



Message from the Headteacher

Welcome back!

It has been a busy start to the term. We returned to school with refurbished classroom areas for Pine, Kestrel, Thames and Ver classes and the change in use of part of the Upper School - being used by the AET Offices.

It has been great to welcome all our children back after the summer break and a special welcome goes to our new Reception children and parents. For those that were able to attend the Welcome Evening on Tuesday, we hope you found the evening useful and informative. Just to let everyone know, we will soon be sending home key dates for the year so you can get these into your diaries.

Paul Sutton

Paul Sutton, Headteacher



Tennis Success

Garden Fields pupils were busy on the tennis courts over the summer holidays, with some fantastic results at the Hertfordshire County Championships at the end of August.

A particular highlight came from Luna, Y6, who was crowned 11U Girls' Doubles County Champion alongside former Gardenfields pupil Marie (Year 6 Curlew, 2026 leaver). The pair produced a brilliant run to take the title and proved to be a formidable doubles partnership.

They also stepped up an age group to compete in the 12U Girls' Doubles, where they continued their impressive form by reaching the semi-finals.

A fantastic achievement for both and a wonderful way to round off a successful summer of tennis!



Music Success

Well done to Elena, Y5 Kestrel, who passed her Grade 1 Rock School drum exam with distinction, during the summer break. She worked really hard to achieve this and is thrilled with the result.

Year 6's Week at Bikeability



This week, Y6 has been learning how to ride our bikes safely on the roads.

On Monday, we stayed on the school playground to practice basic road safety skills. For the rest of the week, we have been out on the roads around our school. We have learnt how to pass parked cars safely, make U-turns, and turn into minor roads from major roads using hand signals to communicate clearly with other road users. Our week at Bikeability has been challenging yet joyful. We have all learnt so much and really improved our cycling skills.

Our message to Year 5 is: make sure you sign up because it is a fantastic week! If you don't know how to ride a bike yet, try to learn this year so you can take part too!

Year 6 Students

Diary Dates

Monday 21 September	Y3 Celtic Harmony trip
Monday 21 September	Governors Meeting, 6pm
Wednesday 23 September	Y6 Girls Tag Rugby Festival
Monday 28 September	Individual and Sibling Photographs
Monday 5 October	Harvest Celebration
Wednesday 7 October	EYFS Police visit
Friday 16 October	Wear Red Day - Give Racism the Red Card



School Drop-Off
PARK SMART!

Help keep our streets safe for everyone:

- ✓ **No parking on yellow zigzags**
These keep the crossing clear for children.
- ✓ **Allow extra time**
Rushing = risky parking.
- ✓ **Respect driveways**
Please don't block homes or paths.
- ✓ **Walk, cycle, or share a lift**
Fewer cars, safer roads.

Why it matters:

- Safer for children and families
- Pavements stay clear for buggies and wheelchairs
- Emergency vehicles can get through fast
- Happier neighbours, safer community

Please don't:

- Double park
- Stop close to junctions
- Park across driveways

Think before you park!
A few extra seconds = a safer street for everyone.



SFC WELCOME

Smartphone Free Childhood

New to the Garden Fields Community?
Are your children now older and you are thinking about this issue for the first time?

Two simple things you can do to get started:

1) Sign the Parent Pact.
A recent study showed that child mental health was significantly improved in schools where there was a higher uptake of parent pacts to delay smartphones. GFS currently has 38 children signed up, let's increase this collective action!

2) Join the WhatsApp Group.
A great way of connecting with other parents and sharing your thoughts or worries. Everyone is welcome regardless of your opinion!

Sign the Parent Pact
The Parent Pact is a way to join together with other families at Garden Fields to agree to delay getting your child a smartphone until at least 14.
It's also a way of supporting the movement nationally!

 



SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD | Garden Fields JMI, St Albans

Uniform and PTA Pre-Loved Shop Update

Thank you to all parents and carers for ensuring pupils arrive looking smart in the correct uniform. Seeing our children wear their uniform with pride helps foster a strong sense of community across every year group.

As children grow—or if you have had difficulty securing specific items—why not try our PTA Pre-Loved Uniform Service? The team has gathered a fantastic range of second-hand items. It is a cost-effective, eco-friendly way to top up your child's wardrobe, with all proceeds supporting school projects.

Browse stock and request items via the [PTA online store](#) - login via PTA-EVENTS

We understand that circumstances can change. If your family requires support with uniform, please come and speak with us.

Thank you for your continued support.