

Garden Fields J.M.I School

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Growing Hearts and Minds

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12th November 2021

School Update: 12th November

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, on Thursday (11th day of the 11th month) at 11 a.m. we marked Armistice Day with a minute's silence to remember those who have lost their lives in warfare. The children observed the silence very respectfully. We had an assembly all about remembrance today as well.

Christmas

We recently had advice issued from county public health urging against large events, including those where there are to be shared catering and toileting facilities. With this in mind we have reluctantly decided to not host a Christmas Fair this year. However, we are looking forward to potentially hosting something smaller, and outdoor, straight after school on one of the days in the last week of term. I will update you once details have been finalised.

We also won't be hosting our traditional KS2 Christ Church carol concerts, as these involve large numbers of children performing in a confined space with lots of adults. We are however, hoping to film different KS2 year groups performing their music work with Miss Wray that you will be able to watch from links that we send out to you. If anyone can help with filming then please let us know!

The St Albans Abbey Service organised by the local primary music society, at which some of our children were attending, has also been cancelled by the organisers.

We will be having a nativity for Y1 this year and hope to invite parents only, from one class at a time (socially distanced, with the doors open and in masks!) to 3 different performances in the penultimate week of the term. Details for Y1 parents will follow shortly.

Our reception children are learning nativity songs as well and we are hoping to film them in action! Our current reception classes will also hopefully then have the opportunity to perform in the nativity 'live' to parents when they are in Year 1 next year.

Hopefully infection rates will begin to subside over the spring and summer and we will be able to have more events for all parents to come into school again!

Fund raising for former Garden Fields Family

Sara Khalid, one of our former pupils, has sadly been diagnosed with a cancerous brain tumour. The family have a long association with Garden Fields - Sara is the youngest of 4 girls who all attended Garden Fields. Sara left us to go to secondary school last year.



Some of you will know the family with all four daughters having come to Garden Fields.

A fundraising page has been set up to support the family if anyone would like to help:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/zaheen-khalid>

Anti-bullying week - Odd Socks Day – Monday 15th November - All children and staff are invited to wear odd socks to school as we celebrate what makes us all unique in Anti-Bullying Week!

<https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week/odd-socks-day>

Reminder for next week too: Children in Need – Friday 19th November Children, if they wish, may come to school dressed in as many colours as they can or something sparkly. No face paint or hair colouring please. Please make any donation direct to Children in Need

<https://donate.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/>

Wear it Pink (or Green!) for MacMillan and Breast Cancer Now Awareness Day. As you are aware we held a fundraising day on 22nd October 2021 to support Miss Watson's bid to raise money for both charities. Thank you to everyone who donated. We are delighted to advise that just over £1,340 was raised.

And Finally - here are our Term Dates for the 2022/23 Academic Year

INSET Days Thursday and Friday 1st and 2nd September 2022 – so children back on the 5th September 2022

Half Term: Monday 24th – Friday 28th October 2022

Occasional Day off: Friday 25th November

Christmas Holidays: Thursday 22nd December 2022 – Wednesday 4th January children back on Thursday 5th January 2023

Friday 10th February: INSET Day – and then Half Term – Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February 2023

Easter Holidays: Monday 3rd April – Friday 14th April - INSET Day on Monday 17th April – so children return on Tuesday 18th April 2023

Friday 26th May: INSET Day and then Half Term – Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June 2023

Last day of summer term: Friday 21st July 2023

Summer Holidays begin: Monday 24th July 2023

Have a good weekend!

Yours sincerely,

Mr Farrugia

