

Garden Fields School Newsletter



2nd October 2020

Growing Herts and Minds

It seems amazing that our children have been back at school for a month now! Over the last few Fridays I have been updating you over the latest 'tweaks' to our Covid plans. So it is great to be able to focus this week on more education related matters!

Firstly I wanted to remind you of our pre-pandemic work on refreshing our vision for Garden Fields going forward.

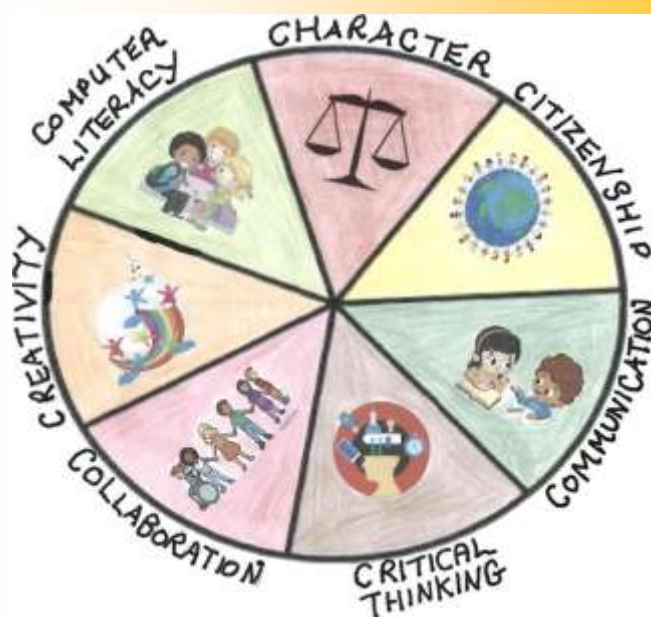
Over the first half of the last academic year we looked at the school values and learning behaviours that we wished to foster in all of our children by the time that they leave Garden Fields School. Some of the language is quite challenging—such as a word like Compassion. However, it is our aim that children will understand this by the time that they leave us at the end of Year 6 and more importantly that they demonstrate it!

In our first few assemblies this term (via Google Meets) we have reminded our children of these 6 core values. Please can we work as a whole school community to both educate our children in their meaning but also act as role models by demonstrating them as well.

School Values



Learning Behaviours



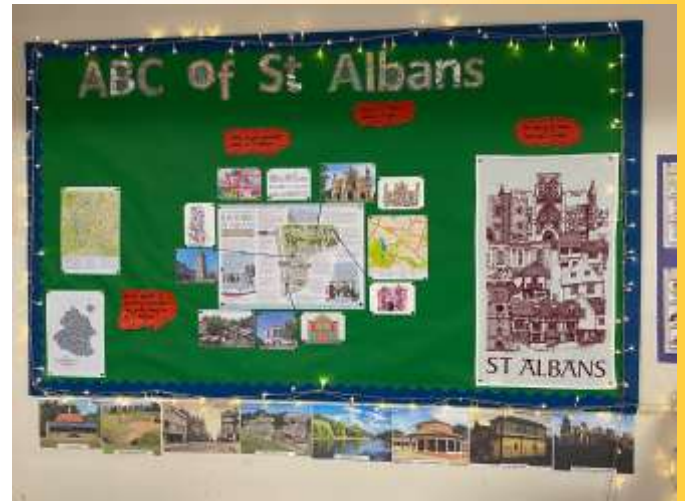
Curriculum Development 2020/2021

We have encapsulated our ambitions for children's learning in the phrase Growing Hearts and Minds.

Leading on from our work last year on values and learning attributes, this year we continue the process begun just before Lockdown of reviewing our curriculum. We need to ensure that our curriculum meets our aims developing the learning behaviours that we are seeking to develop: the 7 C's of Deep Learning listed above and developed by leading Educationalist Michael Fulhan. We feel that as a school our curriculum has always been an engaging and exciting one but we also need to continually review our work to ensure that it best meets our children's needs.

We are entitling this new curriculum vision as Curriculum 2021—developing in 2021 and also a curriculum for the 21st Century!

Recovery Curriculum



Our Autumn Term Recovery Curriculum topic The ABC's of St Albans is now in full swing!

Children are writing about their favourite places in St Albans, making models of our important historical buildings such as the Abbey and the Clock Tower, writing about famous people who have connections with, or grew up in St Abans such as Professor Stephen Hawking and also studying the geography of our city.

In English and Maths we are following Herts For Learning's Back on Track programmes which aim to ensure that pupils catch up on any key concepts that they may have missed from the second half of the last academic year.

In this way all of our children have the capacity to catch up and not be left behind.

Diversity

I mentioned at the end of the summer term how a group of our parents from Beech class - now Larch class - had purchased a number of books from our class library on the theme of diversity.

These have now arrived and will go into our library.

Many thanks indeed for this.

As part of our curriculum review we will be looking at ensuring that our curriculum is truly inclusive, recognising the significant role people of colour have made in shaping our world.

Indeed Diversity is one of our chosen school values.



Chromebooks

Many thanks to Mr Ryan, our computer technician (and former class teacher).

He spent a lot of time over the summer setting up our computers for the new term and also receiving and setting up our new Chromebooks.

I spoke with some of Nightingale class who were using them today to create Google slideshows. They were very pleased with how they could login and load them up so quickly! The Chromebooks provide us with a very affordable way of expanding the amount of technology that we have in the school and we aim to purchase more trolleys of Chromebooks over the next few years.



Garden Fields Flag Project



Flag Project

Miss Lee, Mrs Kemp-Robertson and Mrs Bibi are hard at work piecing together the hundreds of excellent flags that you have made for us as part of our flag project.

It's a long job—we haven't forgotten!

This as you may remember was a way to create a colourful, creative expression of our Garden Fields community's experiences, concerns, hopes and dreams of the pandemic period.

Thank you so much for all of your hard work on this.

We look forward to displaying the full results to you later this term.

Fleeces and Warm Weather PE kit

We have reached the colder part of the term this week –and wetter!

We have put the heating on but are leaving windows open and some doors.

As such your children are more than welcome to wear fleeces over their jumpers—preferably in blue, black or grey if you have them, but there is no need to make a special purchase. Please can we avoid large logos /garish colours though please! I have sensitive eyesight!

Also make sure that your children have warm clothing (see uniform policy on our website) for P.E.

Have a good weekend everyone

One to spend wrapped up well by the looks of things!