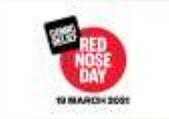


Garden Fields School Newsletter

Growing Hearts and Minds

Curriculum and Achievement Newsletter
February 2022



10th February 2022

Integrity Inclusion

Cooperation Compassion

Responsibility

Respect

Spring Half Term Edition

It is strange to think that we are now half way through the academic year already! We are beginning to leave the darker days of winter and heading lighter days of spring and we have lots of fun events ahead of us in the run up to Easter.

1) 22nd February is 'Number 2 Day'/National Thinking Day



On the second day back, after our extended half term, we will be having a special '2' day as the date in digits will be 22/2/22.

With all the restrictions our PTA have had recently, we are looking at some simpler fundraising ideas and what we are politely asking for, if possible, is for you to give your children any denomination of the number 2 e.g. 2p, 20p or £2 in money that they can **place in some special 2's that we are drawing on the playground. There will also be some 2 based number tasks that children can do during the day.**

The 22nd is also **National Thinking Day** and so if any children wish to wear their **Rainbows, Beavers, Cubs, Brownies, Scouts or Guides** uniforms then they can.

2) Thursday 3rd March is World Book Day

Children are invited to dress up as a book character if they wish.

3) Friday 18th March is Comic Relief Day

Children are invited to wear items of red—e.g. jumpers, joggers etc...

Also Coming Soon!

Garden Fields Happiness and Wellbeing Week
Monday 28th March to Friday 1st April

This is in the planning stages and more details will follow as we go through the next half-term.

Watch this space!

World Book Day Competition

The JLT have a special competition that they have organised for Half-Term if your children would like to take part.

Here is a message from them!

Over half-term, if you would like to take part in this competition you need to design a new book cover for your favourite book. The winning book covers will be displayed around the school for World Book Day (Thursday 3rd March). Entries can be painted, hand-drawn or created on the computer. Remember to include the title and the author. There will also be book prizes for each Key Stage! For entering, you will get 1 mini-merit!

Date due: Friday 25th February 2022

Hand to Miss Gallagher in Swallow Class (Year 5) or your class JLT member, or your Teacher

Here are a few examples of books you may choose!



Have fun!

Curriculum Matters

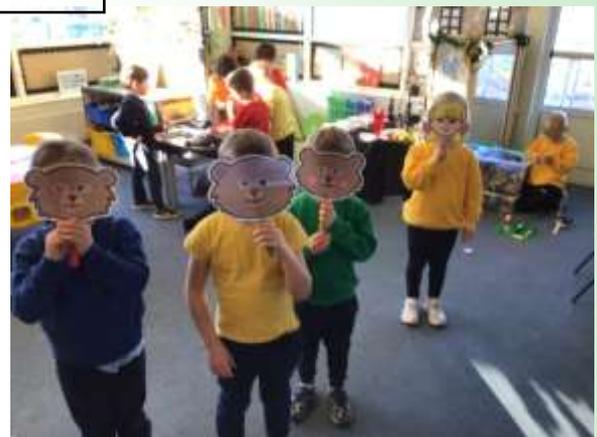
Over the next few pages I have taken out just a few of the highlights from our year group blogs, as you may not have seen the blogs from other year groups to those that your children are in. It is great to see the range of activities across the school. Do please read the Blogs - they are a key way that our teachers share information about the curriculum but also other key information about your child's class.



It is fascinating to see the difference here between bridge building in Reception and bridge building in Year 6. Our 'spiral' curriculum, using the Curriculum Maestro framework, seeks to ensure that prior learning from children's earlier periods in school, is built upon as they progress through the school. The new curriculum topics that we have adopted this year have really rejuvenated our curriculum and it has been a pleasure for example to see a lot more Design Technology taught across the school.



Oracy skills are also a more prominent part of the curriculum. Below, reception children role play the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. They then record the story sequence in pictorial form.





Year 5
 In Y5's Portal to the Past workshop, the children learnt about the different beliefs and practices of the Ancient Greeks. The year group helped to create role plays of myths and legends such as the story of Medusa. They were also able to handle replica artefacts based on the period.

Year 3
 Ted Hughes's Iron Man has been the springboard for much of Y3's learning this term. Below you can see their models of him.

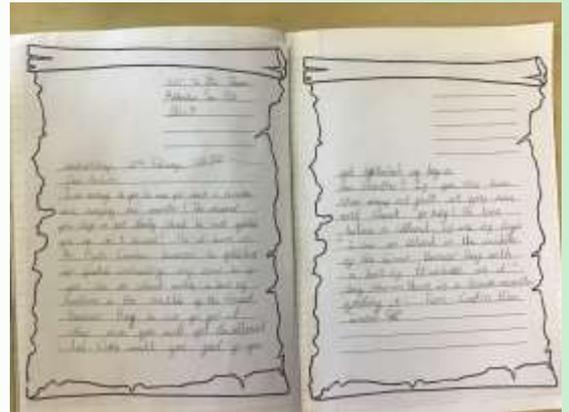
They have also been studying magnets and as part of this they have designed and made games involving magnets.





Year 2

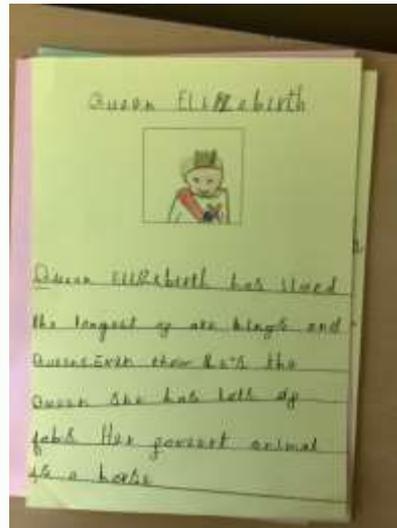
In Year 2, as part of their 'Land Ahoy' topic, the children have been making boats with axles and propellers that allow them to move. They have also written pirate stories.



Year 1

As part of their 'Childhood' topic, our Y1's have been contrasting the way children grew up in the 1950s with today.

They have also produced autobiographies of Queen Elizabeth II - very topical in this Platinum Jubilee Year!



Year 4

In Year 4 as part of their Vikings and Anglo Saxons Topic, the children have been learning to weave and they have produced these wonderful colourful mats!



Children's Achievements



I think we need to warn Emma Raducanu that she has some serious competition from young Amelie from Year 3 Thames Class! Amelie has just recently won two grade 5 LTA Tennis tournaments in consecutive weekends followed by second place at a grade 4 LTA tournament.

Amélie has a place in the Pathway to Tarbes junior high performance programme through Hertfordshire county tennis and the LTA at Batchwood Tennis Centre.

Well done Amelie and keep up the hard work!



Evie, Y5 Swallow class, has recently been in a cheerleading championship representing Twisted Cheer & Dance. Placed 2nd, she has won a summit bid to the Nationals later this year.

As if that wasn't enough, Evie also represented Sapphire Gymnastics at the SAARDI advanced gold level floor and vault competition. She achieved first place in the vault, securing the gold medal! She also won an overall 6th place ribbon.

Congratulations Evie—highly successful on two fronts!



Jordan, Sam and Joel, all play in the St Albans District Development Football Team for children in Y4 and 5.

Here they are, having lost narrowly in a 4-5 defeat to MK Dons Academy. Joel and Sam have played for our School A and B teams this year and we look forward to seeing more of these boys, including hopefully Jordan, in our school and district teams for next season.

Children's Achievements Continued



Imogen, Y6 Curlew Class, has recently worked towards and been awarded the RSCM (Royal School of Church Music) Light Blue Voice for Life Chorister ribbon. She is part of the choir at St Nicholas Church in Harpenden. Congratulations Imogen for receiving this prestigious award!



Congratulations also go to Emily, Y5 Kestrel, who was 1 of 3 shortlisted for Heart Radio's young hero award in our county for all of her charity work. This is a great achievement as I know that a lot of children are up for consideration for this award. Here is Emily with her guest Angie. I hope you both had a great evening!



Lola, Y5 Swallow Class, has recently performed for 2 nights in a stage version of Peter Pan at the Watersmeet Theatre, Rickmansworth. I hope all that flying around in the sky didn't make you too dizzy Lola! Well done on your performances and hopefully you will have many more in the future!



I've always been impressed by anyone who can play any note on a brass instrument! So congratulations Sam (Y4, Trent) on passing your grade 2 in Cornet in December and also on performing the James Bond theme to achieve your Cubs Stage 3 Musicians badge. I must hear this - maybe in one of my future assemblies!

District Cross Country

Last Saturday, on a bright, late winter's morning our TA and cross country club leader and 'runner par excellence' Miss Smith, took a group of our cross country club runners over to the annual Herts County School Cross Country Qualifiers at Verulamium Park.

Isaac (Y6) did particularly well, finishing in a very respectable 18th place out of over a hundred runners.

Many thanks to all the children who took part, to Miss Smith for giving up her Saturday morning and all of the parents who helped and supported as well!



Have a great half term everyone!
We will see you back on Monday 21st February