

Garden Fields J.M.I School

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Growing Hearts and Minds

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8th October 2021

School Update: 8th October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Harvest Festival

A week on Monday – **18th October** – we will be having a special Harvest themed assembly and collecting items for the St Albans Foodbank.

<https://stalbandsdistrict.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

We will be asking for donations of non-perishable food as well as toilet rolls, shower gel, shampoo and laundry powder/tabs. The Food Bank have said that they already have a large collection of pasta and therefore don't need this. They can't store fresh food either. I will send out a reminder about our collection next week, but thought I would give you a bit of time to start planning!

Trust INSET Day and extra occasional day

When we set our INSET Days/term dates last year we weren't part of the Alban Academies Trust (AAT), but we now are of course. The Trust will be having a teaching and learning conference on **Thursday 10th February 2022** which will give our teachers the opportunity to attend some really interesting workshops around different aspects of teaching and learning as well as networking with our new partnership schools. We will therefore be taking this as an extra INSET day next year in addition to those already set. Being an academy allows us the flexibility to do this. In future years we will return to the usual 5 spread over the year.

These will be taken in line with the other schools in the Trust – once those for **2022/23** have been set with the other schools in the AAT, we will release them to you.



The government has allowed us to take an extra occasional day's holiday in **2022** due to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next year (the bank holidays for which fall in our summer half term). We will therefore be taking **Friday 11th February** off as our extra occasional day for next year, meaning that you will have an extended February half term next year – with the children finishing at our usual 3.15 p.m. time on **Wednesday 9th February, 2022.**

Courtesy in the drop off zone

Please can I ask that parents model the behaviours that we wish to instil in our children: - **Respect, Responsibility, Compassion, Cooperation, Inclusivity and Integrity.**

And do this by not becoming angry and impatient and hooting others and even - as Mr de Bruin our site manager reported to me today – ensure that they don't 'queue jump' and take a space that another driver has been patiently waiting for. Thank you.

Have a good weekend everyone,

Mr Farrugia

