



Jubilee Celebrations

Over the last few weeks we have had a number of assemblies about the life and times of Queen Elizabeth II. Today culminated in our own Platinum Jubilee celebrations with a special garden party to mark the occasion.

Over the week our children have had the opportunity to have their picture taken with the Queen (well a cardboard version!).

Each year group has also had a decade to focus on from the 1950s to the 2010s. This included looking at a particular artist/art style from the decade and learning a song from the decade too. We even set up a timeline of events from the decades in the upper school hall, with each year group representing their decade on a display wall. This meant that the children could 'walk through the decades'. You will be able to see this work at our Celebrations evening on Thursday 7th July.

At yesterday's garden party, after singing the national anthem, the children sang their songs in their year groups, to the rest of the school. After this we had some Maypole Dancing from Year 2 and then it was the turn of a number of our staff to repeat the Maypole Dancing—although not quite as well!



Many thanks to Miss Palmer for co-ordinating and to all of our staff for getting behind the theme and producing such a great experience for our children.

Thank you to Mr de Bruin for 'rigging us up' for the afternoon and to him, Mrs Corley and all the helpers who set up the field for us. Also to Mr Fryer for taking it down!

A special thank you also to those who worked with the children to make bunting - Mrs Corley, Miss Earnshaw, Mrs Gibbs and Miss Gibbs.

Thank you also to the HCL team led by Mrs Keen for producing over 100 Jubilee picnic lunches and sourcing hundreds of ice lollies for all our children to enjoy!

Many thanks to GFS parent Mrs Fewkes and also to Simone from Beech Road's Fashion 'n' Fabrics for providing us with lots of materials for the bunting!

Garden Fields School Newsletter

End of Summer Half Term
Curriculum and Achievement
26th May 2022



Growing Hearts and Minds

More Jubilee Celebrations



Residential Trips Return!

Over the last half term we really feel as if school life is returning to normal after the restrictions of the pandemic - one example of this has been the numbers of trips that we had recently, not just day trips but also local walks and for the first time since 2019, the return of our residential trips.



For Year 4 we like to begin our residential trips with a short one night stop over and to have a venue that is fairly nearby. Gilwell Park is a scouting centre in a lovely countryside location on the outskirts of Epping Forest. The children engage in a number of outdoor activities including climbing walls, archery and of a course an evening campfire!

For Year 5, our children stayed at YHA Bath and we visited Legoland on our way down.

The next day we went to Bath Museum of Work, played mini golf at

Victoria Park, had a picnic outside the Royal Crescent and took a boat trip along the Avon. On day 3 we went to the Roman Baths Museum before embarking on the journey back to Garden Fields.

Altogether we have taken over 160 children away on residential trips so far this year and next month we will be taking about another 80 or so away to an adventure activities centre in Norfolk.

Obviously this is a lot of children, so many thanks to all of those teachers, TAs and LSAs and support staff who go away with the children, giving up their own family and personal time to make these trips happen.



Year 1 Trip to the Zoo



It has also been great to see the return of so many summer term day trips so far this term as well. Year 1 went to London Zoo this week as part of their Animal Safari topic and had a great time, whilst learning even more about the life of a number of species.

Y3 Visit to Verulamium Museum



Year 3, as part of their Romans topic, walked up to the Verulamium Museum and hypocaust. They also read their Roman acrostic poems at the Roman Theatre!

Reception Ark Farm



Despite the inclement weather, our Reception children enjoyed a visit from Ark Farm last Friday. With the opportunity to meet goats, sheep, a donkey and a sheep dog at close quarters!

Y6 at Si5 Spy Mission



At the other end of the school, Year 6 attended a special secret missions centre called Si5 Spy Missions which linked in with their topic work this term. Some dressed up for the experience whilst others were more restrained!

Garden Fields Year 5 Football Champions!



I know we mentioned this briefly in a recent update, but it's worth repeating– our Garden Fields Year 5's won the annual Year Five 6 a-side tournament hosted by Colney Heath School on Saturday, 7th May. Well organised and managed by veteran Garden Fields football manager Mr Berman, the team won all of their games scoring 20 goals and only conceding one!

Congratulations to Sam, Oisin, Harry, Jeevan, Joel, James, Victor and Fraser on your amazing achievement. Also congratulations to Martin who played in the qualifiers but was ill and so couldn't attend the final itself. We look forward to seeing how you all get on in the district league and cup tournaments in year 6 next year!



STOP PRESS:

Yesterday, before joining us for our Jubilee Garden Party festivities, a team of our Y6's were in action in the St Albans and District Basketball Tournament. Congratulations children and to Miss Elson for organising and leading.

More details will follow after half term!

Men of Fields Are Back!



Local fund raising legends The Men of Fields are back in action in June. The local cricket team, made up of both former and current parents, are often to be found raising money for Garden Fields at our Christmas and Summer Fairs, but they also raise a lot of money for various charities through charitable walks and other activities.

This June they will be taking part in the fourth in a series of walks which have already raised more than £80,000 to date. The 2022 event is the famous Ulster Way walk of 75 miles (120km), which will be dedicated to The British Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal and a charity close to their hearts and local to the walk: the Northern Ireland Hospice Appeal.

Their aim is to raise £10,000 for each charity.
If parents want to donate to British Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal see

<https://bit.ly/3NR6q1M>

and for the Northern Ireland Hospice Appeal see

<https://bit.ly/3NNyoet>

We wish them the very best of luck with the walk!

Achievements



Erin in Y6 represents our St Albans and District football team as their goalkeeper. Last weekend the team won the Southern Counties League Championship! This is the first time the St Albans District Girls team has ever won the league. Congratulations Erin—this is an excellent achievement!



Sadie and Finlay from Y4 walked to 10 miles to raise money for diabetes research on 8th May. This is very dedicated and thoughtful of you both - well done!



Chloe in Thames class held a sale recently to raise money for Ukraine and for Garden Fields PTA. She managed to raise around £460 (donations still coming in) and is going to split the money 50:50 between the two. This is also very thoughtful - great work Chloe and thank you for your kind donation!



Talented singer Kali, from Y5 has been performing in Milton Keynes in a professional stage show of Les Miserables. We are very proud and honoured that one of our children has been selected for such an impressive role! We hope that you have enjoyed it Kali!



More Achievements



Anya , Marisa and Chloe (once more!) all from Thames Class, along with their helpers of Elena (Bluebell Class) and Isla and Alex (Oak Class) organised a charity sale recently. They worked incredibly hard gathering all the items, organising competitions and advertising the sale. All their hard work paid off and they raised an amazing £203!

They decided to donate 2/3 of this to the Ukraine and the remaining 1/3 towards the Garden Fields Eco Committee's plans to develop our environmental area at Garden Fields.

Well done to all of you—it looks like you had an amazing sale!



Priscillia in Year 5 has participated in the recent Northampton Festival of Performing Arts and achieved 1st place in the Intermediate piano section.

Many congratulations Priscillia!

Whole School Photo

IMPORTANT REMINDER!

On the afternoon of the first Monday back after half-term, that is Monday 6th June, we will be taking a whole school photo including all children and all staff
- that is around 580 children and around 100 staff!

It is the first time in 6 years that we have attempted this.

Please make sure that your children are dressed in smart uniform for the day
(no PE kits needed for this day).

We look forward to seeing the results!

School Survey Extension

We are extending the final date for your [school survey](#) responses to the end of half term - that is, Sunday 5th June. Please do respond - we really welcome your feedback and it will help us to 'shape' future decisions.

Year 1 Parents Q and A 'Zoom'

Mrs Soans and I will be hosting a session for parents on Tuesday 7th June at 9.30 a.m. if anyone would like to join us. We will be talking about future developments at the school and you will have the opportunity to ask us about Year 1 as well as the children's transition into Year 2. I will send the link out on the Monday after half term.

Congratulations Mrs Reynolds

After only leaving us to go on maternity leave a week ago on Wednesday, Mrs Reynolds welcomed a new baby, Maximillian, on the Sunday after! I am sure that you will join me in congratulating her on her new addition to the family!



Have a great HALF-TERM next week!
We will see you all again on Monday 6th June.

