



# WESSEX GARDENS PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

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## Newsletter

Autumn Term — 17th April 2026 (Issue 26)

### Welcome to this week's Newsletter

Welcome back!

I hope everyone had a lovely Easter break.

A special welcome to all of our new families who have joined us this term. If you are new to our community, please do let us know—we would be more than happy to help you build connections. Our families are incredibly welcoming and supportive, and we are proud of the strong community we have here at Wessex Gardens.

A quick reminder about naming jumpers:

At this time of year, pupils often take off their jumpers due to the warmer weather, and they can easily be left around the school. It becomes very difficult to return them if they are unnamed. A helpful tip is to write your child's name on the inside of the logo badge—there is more space and it is easier to write on with a marker.

Wishing you all a relaxing weekend.

Mr Banks  
Headteacher

### Swimming this half term



Silver Birch	See Class Teacher	Tuesdays
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

### Attendance % this week

<b>Silver Birch</b>	<b>95%</b>
<b>1 Hawthorn</b>	<b>90%</b>
<b>2 Oak</b>	<b>87%</b>
<b>3 Sycamore</b>	<b>92%</b>
<b>4 Acacia</b>	<b>90%</b>
<b>5 Cedar</b>	<b>99%</b>
<b>5 Mahogany</b>	<b>92%</b>
<b>6 Magnolia</b>	<b>95%</b>

**No classes achieved 100% attendance this week  
Cedar class—so close!**

### SCHOOL REMINDERS & INFORMATION



#### Dates for your diary

21.04.2026	Y4 trip to London Aquarium
22.04.2026	School Photographer—Class Photos
30.04.2026	9.00am Y5 Parents Meeting—Secondary Transfer
04.05.2026	School closed—May Day Bank Holiday
11.05.2026	Y6—SATs week
21.05.2026-	School Closed -
01.06.2026	Half Term Holiday
02.06.2026	School reopens

#### TERM DATES AND HOLIDAYS 2025-2026

##### 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

#### TERM DATES AND HOLIDAYS 2026-2027

##### AUTUMN TERM 2026

FIRST HALF: Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October

HALF TERM

HOLIDAY: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

SECOND HALF: Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December

##### SPRING TERM 2027

FIRST HALF: Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February

HALF TERM

HOLIDAY: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February – Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

SECOND HALF: Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March

##### SUMMER TERM 2027

FIRST HALF: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 28<sup>nd</sup> May

MAY DAY: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

HALF TERM

HOLIDAY: Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June

SECOND HALF: Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

#### Letters home this week



Nurs Menu for full time children  
Y4 Trip to London Aquarium

## Nursery

The Nursery Team were delighted to welcome back our existing children, who settled back well after the Easter break. We were also excited to meet our new children and their families as we introduced them to our setting and are helping them to settle into our routines and get to know each other and make new friends. This week we have been learning about the story, *Commotion in the Ocean* and learning about different sea creatures. Wishing you all a wonderful weekend and looking forward seeing everyone again on Monday.  
The Nursery Team

## Reception

This week, we have been developing our Maths skills by making numbers up to 20 using a range of practical resources, including Numicon, bead strings and ten frames, which have helped the children to build confidence and deepen their understanding of number. In English, we have been exploring the story of *Little Red Riding Hood*, where the children have enjoyed discussing the characters and key events. They have begun writing their own character descriptions, thinking carefully about appearance and personality, and have also created story maps to help them retell the narrative in the correct sequence. The children have shown great enthusiasm and creativity throughout their learning. Have a wonderful weekend and see you on Monday.

## Year 1

Welcome back to the Summer term! In Year 1 this week, we began our new English text, *Lila and the Secret of Rain*. The story follows a young girl living in Africa, and we are excited to explore the themes and setting together. In Maths, we have been practising counting in 2s, 5s and 10s, as well as learning about equal and unequal groups. In Science, our new topic is plants, where we will be learning about how they grow and what they need to survive. In History, we are looking at Barnet in the past and how it has changed over time. Our exciting DT topic this term is smoothies, where we will be designing and making our own healthy drinks. We will also be placing a strong focus on phonics throughout the term to support reading and writing skills. Please continue to read regularly at home—your support makes a big difference!

## Year 2

We have had a lovely start to the new term. In English, the children have written their letters to the Lonely Beast. In Maths, we have finished our topic on multiplication and division, and started our new topic on fractions. In Science, the children have started to learn about plants. We are trying to find out what plants need to grow and stay healthy. Well done on all your efforts this week Team Oak!

## Year 3

Year 3, welcome back after the Easter holidays – we hope everyone had a lovely break! In English, we have started exploring our new text, *Gregory Cool*, and the children are already enjoying the story.  
In Geography, the children had great fun making their own volcanoes over the Easter holidays for homework and then watching them erupt during our exciting lesson. In History, we have begun our new topic on Ancient Rome, and we are looking forward to learning all about this fascinating period!

## Year 4

This week in Year 4, we've had a fantastic start to some exciting new learning across the curriculum! In Maths, we began our new topic on decimals, focusing on tenths. The children worked hard to understand how tenths relate to fractions and place value, and we were really impressed with how quickly they grasped these new concepts. In Geography, we launched our new project comparing London and the Amazon in Brazil. The class showed great curiosity as we explored what these two locations are like and began thinking about how they might be similar or different. We also had a brilliant P.E. lesson this week. The children took part in an endurance test, which helped to extend both their learning and fitness levels. They showed determination, resilience and a great attitude throughout—well done, Year 4!

## Year 5

We were very happy to see the children return after the Easter holiday with such enthusiasm and a positive attitude towards their learning.  
In **Maths**, we began our new topic on *Statistics*. The children have been learning how to draw line graphs, as well as read and interpret line graphs and tables. They have shown great focus when analysing data and drawing conclusions.  
In **English**, the children really enjoyed exploring our new class book *Mama Miti*. They took part in drama activities, including hot seating, where they stepped into the role of the main character. This supported them in writing detailed character descriptions and exploring the key themes within the story.  
In **Science**, we have been investigating how the Moon's phases change over time. The children explored this concept with curiosity and created their own knowledge organisers about space and the Moon to support their understanding.  
In **Geography**, we focused on identifying similarities and differences between two regions using geographical evidence. The children demonstrated thoughtful comparisons and used appropriate vocabulary to explain their ideas.  
In **Art**, the children explored imagery from the space race. They investigated and evaluated different styles before creating their own scratch art pieces inspired by what they had learned. It has been a wonderful start to the term, and we are very proud of the children's effort and engagement across all subjects.

## Year 6

This week in Year 6, the children completed their maths arithmetic test and did fantastically well. We have also been continuing with SPaG revision as SATs are approaching. Final booster class letters will be sent out next week; please note that not all children will be attending these sessions. In English, we have started our new book *Brown Girl Dreaming*, and the children are very engaged and fascinated by the topic of being African American in the 1960s and the struggles faced during that time. In History, we are learning about Queen Victoria and her power. In Science, we are finishing our topic on evolution and inheritance by completing our knowledge organiser. Next, we will be starting a new Geography topic: *Our Changing World*.

## TREAT FROM THE CHEST



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

- |            |                  |
|------------|------------------|
| 1 Hawthorn | Faiza            |
| 2 Oak      | Jacob and Tomasz |
| 3 Sycamore | Savanna          |
| 4 Acacia   | Basit            |
| 5 Mahogany | Afsa             |
| 5 Cedar    | Oliwier          |
| 6 Magnolia | Heitor           |

**Congratulations!**

## Stars of the Week



## Superstars of the Week

Leo, Hawthorn class  
Sarah, Oak class

## Certificate of Merit

Seleem, Sycamore class  
Asma, Acacia class  
Alaa, Mahogany class  
Olivier, Cedar class  
Celin and Natalie, Magnolia class

## Excellent Presentation

Haowen, Hawthorn class  
Malak, Oak class  
Kabir, Sycamore class  
Amelia, Acacia class  
Roham, Mahogany class  
Harun, Cedar class  
Jannah K, Magnolia class

**Well done!**

The free Dr Bike service in Barnet for the current financial year has been hugely popular, particularly among parents/carers and children.

The Dr Bikes for the new financial year, starting this April, are below and can also be found at

<https://www.barnet.gov.uk/roads-and-pavements/transport-and-around-barnet/cycling/free-dr-bike-sessions-barnet>

Location Name	Location Description	Date	Time
Finchley, Lodge Lane car park	Yellow chevrons immediately to the right of the entrance to the Car Park (opposite NL Auction Rooms N12 8JH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 13 May</li> <li>● 8 July</li> <li>● 9 September</li> <li>● 11 November</li> <li>● 13 January 2027</li> <li>● 10 March 2027</li> </ul>	4pm to 7pm
Temple Fortune	By Bike racks outside entrance to M&S Food Hall at 820 Finchley Road, NW11 6XL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 20 May</li> <li>● 15 July</li> <li>● 16 September</li> <li>● 18 November</li> <li>● 20 January 2027</li> <li>● 17 March 2027</li> </ul>	4pm to 7pm
Middlesex University	Pavement on The Burroughs, outside Middlesex University adjacent to Hendon Fire Station, 91 The Burroughs, NW4 4BL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 8 April</li> <li>● 10 June</li> <li>● 12 August</li> <li>● 14 October</li> <li>● 9 December</li> <li>● 10 February 2027</li> </ul>	4pm to 7pm
High Barnet, Stapylton Rd car park	Area immediately to the right of carpark entrance (EN5 4LR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 15 April</li> <li>● 17 June</li> <li>● 19 August</li> <li>● 21 October</li> <li>● 16 December</li> <li>● 17 February 2027</li> </ul>	4pm to 7pm

The Dr Bike sessions are run by qualified bicycle mechanics. Members of the public can take along their bicycles to have a free, full safety check, which includes the condition of tyres, rims, gears, brake function and tyre pressure and adjustments can be made if required, all for free. Both adult and child bicycles can have the free safety check and adjustments made if necessary.

Best wishes  
Ilias

