

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



School Update: 25th March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have lots of news, achievements and photos to share with you in next week's end of term newsletter, but there are just a few items that I want to share with you before then.

Firstly, thank you to everyone who contributed to our **Reach out for Refugees** day on Monday. In total we raised £370.52 in our Monday collection but also, without knowing the total, we also know that many of you have also contributed to the Just Giving Page: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/ReachOutForRefugees>. Thank you also to Ms Lee for her excellent assemblies for each Key Stage on the theme of refugees.

Thank you also to our **PTA** for organising the **Mothers' Day Sale** today – perfect weather for it too! We hope that anyone receiving presents on Sunday enjoy their gifts!

Thanks must also go to Ms Lee again, for organising our book fair this month, which in the end raised **£433.58** to spend on books for the school. Thank you to all of you who bought books too – we hope that your children have enjoyed them!

Parent Consultations

Well it was all going quite well until that power cut came along at around 6.40pm last night! We never legislated for that! We will of course be in touch with anyone who lost their booked appointments to rearrange them with you.

Changes to INSET Days

Due to the complete revision of our Curriculum this academic year, we will be taking a **final** additional INSET day this year on the day before the May half term holiday on **Friday 27th May 2022**. This will give our teachers extra time to continue to prepare for teaching some new topics/topic content for 2022/23, as we have made some further adjustment to our long-term topic plans going forward.

From September 2022, we will revert to the usual 5 INSET days, but in light of our excellent experience of taking part in the Alban Academies Trust (AAT) Teaching and Learning Conference this year, we will be taking INSET days on the Thursday and Friday before the February half term each year going forward. This means that we will have two INSET days in 2023 on Thursday 9th and Friday 10th February, meaning that the last day for children would be **Wednesday 8th February 2023**. To make sure that there are 5 INSET days next year, we will be removing the one initially planned for Friday 26th May 2023.

All these changes have now been made on the Term Dates section of our website.

Eco Committee Competition

Our Eco Committee pupils would like to welcome you to enter a special competition that they have prepared, with the chance to win 1 of 15 bird and bug boxes - perfect for encouraging wildlife into your garden! The boxes were kindly donated by George and Samuel's (Y2) grandfather and are of excellent quality. The competition is in the form of a quiz, which will be put on Seesaw by Miss Orviss and all your children will need to do is to complete it and then send it in with their name on it together with £1. All proceeds will go towards developing our environmental area behind the tyre park. Your child's entry needs to be handed in to their teacher by **9am, Thursday 31st March 2022**.



Ground Force Garden Fields

Also on a Eco theme – our Eco Committee would also like to improve our environmental area and need you help! Please read the attached flyer asking for volunteers to help.

Arbor

Please note that our management information system has recently changed to a system called Arbor. Many schools in Hertfordshire are doing the same.

For the Summer term we will continue to use the school gateway for all payments except for School Meals (KS2 paid meals only). However, you will notice over the next week there are two Garden Fields accounts when you log into the school gateway app. The older version will disappear once the Spring term payments have finished.

To pay for school dinners (KS2 paid meals only) for the Summer term you will need the pay through the Arbor app. Full details will be sent regarding this by the start of the Summer term.

We will then eventually move all payments to the Arbor app for the start of the next school year.

Wellbeing week

Next week we will have some special activities for our children around the theme of wellbeing – again, I look forward to reporting back on this in next week's newsletter.

Have a good weekend everyone,

Mr Farrugia