBALL ONLY CAMP

OFSTED REGISTERED VENUE.
EY461026
CHILDCARE VOUCHERS
ACCEPTED.

MON 16TH FEB - FRI 20TH FEB

ST MARYS ST JOHNS SCHOOL
(NEALE HOUSE



St Mary's
and St John's
CE School

CAMPUS)
HENDON
NW4 1AB




www.allforsport.co.uk

Table Tales at Clarion School

We are delighted to invite you and your school community to our **first Clarion School production** in our newly refurbished theatre hall.


News

 *Warning: this performance may cause laughter, tears, and biscuit crumbs!*

We are proud to present **Table Tales** and would love for your students and families to join us for an evening of entertainment and storytelling.

Table Tales is a vibrant, funny, and heart-warming journey through the many lives of one extraordinary table. From estate agents and squabbling siblings to birthday chaos, courtroom cones, fortune tellers, boardrooms, and heart-felt family dinners, our students bring to life a whirlwind of characters and stories that span generations.

Bursting with humour, energy, and emotion, **Table Tales** is a joyful celebration of family, community, and the memories we make when we come together.

 **When:** Wednesday 12th February

 **Time:** 5:30pm

 **Where:** Clarion School Theatre Hall

We would be incredibly grateful if you could **share this invitation with your students and parents** and help us spread the word within your school community. We would love to welcome families from our partner primary schools to celebrate this special milestone with us.

 **Click here to book your tickets:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/table-tales-a-clarion-drama-production-tickets-1978117589961>

Thank you for your continued collaboration and support. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you'd like any additional information.

Colette Brohan

Executive Assistant to Headteacher & HR Coordinator

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www.clarion.school

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