

Garden Fields J.M.I School

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Growing Hearts and Minds

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School Update: 6th January 2023

Dear everyone,

Welcome back to the new term and a happy New Year to you all!

New systems for entry into school for The Hub and morning clubs

This was mentioned in the Christmas newsletter but will now come into effect as of this coming Monday. Mr Duncan and myself will be outside to help with this over the next week.

Essentially the Hub parents will now drop off and collect from outside the steps that lead to the lower school office and hall (where the school canteen is). Parents for clubs held in the Lower School will also collect from here.

Parents for clubs held in the upper school, including the upper school hall, will drop off and collect from the Y5/Y6 corridor entry and exit point.

Online Safety Training

Another reminder from December – which seems a distant memory now – is that we have a themed day on **Monday (9th)** with each year group having a bespoke session on Online Safety. This is obviously such a key topic for children's learning these days and very much part of the curriculum. There are tremendous educational and social benefits to the Internet but of course there are negative aspects also.

The company, ECP, are running these sessions and successfully ran these a few years ago for us. As they did last time, **they will be running a session for parents between 5 and 6 pm on the same day – you are very welcome to attend. Entrance will be via the Y5 and Y6 corridor – it is aimed at parents of children of all ages.**

Christmas collections

Thank you to all those who contributed to our collections at the Reception/Year 1 nativity and Christ Church collections. In total we raised £435 for school funds. Many thanks indeed for your generosity!

2022 Hertfordshire Heroes Christmas art competition - Thank you!

We have received a message of thanks to all of the children who took part in the 2022 Hertfordshire Heroes Christmas Art Competition from Councillor Terry Douris, Chairman of the Hertfordshire Armed Forces Covenant Board and certificate of appreciation. Although we had no winners this year he was highly appreciative of the effort that all the children who entered had made.



More Achievements!



I discovered some more achievements in my 'archive' of achievements from December which weren't included in my Christmas newsletter. Firstly, here are some of our Yr 4 boys – Freddie M, Freddie C, Samuel, Lewis, Max, Thomas, Evan, and Nick - celebrating after their 5-2 victory in the Excel Football League cup final, in what apparently was a freezing cold day! Well done to you all on your fantastic achievement!

In other news, congratulations to Olly and Charlie from Year One (Willow class) who won gold medals in their first ever Judo championships in December. They practice every Wednesday at Batchwood but this was their first competition! Well done Olly and Charlie on your achievements!

Please feel free to email the office with a 'nudge' if I have missed any other achievements that you have sent in!

Regarding school headship

By now you will have received the news that I will be retiring from headship at the end of the term. It has been a great honour and privilege to lead Garden Fields for the last six years but after 22 years in school leadership, firstly as a deputy and now having had two headships, I have taken the decision to have a break in the summer whilst I look into a change in career path for the final part of my working life. This is not a decision that I have taken lightly, or one that doesn't leave me without a large degree of sadness, but I wish to leave headship before I lose the passion and energy that the children of Garden Fields deserve. In the meantime, it is very much business as usual for me for the rest of the term! I will keep you informed with any updates around my leadership succession as we go through the term.

Have a good weekend everyone.

Mr Farrugia