

Garden Fields J.M.I School

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



Growing Hearts and Minds

Headteacher : Mr A. Farrugia

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

15th October 2021

School Update: 15th October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Covid update

Thankfully, we haven't had to talk quite so much about the Pandemic this term and I have been able to write about 'normal' school matters for a change! We have however had a number of cases over the last few weeks. Having said this, as children and sometimes staff have to stay off due to a positive test result, other children/staff finish their isolation period and come back.

We are still bound by guidance from the DFE and if we have 5+ cases in a class then we have to take guidance from Herts Public Health. We briefly reached this threshold this week but then other children came back. I spoke with the county public health department who are pleased with our measures, but did recommend that we postpone our children's' discos until later in the academic year when hopefully infection rates, which are high in St Albans compared to the national average, will diminish again. We have 8 children and 2 staff isolating currently but we are only too aware how this could quickly change.

As infections locally are prevalent currently, we are reintroducing temperature checks for children as they go into class as from Monday. Please can I remind you to also make sure that your children have **Warm Clothing** – fleeces in plain colours, preferably blue, black or grey, including our very own Garden Fields fleece are acceptable – because extra ventilation is one of the recommendations from the Department of Education for schools to use to help prevent infections spreading.

PTA Pumpkin Carving Competition and Pumpkin Festival - *Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd October*

After last year's successful event, the PTA are having another Pumpkin Carving and Pumpkin trail event. We very much hope that you can support this fantastic event. Further details will be emailed this evening.

Wear it Pink (or Green!) for MacMillan

Also, next Friday 22nd October, we are having a special MacMillan and Breast Cancer Now Awareness Day. As many of you may know our Year 5 teacher Miss Watson is currently undergoing treatment for cancer and we will be having a special assembly next Friday to support her in her bid to raise money for



both charities which do so much to support those suffering from Cancer. The assembly will be sensitively handled but do let us know if your child(ren) may need particular support because of their own family experiences. We are allowing children to wear either pink or green on this day (outfits must be warm, footwear practical and no face paint or coloured hair) in return for a suggested £2 donation or whatever you can spare as a donation. Please make your donation through the school Gateway. Children can of course wear their school uniform today if they wish with a green or pink item included.

We will be sending out some green and pink hearts in the middle of next week – if children want to wear them on the Friday – although this is completely optional. Children are welcome to write on the heart the name of someone they wish to honour and celebrate.

Harvest Festival – Monday 18th October 2021

Don't forget that on **Monday** we will be having a collection items for the St Albans Foodbank. Please bring your contributions to the Upper School Hall first thing in the morning (Items are being collected late morning).

Batchwood Drive Entrance / Cycling / Scooters /Dogs

Just to let you know, we are now opening the gate on the Batchwood Drive /school field side by 7.30 a.m. each morning. Can I also ask that if you are on a bike/scooter that you dismount (adults and children) and use the pathways when on the school site – we have a lot of people crossing the field which is going to spoil it. Please be reminded also that dogs are not allowed on the premises either.

Have a good weekend everyone,

Mr Farrugia

