

# 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](mailto:admin@gardenfields.herts.sch.uk)
- ◆ Website : [www.gardenfields.herts.sch.uk](http://www.gardenfields.herts.sch.uk)

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## School Update 30/04/21

Dear Parents,

### Curriculum Update and Covid Catch Up

Before the days of the pandemic (can anyone remember them?) we began a long process of reviewing our curriculum to ensure that it was robust in terms of building on children's prior understanding whilst still being exciting, creative and innovative.

We also aimed to ensure that this was the case not just with our 'core subjects' of Maths, English and Science but across all of our curriculum. This, together with our plans for 'catching up' our children academically from the impact of the pandemic, has meant a busy time for our subject leaders. All teachers, except NQTs, lead on one of the primary curriculum subjects and for core subjects we have one at each Key Stage.

We will be finalising our plans for the curriculum ready for September, but in the meantime our English leaders Miss Palmer (KS2) and Miss Phillips (KS1) as well as our Maths leaders: Mrs Huntley (KS2) and Mrs Gleeson (KS1) have been working on our catch-up strategies for maths and English. They have been supported in this process by Deputy Head and Inclusion Lead Ms Palmer and Mrs Kemp-Robertson our Specific Learning Difficulties teacher, to look at how we best meet the needs of our learners using our catch up funding.

Some of the catch-up work has been going on already – for example in the Autumn term Miss Ellwood (currently on maternity) supported learners in Year 3 and Mrs Girdwood has been supporting Y6. We also invested in the Herts for Learning Back on Track programmes for English and Maths to benefit all of the children across the school.

Going forward, we are continuing to teach to what we call the different 'tiers' in each class. There is the first tier which is universal – aspects of learning that the whole class need to catch up. Then there is 'tier two' teaching which aims to support groups of children who may need greater support around a particular concept. Some of this work may be done with a teacher or teaching assistant – and groups may be 'fluid', changing from time to time. For 'third' tier work there may be some individual teaching, although this would mainly be where a pupil already has a dedicated learning support assistant or has specialist teacher support.

I am pleased to welcome Miss Russell to our teaching team to help with some of this work. Mr Benstead will also assist with some of our catch up support but not when he is teaching in Year 5. Miss Jones will also support with this work when she returns to us from maternity leave after half term.

There will be many children of course – and increasingly more children as we go through the summer term - capable of working through our usual teaching programmes, perhaps with some small tweaks.

I have been impressed by our children's enthusiasm since they returned after Easter and I am sure that they will make great strides before we get to the summer holidays.

In the meantime, I hope that you enjoy the bank holiday weekend!

Kind regards,

Mr Farrugia  
Headteacher