

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



4th March 2022

School Update

Ukrainian Refugee Collection



It was great to such a large quantity of items donated to the Ukraine Refugee Appeal organised by a group of dedicated parent volunteers on Thursday morning. The picture was apparently a second batch of items that was donated, with an earlier batch already sent to a unit ready for dispatch.

Thank you to all those who organised this and the volunteers involved on the day, for your thoughtful actions.

Thank you to everybody who donated as well.

Absence Letters

Now that we have been back to school for two terms and with the incidence of Covid in the school and community diminishing, we are about to issue some letters to parents where we have concerns about their child's attendance. However, these won't be sent where there have been a number of Covid related instances and where the absence is untypical when we look at a pupil's attendance history over time.

The government regards persistent absence as anything below 90% attendance. We have to be mindful however, that with the isolation requirements for Covid, that many children whose attendance is historically good will have fallen below this threshold. Where attendance is around the 85% mark or lower, and there hasn't been any Covid linked factors however, we will be making contact.

If a child is missing for example 20% of the school year, it means that they are off school on average for a day a week. If children are missing a fifth of their education then this is really detrimental to their learning and they will develop gaps in their understanding of key concepts across the curriculum.

As we begin to move out of the Pandemic and hopefully we continue to move to greater normality, it is important that our children begin to get back to good attendance.

If you receive a letter however, and believe that there are other factors that we have overlooked or have not informed us of that have affected your child's attendance then do let us know.

Medication in School

With this update you will have received a letter regarding medicines. Please take time to read it, as it relates to concerns we have with medicines being brought into school. Thank you.



World Book Day

Thank you for helping your children for getting behind World Book Day with all of their lovely costumes and enthusiasm yesterday. I will put a few more photos in our end of term letter, but in the meantime, here is a lovely picture of Willow class and a rather motley crew of people on the right!



Comic Relief

March really is the month of 'special days'! In assembly this week we spoke about Shrove Tuesday, International Women's Month (with International Women's Day on Tuesday 8th March) and World Book Day. Unfortunately, I neglected St David's Day which was also on Tuesday – but we will look at Saints collectively in a future assembly as soon we will have St Patrick's Day and then in April St George's Day.

In the meantime, **Comic Relief is on Friday 18th March** and children are invited to wear non-uniform on a red theme or simply add something red to their school uniform (no dyed hair and face paint though please) on that day. Children who have PE should either bring their PE kit with them or wear it under their outfit.

Please make any donations direct to Comic Relief -
<https://donation.comicrelief.com/cart/1YsYOwm2pHZgBUhWr8ZL13>

Have a good weekend everyone,

Mr Farrugia