



# WESSEX GARDENS PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

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## Newsletter

Autumn Term — 30th January 2026 (Issue 18)

### Welcome to this week's Newsletter



We have enjoyed another lovely week at school, and I was particularly impressed with the 5 Cedar boys' swimming. They are really developing their skills and showing great confidence in the water, well done to all involved!

I was also delighted to present certificates to some of our Year 4 pupils who have been recognised by Young Writers. Young Writers is a national organisation that runs poetry and creative writing competitions for children across the UK. Pupils who received a certificate have had their work selected for publication, and their writing will appear in a professionally published book. This is a fantastic achievement, and we are extremely proud of them.



#### Healthy Smile Campaign - Toothpaste & Toothbrush Collection

We are pleased to be supporting Food Bank Aid's Healthy Smile Campaign, a simple and positive initiative that supports families who are unable to afford basic dental care items such as toothpaste and toothbrushes.

Over the next two weeks, leading up to half term, we will be collecting new, unopened toothpaste and toothbrushes to donate to local food banks. These items are often some of the most urgently needed but least donated essentials. This is a simple way for our school community to show kindness and support others, while also reinforcing the importance of good oral health for our pupils. Please look out for the poster that will be shared with families and displayed around school.

Wishing you a relaxing weekend.

Mr Banks  
Headteacher

### SCHOOL REMINDERS & INFORMATION



#### Dates for your diary

05.02.2026	Reception Hearing and Vision screening
12.02.2026	Y4 trip Imperial War 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



Y1 UCL Project participation letter

#### TERM DATES AND HOLIDAYS 2025-2026

##### 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

SECOND HALF: Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July

### Attendance % this week

<b>Silver Birch</b>	<b>94%</b>
<b>1 Hawthorn</b>	<b>89%</b>
<b>2 Oak</b>	<b>91%</b>
<b>3 Sycamore</b>	<b>91%</b>
<b>4 Acacia</b>	<b>96%</b>
<b>5 Cedar</b>	<b>99%</b>
<b>5 Mahogany</b>	<b>93%</b>
<b>6 Magnolia</b>	<b>92%</b>

**No classes achieved 100% attendance this week**

**Cedar class—so close!**

## Nursery

This week, the Nursery children have had a wonderful time learning and exploring. We have been reading *Walking Through the Jungle* and focusing on large animals, which inspired a range of creative artwork, including making colourful pom-pom lions. The children have also enjoyed building outdoors and using their imagination in the construction area, developing their creativity and teamwork skills. We have had a lovely week and hope you all have a lovely weekend. Kind regards The Nursery Team.

## Reception

In *Silver Birch*, learning was brought to life through creative, hands-on experiences that sparked curiosity and built confidence. The children enjoyed junk modelling, using recycled materials to design and create their own models, which supported problem-solving and imaginative thinking. We had octopus', movable dolls, rockets and even ice-creams being created.

The children also took pride in creating their own marvellous worlds, where storytelling, role play and art came together to develop creativity and communication skills. In Mathematics, the children explored capacity through practical activities that helped them understand volume and measurement. Alongside this, gross motor games supported physical development, coordination and teamwork, ensuring learning was active, engaging and well balanced. Have a wonderful weekend everyone. See you on Monday!

## Year 1

This week in Year 1, we are enjoying reading another story by Judith Kerr, which is helping us develop our love of reading and storytelling. In writing, we are beginning to write non-fiction instructional texts, learning how to explain things in clear steps. In Maths, we are exploring how to add ones using number bonds to build strong number knowledge. In Science, we are learning all about mammals, including humans, and how they are similar and different. In Geography, we are observing how the weather changes over a week and recording what we notice each day. In PSHE, we have been learning about healthy and unhealthy foods and how exercise helps us live healthy lives. In Design and Technology this week, the children are finalising their own windmill designs. They have been carefully assembling and improving their models, thinking about how the parts fit together and how the windmill moves. The children are learning to test their ideas, make simple improvements, and talk about what worked well in their final design.

## Year 3

This week in Year 3, the children have been busy across the curriculum. In English, they have been retelling the story of *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes, developing their understanding of the text and storytelling skills. In Maths, we began a new unit on measurement, learning to use metric units such as metres and centimetres and practising how to use a ruler accurately. In History, the children have continued learning about Ancient Egypt, exploring everyday life, different periods, and why it was such a powerful civilisation. In Science, we have continued our Rocks topic, introducing the ideas of weathering and erosion and how these processes change rocks over time. Thank you for your continued support—it is always greatly appreciated.

## Year 4

This week in Year 4, we have been learning all about teeth in Science. We identified the different types of teeth – incisors, canines and molars – and explored their specific functions such as biting, tearing, chewing and grinding. We also examined our own teeth and compared them with animals' teeth, investigating how teeth are adapted based on diet. In Maths, we have started our new unit on length and perimeter. We practised measuring using standard units and began calculating the perimeter of different shapes, applying our skills to real-life problems. In English, we have finished reading *Krinklekrax!* We have been working hard on developing our inference skills, thinking carefully about characters' thoughts and feelings and using evidence from the text to support our ideas. We have shown fantastic enthusiasm and focus throughout the week and should be very proud of the effort and curiosity we have brought to our learning!

## Year 5

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you are having a lovely week. We are delighted to share some highlights of the exciting learning taking place in our Year 5 classrooms.

In English, pupils have been studying *Romeo and Juliet*, focusing on analysing the motivations, feelings and viewpoints of key characters. They have explored why Romeo and Juliet act as they do and how the long-standing feud affects their choices. Building on this, pupils have generated persuasive reasons to argue why the Montague and Capulet families should end the feud, using evidence from the text to support their ideas and developing their persuasive writing skills.

In Maths, pupils have been developing their confidence with short division, dividing 4-digit numbers by a 1-digit number. Alongside this, they have taken part in challenging problem-solving activities involving both multiplication and division, encouraging them to choose efficient strategies, explain their thinking, and apply their skills to real-life contexts.

In Science, pupils have been learning about the characteristics of adulthood. They explored ideas such as physical peak, cognitive development, and how our bodies and minds change as we age. Pupils also examined the physical and emotional changes of ageing and discussed the important roles older adults play in society, recognising their contributions to families and communities.

In History, pupils have been using the concepts of cause and consequence to explain how and why Islam spread across different regions. They examined key factors that helped Islam expand and considered the impact this had on societies at the time, developing their historical reasoning and explanation skills.

Thank you for your continued support. Please feel free to talk to your child about what they have been learning — they are always keen to share!

## Year 6

This week in Year 6, we started our new class text *Fuzzy Mud*. To hook the children into the story, they explored different materials such as soil, slime, sand and clay, which are key to the themes in the book. In Maths, we began our work on 2D and 3D shapes, where pupils identified and described their properties, including faces, edges and vertices. The children also completed a reading paper this week, focusing on improving their reading fluency and comprehension skills. In Science, pupils created classification keys for vertebrates and invertebrates, helping them to consolidate and deepen their understanding of the different groups of organisms. **Please ensure that children are consistently completing their homework, as this supports and reinforces learning in class.**

## TREAT FROM THE CHEST



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

- |            |         |
|------------|---------|
| 1 Hawthorn | Dorsa   |
| 2 Oak      | Ezdan   |
| 3 Sycamore | Nikolas |
| 4 Acacia   | Jojo    |
| 5 Mahogany | Mia     |
| 5 Cedar    | Darren  |
| 6 Magnolia | Lewis   |

**Congratulations!**

## House Points

**This week are**

**Citrine** 777

**Emerald** 854

**Ruby** 904

**Sapphire** 1087

## Stars of the Week



## Superstars of the Week

Otilia, Hawthorn class

Saya, Oak class

## Certificate of Merit

Grace, Sycamore class

Zach, Acacia class

Eshan, Mahogany class

Rohaam, Cedar class

Cynthia, Magnolia class

## Excellent Presentation

Bader, Hawthorn class

Dane, Oak class

Rania, Sycamore class

Aya, Acacia class

Abdulo, Mahogany class

Olush, Cedar class

Ranim, Magnolia 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



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