

Garden Fields J.M.I School

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Growing Hearts and Minds

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Headteacher : Mr A. Farrugia

3rd September 2021

Welcome Back!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, a warm welcome to both our new Reception parents and also all the other children who joined us for the first time this week! We hope that they have a wonderful time with us at Garden Fields!

We are now officially a member of the Alban Academies Trust – a group of schools including Sandringham School, Verulam School, The Ridgeway Academy in Welwyn Garden City and both Wheatfield's Junior and Infant & Nursery Schools. Skyswood School will also be joining us soon.



The idea behind the Trust is to collaborate to share best practice across the schools in order to provide all the children within, with the best possible educational experience. It will also enable us to work together to ensure that we bring in extra, valuable physical resources – e.g. premises work, computing and educational equipment - into our schools.

You can find out more about the Trust at: <https://albanacademiestrust.org.uk/our-schools/>

Another change this term is to our website, which has had a refresh for this academic year and should go live shortly! As part of this, we have included information about our updated ethos and values, as well as our new Curriculum which has had a complete refresh, beginning from this year. We hope that you will like the new website format! Many thanks to our website designer -and former Garden Fields parent - Mei Li for her hard work on this and also to Mrs Dicks also for her advice and support!

I don't have too much more to add at this early stage of the term. It was great to see lots of fresh smiling faces - children and parents yesterday – and it's nice to begin with a 'short week' to settle everybody back in before we begin our first full week next week!

Please find attached with this letter a message from Jim McManus, Hertfordshire's Director of Public Health. I have also included some information below this letter, about an initiative involving one of our parents, Stacey Turner, to support evacuees from the current Afghanistan situation.

Have a good weekend!

Mr Farrugia

CHARITY EVENT THIS SATURDAY

We are working very closely with the director of public health and the correct teams supporting Afghan evacuees. It is being organised in a very structured way to meet immediate needs, stabilise people and get them in the best condition possible to begin the journey to resettlement. This is a major undertaking in and of itself and relies on much involvement. We are offering support in various ways. As well as donations, we are preparing mental health and trauma support, which is almost ready for translation, which aids settling.

We have a creative community creating trauma support teddies and tote bags to help supply goods. The show boxes have come in full of everyday essentials (and are still coming from around the country) and thanks to our generous community, we have warm clothing, toys, baby goods, art and crafts and more in abundance for all ages.

*As you can see in the article below, we launched 4 drop off points. Over this week, we have been clearing them and transporting them to **St Saviours Church** ready for our sorting afternoon **this Saturday, 3rd September, between 2 and 6pm**. We have an army of volunteers coming in and we need more and would appreciate any help. We have live music, food and drink, children's play area set up by DJ Jungles, glitter tattoos, face painting, glitter hair, manicures plus a little fury friend visiting. So many local people and businesses joined my mission to help make a difference and it's been lovely to see the community focus on something so importance when they feel so ineffectual, especially after a difficult couple of years.*

St Saviours Church, 25 Sandpit Lane, St Albans

2-6pm with an afternoon of entertainment while we sort donations ready for distribution.

Stacey Turner

<https://www.hertsad.co.uk/news/afghan-refugees-donations-appeal-underway-8263206>

<https://www.hertsad.co.uk/news/afghan-refugees-appeal-success-8285294>