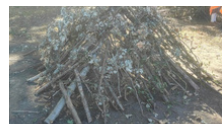


Message from the Headteacher

The Outdoor Play and Learning Team (OPAL) have been very busy over the last couple of weeks. As well as feedback from children and staff, they are eager to hear from you to help them shape and monitor the progress and improvements that they are planning. Please complete the parent survey, which was sent last Monday, by Monday 28th September. Thank you.

I was able to accompany Y3 on their trip to Celtic Harmony on Monday. They had a great day learning more about The Stone Age period - thank you to the parents and family members who were able to support this.



A Fond Farewell to Mr. Mathew Mr. Mathew will be leaving us next week to return to university to complete a Master's degree in Physiotherapy. Having worked alongside our teaching support team and Hub for a few years, we want to say a huge thank you for all his hard work, and we wish him every success with his postgraduate studies!

Celebrating Miss Elson's 7 Years with us We are also sending our heartfelt thanks and best wishes to Miss Elson, our Sports Coach, as she prepares for her next chapter. Over the past seven years, Miss Elson has brought incredible energy, enthusiasm, and dedication to her role. From leading PE sessions in school to organising and overseeing countless external sporting events, she has inspired our young athletes and represented our school brilliantly. We will miss her greatly, but we wish her all the best in her next adventure!

Paul Sutton, Headteacher



Walk for Parkinsons

Last weekend, Alex Y6 Osprey, took on a fantastic challenge, walking over 5 miles through Wendover Woods to raise money for Parkinson's UK.

Alex and his big sister were determined to complete the course within 1 hour and 30 minutes, as a way of saying thank you to everyone who had supported them. They did brilliantly and have raised an amazing £500+ so far!



Diary Dates

Monday 28 September	Individual and Sibling Photographs
Monday 28 September	Girls Football vs Wheatfields HOME @ GFS
Wednesday 30 September	Girls Football (StAC Cup Match) vs Alban City HOME @ GFS
Thursday 1 October	Netball vs Wheatfields AWAY @ Wheatfields Junior School
Monday 5 October	Harvest Celebration
Monday 5 October	Boys A Team Football vs Skyswood AWAY @ Skyswood
Wednesday 7 October	EYFS Police visit
Wednesday 7 October	Netball vs Maple School HOME @ GFS
Friday 16 October	Wear Red Day - Give Racism the Red Card

Cross Country

On Thursday 24th September, the Year 6 cross-country team went to Colney Heath School to compete in a race. There were about 100 girls and boys from 10 other schools. Everyone had to complete 3 big laps of the course. It was really fun but next time we recommend not eating beforehand as you get massive stitches!

All of GFS did brilliantly. Jessica led the way for the girls, finishing in 16th place, with Luna, Mirabel, Elsie, Freya and Katya close behind. Max set the pace for the boys, finishing in 3rd, with Zac, James, Dexter, Alex and Ethan close behind.

Special thanks to Colby for cheering on enthusiastically from the sidelines!

Luna, Max and Zac



Year 3 trip to Celtic Harmony

On Monday, we went to Celtic Harmony Camp. When we got out of the coach I saw dust, bushes, dry leaves and grass. For a moment I thought we were in the dessert but we weren't. I enjoyed making dens out of wood, leaves, grass, twigs and straw. Also, it was fun trying to make fire by rubbing two sticks together!

Robin, Y3 Ver



Harvest

We are very fortunate to have a member from St Albans and District Foodbank coming to talk to some of our children on Monday 5th October, about the support they provide families.

Their mission is to bring communities together to end hunger and poverty in our area by providing compassionate, practical help with dignity, while challenging injustice. Your support makes this possible. Garden Fields will be collecting donations for their Harvest Appeal (see info graphic).

Please bring donations to the Upper School Hall on the morning of **Monday 5th October**. Donations will be collected after assembly in the morning so please do not bring after this time.



St Albans & District Foodbank
Together with Friends

Harvest Appeal

Help Support your local foodbank this Harvest!

In the three weeks leading up to Harvest, the food bank will provide over 700 food parcels for local individuals and families facing hardship.

Donate Food – Donate an item or two from our shopping list, ensuring we can provide food for people facing hardship in your local community.

- Bring to our warehouse
- Drop off at your nearest donation point (see our website)
- Order online at <https://givetoday.co.uk/stalbansfoodbank/>

Donate Money – Help to cover the costs of storing and distributing food, as well as developing sustainable projects.

Thank you

Drop donations to our warehouse
Unit 3 Redbourn Industrial Estate, AL3 7LG
0960
Tue and Fri: 10am - 3pm
Wed and Thur: 10am - 12pm

www.stalbansdistrict.foodbank.org.uk
01727 813019
info@stalbandsdistrict.foodbank.org.uk
[@StAlbansDistrictFB](https://www.facebook.com/StAlbansDistrictFB)
[@st_a_and_dist_foodbank](https://www.instagram.com/st_a_and_dist_foodbank)



HARVEST 2026 WISH LIST

- Baked Beans
- Dried Pasta 500g / 1kg
- Tea Bags 40 or 80 pks
- Coffee 90g
- Tinned Vegetables
- Tinned Fruit
- Tinned Soup
- Tinned Meat
- Tinned Macaroni Cheese
- Tinned Custard
- Tinned Fish
- Tinned Tomatoes

WISH LIST

- Cereals
- Longlife Milk
- Cooking Sauces
- Tinned Rice Pudding
- Desserts
- Deodorant
- Longlife Juice
- Noodles
- Jam/Spreads
- Nappies (Size 4 upwards)
- Toilet Rolls
- Laundry Tablets
- Shower Gel
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Washing Up Liquid

ITEMS WE DON'T NEED

- No Nuts** if Your School or Organisation is Nut-Free
- No Alcohol
- No Fresh Food Or Perishables

WE WELCOME MONETARY DONATIONS. PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.stalbansdistrict.foodbank.org.uk

[@StAlbansDistrictFB](https://www.facebook.com/StAlbansDistrictFB)
[@st_a_and_dist_foodbank](https://www.instagram.com/st_a_and_dist_foodbank)

Harvest 2026

REGISTERED CHARITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES: 10497



PTA Update

The new school year brings some exciting changes to the GFS PTA, including a new team of co-chairs.

Thank You!

We would like to say a huge thank you to Jenny Jones and Jane Davda, who are stepping down as PTA co-chairs this year.

They have done an amazing job, showing great passion and dedication to our school and its children. Between them, they have contributed an incredible 14 years of PTA membership.

We would also like to thank Jemma Scanlan, Godfrey Dsouza, and Miss McLaughlin who are stepping down from the committee this year. They have all been invaluable members of the team over the past few years.

Introducing Our New Co-Chairs

We are pleased to announce that the PTA will now be led by three parent co-chairs:

Anna Reimonte, Alice Mannion and Victoria Palin.

We are looking forward to continuing to help raise vital funds for the school through exciting events for our community.

The PTA committee is now a small team of just six parents and staff members, so we would really welcome your support. There are lots of ways to get involved, whether you can help on a regular basis, or just occasionally.

If you would like to find out more, please email us at pta@gardenfields.aetrust.uk.

Our Fundraising Target

Our main fundraising focus this year will be continuing to support the school's exciting OPAL partnership, which many of you will have heard about over the past few weeks.

We have already donated £6,000 towards the kick-off of this project, and will continue raising money to help fund its next stages.

In addition to this the PTA continue to subsidise all class trips, including the Year 3 trip to Celtic Harmony this week; alongside other regular contributions such as the Year 6 Leavers' Hoodies, and the coach for the Year 4 Young Voices event.

Autumn-Term Events

We are delighted to be back with an exciting programme of events for the autumn term.

Please see our upcoming events.

Come along, get involved and support the PTA!

Many thanks,

Anna, Alice and Victoria

GFS PTA



Upcoming PTA Events



8th
Oct

PTA Pub Meet



16th
Oct

Halloween Disco



20th
Nov

Quiz night (adults only)



11th
Dec

Christmas Cracker



These events rely on the support of parents and teachers to raise much-needed funds for the school. If you can spare some time to help make them a success, we'd love to hear from you.
pta@gardenfields.aetrust.uk

