

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

School Update 16/04/21

Dear Parents,

It was great to see our children back this week! Nice to have some bright weather too – even if it was rather cold!

Relationships, Sex Education and Health (RSHE) Policy

I spoke with governors before half term about the feedback that we had from a few parents regarding the policy which was then approved. I have written to parents today regarding any specific concerns. I am hoping that we will be able to have more face to face visits in the next academic year where parents can look at the teaching materials from our Jigsaw scheme of work and we can discuss these further with you.

Staff update

Mrs Girdwood said goodbye to the class she shares with Miss Watson today. I'm delighted to say that the children will still see Mrs Girdwood however for a few weeks yet, as she will be coming in to help out still before her move to Dorset completes. Miss Tuff also left today for an art teaching post at a secondary school in Northwood. We wish you the very best for the future Miss Tuff!

We had some new Teaching Assistants (TAs) start with us this week which is why a few have moved class. This has enabled us to have a least one full TA in each year group. Miss Bevan has joined us to support in Reception, Mrs Kelly in Year 2 and Mrs Kearvell in Year 5. Welcome to our staff team all of you! To help us to accommodate these changes and ensure that each year group is suitably staffed, I would like to thank Mrs Healey who has now moved to work with Mrs Riches' class.

We also welcome Mrs Thrift as our new receptionist!

Extra Curricular Clubs

We have further 'dipped our toes' in the water by adding some more clubs this year. Due to having to keep to class bubbles – which also means that the Hub children need a lot of space – this is still fairly limited at the moment. It is also weighted more to the juniors as they are more independent in terms of for example changing, but we are hopeful of getting back to a much fuller offering again by September, if the Lockdown roadmap continues to unfold positively. We are proud of the fact that we maintained our before and after school club provision throughout both Lockdowns for the children of keyworkers, despite many such facilities having to close.

Reusable Nappies

Please find below information about a new Herts County initiative regarding using reusable nappies to protect the environment.

I hope that you all have a good weekend – temperatures are expected to rise somewhat- so do enjoy the warmer weather!

With kind regards,

Mr Farrugia

Changing nappies in Herts

WasteAware, the outreach and engagement arm of the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership, has launched a new scheme called HERTS Reusable Nappies encouraging parents and carers to swap to reusable nappies as their nappy of choice.

Why?

There are 35,000 or so children under the age of 2.5 in Hertfordshire at any one time, each requiring at least 4,000 nappy changes. Disposable nappies make up whopping 8% of residential rubbish, or an estimated 15,800 tonnes annually, costing over £1.7 million each year - with a 40% worse carbon footprint than reusables.

More and more families have already made the switch. We're looking to work with you to reach the parents, families and young people you work with help local families make the most of our offer.

What does the scheme offer?

HERTS Reusable Nappies aims to make choosing reusable nappies simple and easy. We have partnered with a selection of nappy suppliers to provide support, ensuring families can find the right nappies for them, and assistance in creating a smooth journey using them.

Reusables can save £500 per child compared to the cost of buying disposable but they cost more upfront. Our scheme offers 15% off the purchase of reusable nappies and accessories across our partner suppliers. Many accept spread or delayed payments, low cost nappies or hire kits. The discount applies across a huge selection of nappies, so we are confident that suitable nappies are available for every child in Hertfordshire.

Local families don't need to use reusable nappies exclusively to make a difference. Using just 1 reusable a day will save around 1000 single-use nappies by the time their baby is potty trained. If they did want a full-time kit, just 24 reusable nappies can see a child right through to potty training - and then reusable nappies can be used for younger siblings, given away or sold on in the thriving second-hand market. For older children needing longer-term nappy use, the savings can be even greater. There are many larger-fitting nappy options available.

Changing Nappies

Highly engineered designs and clever use of elastic mean that when it comes to containment, they will keep you covered, no matter what. Attractive prints and fabrics make for a stylish bottom, with sizes and shapes suitable for even the wriggliest of little ones. Washing routines can take as little as 15 minutes to fit into the day of a busy parent.

You can find out more at:

[WasteAware website](#)

And/or

[Facebook](#)

Twitter/Instagram: @HertsWasteAware #ChangingNappies #HERTSReusableNappies