

Garden Fields J.M.I School

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Growing Hearts and Minds

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Friday Update

Covid New Guidance

This is our first Friday update since the Prime Minister's announcement earlier in the week, launching his new 'Living with Covid Plans'.

The DfE Have written to schools advising:

Changes to self-isolation and daily testing of close contacts:

- 1) *From Thursday 24 February, the Government will remove the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. **Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days**, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days. In addition, the Government will:*
- 2) *No longer ask fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 to test daily for 7 days, and remove the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate.*
- 3) *Staff, children and young people should attend their education settings as usual. This includes staff who have been in close contact within their household, unless they are able to work from home.*

You will see that the advice is for people who have Covid to remain at home for at least 5 full days and then follow the guidance until they have received two negative lateral flow tests.

Although these are now guidelines rather than legal requirements, we hope that parents will choose to adhere to these guidelines. This will help to reduce infections for all of our school community, including our teaching staff who will therefore be able to continue to provide a high quality of education to your children.

We will continue to wear masks in the school building in communal situations / meetings where we can't socially distance, until we are sure that our currently very low Covid numbers since our return from half term, are maintained for a little longer. Enhanced ventilation and hygiene measures in schools are still being advised by the DFE for the time-being.

World Book Day

Just a reminder that next Thursday, 3rd March, your children will be invited to come into school dressed as a book character – if they would like to. By the time that I write this, our House Captains may have visited your child's class to give out forms for our Book Fair books (which arrive next week) together with their World Book Day token.



You can 'browse the books' **online** and then **pay online**. Payment details are on the form. When you purchase your book(s) you will be given a reference number which you should write on the form, together with the title(s) of the book(s) you are purchasing. The form then needs to be returned to school with you child.

From Monday, the House Captains will come to your children's classrooms to collect any returned forms. Then we will send out the books purchased. The latest date for orders back to school is the morning of **Wednesday 9th March 2022**.

Parent Consultations

Our Spring term consultations will be on Tuesday 22nd and Thursday 24th March. These will be remote ones again as a number of parents have fed back that they have found this more convenient, particularly if they have children spread across the school or parents working away; however, we will be bringing back our celebration evening in the summer term where you can come into school and look at children's work. We will be surveying parents later in the year and one area we will explore is the way in which we host parent consultations going forward. More details about booking appointments will follow shortly.

2'sday!

Or was it Twosday? I saw various versions on Tuesday this week!

Many thanks to your support with this. Together we raised £551 for the PTA – very impressive.

Thank you to Gill Gunbey, Chair of PTA, Miss Palmer & Mrs Gleeson for co-ordinating in school and Mrs Dicks for helping to bag the money too!





Farewell Miss Rees

Miss Rees has worked for us over a number of years now, initially as a sports apprentice and then as a coach and PE teacher. Miss Rees finished working for us at half term as she has secured a job as a school's support officer at Northampton Town FC. I will be checking their results going forward! We thank her for her time with us and wish her all the best for the future

← We presented Miss Rees with a farewell gift – a new Arsenal top!

Welcome Miss Swaryczewska

Miss Swaryczewska (or Miss S as we call her!) has been appointed as our new receptionist. Miss Swaryczewska has been covering in the office over the last few months when we have been short staffed and has been great! She successfully applied for the receptionist position before half term and started in earnest as our official receptionist this week. Welcome officially to the admin team Miss S!

Pupil achievements

I have had some more fantastic examples of these which I will put together in my end of term newsletter.

Alban Academies Trust (AAT) Teaching and Learning Conference



Our staff team had an inspiring time at the combined AAT conference held on the Thursday before half term. It was great to work with the other Trust schools both primary and secondary. There were a number of very interesting workshops on a range of educational themes. We also had an inspiring 'life story' from Musharaf ('Mushy') Asghar, the star of television's Education Yorkshire – who overcame a severe stammer over the series and has now become a successful public speaker. He spoke about both his own personal drive to overcome his difficulties (he was told as a young boy that he would never speak 'normally') but also the support and encouragement that he got from his teachers, particularly his English teacher Mr Burton. It was a real reminder of why many of us came into teaching – to make a difference!

Have a good weekend everyone.

Mr Farrugia

