

Garden Fields J.M.I School

Townsend Drive
St. Albans
Herts
AL3 5RL
Telephone 01727 890440



Headteacher : Mr A. Farrugia

- ◆ E-mail : admin@gardenfields.herts.sch.uk
- ◆ Website : www.gardenfields.herts.sch.uk

6th November 2020

Dear Parents

We have had a busy and productive first week back since the half term break and I have enjoyed looking at some of the children's **ABC's of St Albans** work both on display, in PowerPoint presentations and videos this week. Some of these will be making their way on to year group blogs over the next few weeks. Some are rather large and we are hoping to put them on our YouTube channel and therefore will take a bit longer. We hope that you enjoy them.

Our **Flag Project** was completed just before half term and we have prepared a video for you to watch to show them to you.

<https://www.gardenfields.herts.sch.uk/project/gfs-flag-project/>

I would like to thank Miss Palmer (Deputy) and Miss Lee for organising and Miss Lee (again!), Mrs Kemp-Robertson and Mrs Bibi for their sewing. Thank you also to Mr de Bruin for hooking them all up around the hall. And thank you to all the children and families who contributed. We will keep them up so that once we are able to open more fully you will all be able to see them!

I would like to say a big thank you to our PTA for their tremendous work to put on the **Halloween Maze** activity over half term. So imaginative to come up with this 'Covid-safe' activity! Many thanks to all those who organised and set this up and helped to run it. Thank you to everyone who came along to participate and support the event too.

On Monday (9th) we will be having a collection for our local **Foodbank**. We will have some crates in the upper school hall for you to put your donations into from 8.30 a.m. until 9.00 a.m. We will have adults on the door and we will have an in-door and an out-door and it should be a swift operation to keep everyone distanced. We attach a flyer which details the types of items the Foodbank require.

On Wednesday (11th) we will be having a two minutes silence to those in the armed forces who have lost lives/been injured during wartime. **Remembrance** will be an assembly theme over the week. Currently I am doing two live assemblies via Google Meet (infant and junior) each week and teachers are putting together their own PowerPoint assemblies including their recorded voice (and sometimes their children's too!) together with film or video. In fact our new House Captains were introduced this way – I will feature them in my next curriculum newsletter.

On Friday (13th) we have our sports themed **Children in Need** day. Children are allowed to come to school in sports clothing – please make sure they are warmly dressed though!

Next week Mrs Dicks will be sending out information about how to sign up to this month's 'virtual' **parent consultations** on the 24th and 26th November.

As we go in to the second Lockdown things are somewhat different to the first. One aspect that we have received guidance on is around sports clubs. As seems to be the norm with such guidance now, it is rather open to interpretation. If run in a safe way and if it supports with respite care for parents then it can be run. I believe that in our case with football and netball it does satisfy these two conditions and it can therefore continue. I would therefore not expect to see parents onsite until collection at the end of the session. The children will continue to be coached in their year group bubbles as they have been since the start of term.

I know that I put a piece about e-safety in my last newsletter – it is well worth a read and has links to websites with useful advice. It has come to my attention that a number of children have started playing an app called Among Us. Although it is rated on some sites as 9+, it can expose children to talking to strangers online and although there is a filter it doesn't filter out all of the bad language. We have had children who have been 'spoken to' through the chat function inappropriately. We regularly talk to the children about not giving out personal information online and to report any concerns to their parents and carers, but please be vigilant and check what your children are playing/who they are interacting with online. For further information on this game please go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/y588eubc>

This week I had my first virtual (via Zoom) Headteacher's Tour for prospective reception parents featuring video of the school and the opportunity to ask me questions about our fantastic school. I will be running a further eleven of these so if you do know of any parents currently looking for places do ask them to look on the front page of our website for further information and sign up!

Have a good weekend.

Best wishes,

Mr Farrugia