

Garden Fields J.M.I School

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Growing Hearts and Minds

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14th July 2023

Dear Families, Staff and Governors,

The past few weeks have been very busy!

It was wonderful to have so many opportunities to welcome parents and families into school again, the buzz around the school on **Celebration Evening** was really special, there was such a positive atmosphere of celebrating the learning and progress the children have made in their individual journeys over the last year. Our **'Week of Sports'** attracted lots of full voiced supporters in the crowd who made sure every child felt cheered on and valued for the part they played in the race. Lastly, the **Summer Fair** topped off a week of home-school partnership in the sheer numbers of families who faced the rain and thunder to support the PTA.

What has happened over the last two weeks?

Transition Day was on Thursday 13th July. Our children spent time with their new class teacher(s) and the Year Sixes go to Secondary School. We also welcomed our new reception children!

Transition day! (By the Junior Editors)

On Friday, the whole of our school (and all of the schools in Hertfordshire!) had transition day; a day where you move up to the class you will be in next year and spend a day with your new teacher! As we all know, after next week, the Year 6's sadly won't be at Garden Fields anymore, so they all went to visit their new secondary schools to see what it would be like next September. Of course, it will all be a big change and will take a while to get used to, but most people enjoyed yesterday and are excited for the new year.

Sports Day Week



We wanted to celebrate the resilience and Sportsmanship that stood out for the Sports Team and Staff.

The week kicked off with EYFS Sports Day where our Reception Classes had a fantastic time at our Sports Day last week. All of the children enjoyed taking part in a number of races and cheering each other on. They showed such a commitment to sportsmanship that most of the children ran back to their teams without waiting for their stickers! For

that commitment to the event and each other we are awarding each child 2 House Points. It really is very unusual that a child in Reception goes without a sticker!



The Sports Team would like to commend every child who competed in the 'Lap Skip' in all the Year groups. The endurance and dexterity needed to take part in this event shouldn't be underestimated so they are awarding you all 2 House points.

I would like to award every child who fell down and got back up again and carried on racing, 3 House Points, it really shows the quality of your character when you are down that you can still rise up. You make me proud to know you.

We will be giving out other awards and commendations in Assemblies this week as well as announcing the overall House Winners for the Year. In the meantime, the scores for Sports Day are:

Townsend - 738
Harpenden - 770
Batchwood - 811
Waverley - 780

PTA Summer Fair

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to, helped with, attended and generally supported the fair on 7th July 2023. The money raised is still being finalised but early indications are that it's fantastic amount! It was wonderful to see so many families enjoying the day and thanks to Neilson, Barry, Jo, Gill, Gemma and all the PTA volunteers who were up at the crack of dawn making sure that the fair could switch from outdoor to indoor because of the weather warning. Gill and I were worried we had made the wrong call at 11.45am when there were blue skies, but for once the weather forecast was correct and the heavens opened from 12.00! Thank you for braving the elements and supporting us.

You may have noticed that our Year 6 Deputy Editors had taken a break but they are back with a bang this week with a roundup of all the events they have covered over the last two weeks ...

Year 6 - Manor Adventure

Most of the Year 6s went on a long, 5-day trip to Manor Adventure, in Norfolk. They did around 20 activities, which included Giant Stand Up Paddle-Boarding, high ropes, aero ball, kayaking, raft building and many more things. They also learnt a lot of survival skills at the same time, such as how to build a fire and make an SOS sign.

We interviewed Olivia, Joshy and Alex from Year 6, Osprey to hear about their opinions about how it was;

Reporter: "What was your favourite part of the trip?"

Alex: "The instructor called Elliot, he was very fun and he taught me the 'footy spin dance move'."

Joshy: "My favorite bit of the manor adventure trip would've been the Kayaking and the Rafting, because they were fun and I had never done water sports before like that."

Reporter: Were you happy about the rooms you were in and what did you do in your spare time?

Joshy: "Pretty happy about the room and in my spare time I played a card game called 'Mind the Gap' with Alex, Cyrus and Paco."

Alex: "Yeah, the rooms were decent but they could've been a bit bigger! I did cubing in my spare time because I didn't bring any books."

Reporter: What did you least like about the trip to Manor Adventure?

Joshy: "The high ropes, I am not good with heights; I like to restrict my activities to land and water, not air."

Alex: "I hated the high ropes"

Reporter: What did you miss the most from home?

Joshy: "The thing I missed most was the peace and quiet."

Alex: "Fortnite"

Reporter: How good was the food?

Joshy:" The food was reasonable but it could have been healthier"

Alex: "It was decent, except for the fish cakes. But the hash browns were the icing on the cake!"

Reporter: Was the trip everything you hoped for?

Joshy:" I think I underestimated the trip and how fun it would be and I really liked the journey there and back"

Alex:" Yes, except for the food. The trip was fantastic!

Reporter: Did you have a nice time at Manor Adventure?

Joshy:" YES!!!"

Alex: "YES SIR!!!!!!!!!!!"

Year 1 - Lockers Park

On Wednesday, the year 1's went on a school trip to Lockers Park, so we interviewed Poppy-Beau and Benedict/Ben from Oak and asked them the following questions about their visit...

Where did you go?

Poppy-Beau: "We went to Lockers Park"

Ben: "We went to an outdoor activity area!"

What did you do there?

Ben: "We got to do forest school activities."

Poppy-Beau: "We also did fire experiments and I was a volunteer. I got to hold some metal above the fire and then it went all colourful as I did that. Also, some of us got to hold a snake or pet it!"

What would you rate your experience on a scale through one to ten?

Ben: "8/10"

Poppy-Beau: "100/10"

What was your favourite part?

Ben: "The fire part and drama"

Poppy-Beau: "Golf and drama"

What Would Your Ideal School Trip Be???

Q1) What's your favourite subject in school?

- a) History
- b) P.E
- c) D&T
- d) Art

Q2) What do you do on the weekend?

- a) Homework
- b) Running
- c) Designing
- d) Drawing

Q3) What's your favourite sport?

- a) Climbing
- b) Football



- c) Basketball
- d) Swimming

Q4) What's your favourite book genre?

- a) Non-fiction
- b) Adventure
- c) Horror
- d) Diary

ANSWERS!!!



Mostly As: Museum



Mostly Bs: Activity Centre

Mostly Cs: Theme Park



Mostly Ds: Beach



SPORTS DAY

All year groups have had Sports Day, which took place on the field with a bunch of parents coming to watch! Some of the races which we did were:

- The bat and bean bag race
- Slalom
- Hurdles
- A few relay race
- Obstacle relay
- Skipping relays

Here are some photos of sports day....





And as if that wasn't enough we still have more to come ...

NEXT WEEK



Our Y6 children have been practicing their final performance to children and parents. I can't wait to see who is Ant (My money is on Mr Berman!) and Dec and who will eat the bush tucker trials!

House Winners Inflatables Day will be next Thursday, we are still counting up all the points from today's house assembly and it is a really close race so I will be announcing the winning house early next week.

Y6 Leavers assembly

The saddest and happiest day of the year for any teacher. All the staff who have supported the year 6 children through their time at Garden Fields get to see them reach the end of their journey and to celebrate the child they have become. I am so happy that this year, I will get to share the day with the children. It is of course sad that we have to bid them farewell, although I am positive that the children are counting the days until the leavers picnic and their leavers party!

Special Mentions



Future Lionesses!

Chloe, Summer and Violet in Y3 all play for St Albans City South U8s team. They were playing in the Meninas Tournament weekend, and they were winners of the tournament and brought home the shield. It is a fantastic achievement and I know that Mr Berman will be keeping an eye on them for inclusion in his football team in Year 5 and Year 6!



Swimming Success

Hugo and Oscar in Year 5, were picked to swim for St Albans District in the Hertfordshire Inter-District Primary Schools Swimming Championships, in which the boys won their age group and St Albans District won overall in the championship.

Hugo has also just finished his first season of competitive swimming, producing successful results. At the end of the season, he competed in a large two day competition, swimming 13 races and winning 12 medals, including 7 gold.

Final reminders from the school office:

- Please check lost property before the end of term. All unclaimed items will be recycled over the holidays.
- Remember **school ends at 1:15pm** for all students on Friday 21st July. The Hub will close at 5pm.
- All children are to have a packed lunch at school on Friday 21st July 2023.

Wishing everyone a restful weekend,

Ms. Palmer