

WESSEX GARDENS PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

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Newsletter

Autumn Term — 27th February 2026 (Issue 21)

Welcome to this week's Newsletter

I do hope you had a restful half term and were able to enjoy some quality time with family and friends. It is great to see the children back and ready to learn as we enter the second part of the Spring term. They have returned with such positive attitudes, and it has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm in the classrooms and around the school.

It was lovely seeing so many parents over the last few days for the parent teacher consultations. These meetings are a valuable opportunity to discuss the children's progress, celebrate their achievements, and talk about next steps in their learning. We greatly appreciate your support in working together to help every child succeed. Please do reach out to the school office if you were unable to meet with the teacher, and we will be happy to arrange an alternative appointment.

We are looking forward to World Book Day next Thursday, where we will celebrate the joy of reading and the importance of books in inspiring imagination and creativity. Children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. This is always a fun and memorable event, and we look forward to seeing a wide range of wonderful costumes. This is a fun event, so no donations are required.

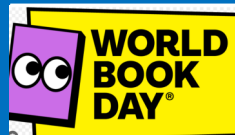
Have a great weekend.
Mr Banks

SCHOOL REMINDERS & INFORMATION



Dates for your diary

- 2,3&5.03.2026 Y3 Parent Teacher Consultation evenings
- 05.03.2026 World Book Day
- 19.03.2026 Reception Hearing & Vision Screening Recalls
- 20/03/2026 Comic Relief—Red Nose Day—Non uniform day (bring £1 donation)
- 24.03.2026 Y1 trip to London Zoo
- 27.03.2026 End of term—school closes at 1.15pm
After school club closed



Thursday 5th March 2026

We are delighted to announce that author, Kai Harper will again be visiting Year 5 and 6 on Thursday as part of Book Day. The children will have the opportunity to purchase Kai's latest book, part of the Five Worlds Apart series, 'Together Again.' Details together with order form are attached later in this Newsletter.

All children from Nursery to Year 6 will be bringing home £1 Book Tokens. These Book Tokens can be used at participating book shops to receive a £1 book for free.

Attendance % this week

Silver Birch	89%
1 Hawthorn	94%
2 Oak	91%
3 Sycamore	91%
4 Acacia	97%
5 Cedar	97%
5 Mahogany	93%
6 Magnolia	93%

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

Letters home this week

Rec-Y6	London Borough of Barnet Measles outbreak letter	
Y5	Secondary Transfer—letter from SMSJ Performing Arts Scholarships	
Nurs-Y5	Free Breakfast Club Survey (for Sept 2026)	
Nurs-Y6	£1 Book Tokens (World Book Day)	

Nursery

This week the children have taken part in lots of lovely activities across their learning. They practised careful observational drawing, taking their time to notice shapes and details, and showed great focus and pride in their work. We also played social games such as the lunchbox game, helping to develop turn-taking and listening skills, as well as musical instrument games where the children explored rhythm and sound. In the sunshine, the children enjoyed watering the flowers and learning about caring for our environment. They also had lots of fun playing the Honey Bear game, which supported their speaking and listening skills in an engaging way. It has been wonderful to see their confidence and cooperation growing. Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Reception

This week we have been enjoying our new core book, *One Day on Our Blue Planet: In the Savannah*, which has inspired lots of exciting learning across the curriculum. The children have written wonderful animal descriptions and created their own lion information booklets, showing great enthusiasm and creativity. In Maths, we have been exploring number bonds to 10, using practical resources and games to help build confidence and fluency. The class has particularly enjoyed our vet role play area, taking excellent care of the animals. We have loved playing our phonics reading game, *Cross the River*, to develop their blending and reading skills. It has been a busy and productive week! Remember to complete your homework and bring it back by Thursday.

Year 1

Welcome back to Spring 2. I hope you had a lovely holiday, and thank you very much for coming to the parents' evening. It was wonderful to see so many of you and to share the children's progress. This term in English, we will be reading *The Jolly Postman or Other People's Letters* by Allan Ahlberg. The children will be exploring the story and identifying the different features of letters, including greetings, addresses, stamps, and invitations. We will also be writing our own letters, thinking carefully about the purpose and audience. In Maths, we are learning about place value and how Base 10 can be used to represent numbers. In Science, we will be looking at seasonal changes, focusing on the transition from Winter to Spring. We will observe changes in the weather, plants, and daylight hours, and discuss how these changes affect the world around us. In Geography, we will be exploring our local area, including buildings and important places within our community. There will be lots of opportunities for discussion, map work, and observational drawing. There will be a number of short local trips this term (such as visits around our local area and field). These experiences really enrich the children's learning. Please do let me know if you are able to support us on any of these trips.

Year 4

In Year 4, we would like to welcome everyone back after a restful break – we hope you are feeling refreshed and ready for an exciting half term ahead! In English, we have dived into our new class book *Varjak Paw*, and the children are already gripped by the mysterious adventures of our whiskered hero. In Guided Reading, we are exploring vibrant poetry from the Caribbean, enjoying the rhythm, imagery and rich cultural themes that bring the poems to life. In Science, we are becoming animal experts, learning all about classification and how living things are grouped based on their characteristics – ask us about vertebrates and invertebrates! In History, we have begun our thrilling new topic on the Vikings, discovering who they were, where they travelled from, and why they had such an impact on Britain. It has been a fantastic start to the term, and we can't wait to see what the rest of our learning adventure brings!

Year 5

Dear Parents and Carers,
We were so happy to welcome the children back after the break and it has been wonderful to see them so enthusiastic and ready to learn. Their positive attitude and eagerness have made a fantastic start to the term, and we are very proud of how quickly they have settled back into routines.
In Maths this week, we have been focusing on equivalent fractions and decimals. The children have been exploring thousandths as fractions, thousandths as decimals, and representing thousandths on a place value chart. They have worked hard to understand how these different representations link together and have been developing their reasoning skills by explaining how they know their answers are correct.
In English, we have begun our exciting new book, *Beowulf*. The children have explored the world of the story and discussed what kind of tale it might be. They have practised retrieving key information from the text to deepen their understanding and have started to infer characters' feelings and motivations using clues provided by the author. We have been impressed with their thoughtful discussions and their ability to justify their ideas with evidence.
In Science, we launched our new space topic with great excitement. The children explored what space is like and began to understand why astronauts appear to float. They were fascinated by daily life in space and asked some excellent questions, showing real curiosity and enthusiasm for the topic.
In History, we have continued exploring why diversity mattered to Baghdad's success. The children learned how people from different cultures and backgrounds contributed to important advancements, helping the city to thrive.
In ICT, the focus has been on selection in computer programs. The children have learned how conditions are used in programming, how selection works, and how to identify and modify conditions within a program. They showed strong logical thinking skills and perseverance when testing and improving their code.

Year 6

This week, Year 6 completed their Mock Week, during which they sat Arithmetic, Reasoning Paper 2, Reasoning Paper 3, SPaG, Spelling and Reading assessments. I am extremely proud of how resilient, focused and hardworking the children have been; they approached each paper with maturity and determination, and their results have been very impressive, with many pupils already showing clear improvements. We have also introduced our new homework system using Maths.co.uk, where I will be setting Maths papers each week. All children have their login details, and it is important that homework is completed regularly as this will significantly support their progress. In English, we began our new class text, *Shackleton's Journey*, where the children have been focusing on expanded noun phrases, using commas in a list, and exploring the historical context and setting of the story. We are looking forward to a full and productive week of learning next week.

TREAT FROM THE CHEST



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

- 1 Hawthorn Ahmed
- 2 Oak Yahia
- 3 Sycamore Zhivan
- 4 Acacia Lucas
- 5 Mahogany Afsa
- 5 Cedar Rawda
- 6 Magnolia Jana

Congratulations!

Stars of the Week



Superstars of the Week

Deon, Hawthorn class
Anum, Oak class

Certificate of Merit

Santiago, Sycamore class
Jana, Acacia class
Brooke, Mahogany class
Talia, Cedar class
Kai, Magnolia class

Excellent Presentation

Mia, Hawthorn class
Siwar, Oak class
Aresema, Sycamore class
Jojo, Acacia class
Kaleb, Mahogany class
Oli, Cedar class
Noel, Magnolia class

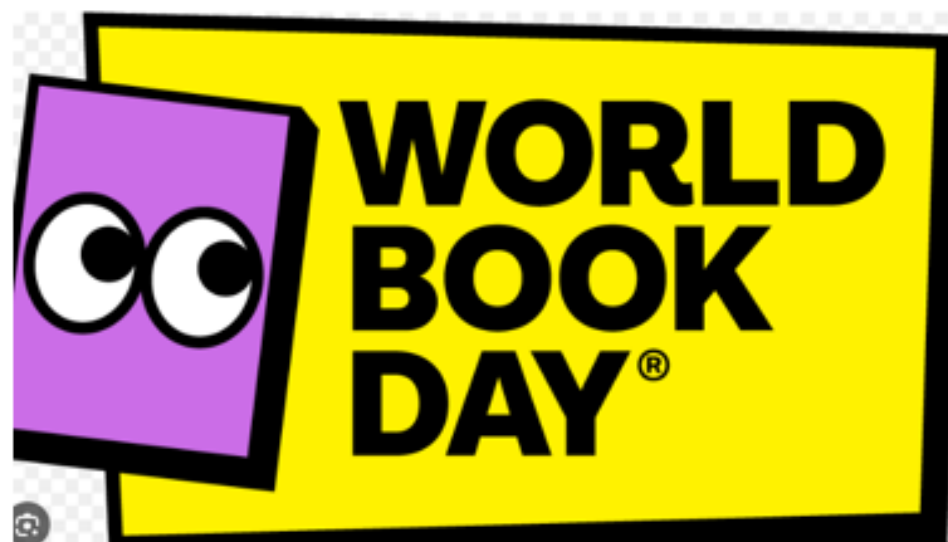
Well done!



World Book Day

Thursday 5th March

Come to school dressed up
as your favourite book
character!



On Thursday 5th March, World Book Day, Wessex Gardens Primary School will welcome back Kai Harper, a fantastic self-published author from North London. Kai is the author of the Five Worlds Apart Series. He will run a workshop with some of the Year 5 and Year 6's which will include questions and answers sessions and a creative writing experience.

Please **pre-order** a signed copy of Kai Harper's book(s) with a dedication inside. Books will be handed out on the day of his visit.

One moment they're students. The next they're heroes.

Set against the backdrop of London, Luke and his friends have been assigned the task of taking down Robert Mann, Robotics and Artificial Intelligence Extraordinaire. As they make their way through a number of dangerous missions, they must also navigate and manage their feelings and friendships all whilst attending school during the day. The clock is ticking, and they must prevent Robert Mann and his promise of a brighter future, for civilization, from destroying the world as they know it.



£4.00



£6.00



£8.00

To order a book please complete the slip below and hand in to the school office along with the money for the book.



Free Child Car Seat Checks

Friday 6th March 2026, 10am – 3pm

Brent Cross Hendon Way Superstore

Tilling Road NW2 1LZ

Barnet Council is offering free child car seat safety checks to ensure children are travelling safely. A trained expert from Good Egg Safety will be available to **inspect seats, fix errors and provide advice**, no booking required.

A check can be made on your child car seat even if your child isn't with you — but if they are, we can also check they are seated correctly and safely.

In response to the high turnout at previous events, **two** advisors will now be available on the day. To avoid unnecessary travel, you're welcome to call us on the day to check waiting times.

Last year, **92% of seats checked in Barnet had errors**, many serious enough to endanger children in the event of a collision. Unfortunately, errors on seats are very easily made, but the great news is that they tend to be easy to fix.

Don't miss this opportunity to get peace of mind and help make Barnet's roads safer for everyone.

Road.safety@barnet.gov.uk

07483 474617



This is presented to

WESSEX GARDENS PRIMARY SCHOOL

To thank the school for your generous donations of dental products to Food Bank Aid and the 20,000 we support each week.

We are so grateful. Thank you so much!

FEBRUARY 2026

www.foodbankaid.org.uk

