

Garden Fields J.M.I School

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Growing Hearts and Minds

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Dear Families,

It is so incredibly difficult to believe that we are at the end of another academic year. They do say that time flies as you get older, but I do think that the speed of this year, and especially the last term, has surpassed any other.

Garden Fields has had lots of changes over the school year and will have more over the rest of 2023. We have waved farewell to our old Head, Mr Farrugia, welcomed me as an acting Head and will embrace the future under Mr Sutton from September.

The children have had so many experiences and adventures which have helped shaped them emotionally, socially and educationally. From the Christmas productions, Young Voices at the O2, Hooke Court, Gilwell Park and Manor Adventure to the end of Key Stage performances from Year 2 and Year 6, not to mention the visits, visitors and experience days which have seen Egyptians, Greeks, Vikings and Celts roaming the halls amongst staff and children. The sporting achievements this year have been notable and are testament to the work of the Sports Team - Miss Elson, Mr Weatherhead, Mr Berman and APEX.

All of these opportunities were only made possible through the imagination, planning and organisation of our dedicated staff; from front of house, teaching and support teams, who supported by you, have provided the best possible wider opportunities and education for our children.

A few words from Mr Sutton

Over the past few weeks, I've had the opportunity to visit Garden Fields on a number of occasions. On Open Evening, I enjoyed looking around the classrooms at the children's learning and achievements. The quality and variety of work displayed were incredible. Also, I had the chance of visiting and bringing some of my family to the PTA summer fair; the rain didn't stop play and it was fabulous to see the school community at work supporting the school and their children! On each occasion, I have had the opportunity to chat with both parents and children and hear their experiences of Garden Fields.

I very much look forward to starting as Headteacher in September leading the school and building relationships with the whole school community – Growing Hearts and Minds together.

Mr Sutton



Summer Holidays

Natwest have let us know that they are inviting families to bring their children into branch for an education session with complimentary breakfast refreshment bags. There is no need to book - you can just come along. It's every Wednesday during the Summer holidays between 9.00 and 10.00am:-

26th July, 2nd August, 9th August, 16th August, 23rd August and 30th August

Special Mention – Eco Warrior

One of our Year 3 children, Grace, has started an initiative to clean up the streets and verges of New Greens. It was her idea; six weeks ago, she surprised her family by asking them to buy her a litter picker. Since then, she has been litter-picking regularly on a Saturday morning and there are now 13 volunteers, adults and children who meet on a Saturday morning at 8.00am from Christ Church car park for 45 minutes, followed by a rather tasty pastry breakfast. The group is known as Saturday Pickers. All are welcome to join Grace. It is wonderful that Grace has made such a positive change to the environment and our community at such a young age. I am proud to know you, Grace, as I'm sure are all those who are reading this now.



Year 6 Leavers

Our Year 6 leavers have shared their memories and proudest moments with their parents at the Leaver Assembly today. Good luck to all of the unique, talented, caring and funny young people as they leave one chapter of their lives behind and move onwards to new possibilities and adventures.



Last Words from the outgoing Leadership Team..

From Miss Watson (Acting Assistant Head)

Today, I have many emotions as I say goodbye to the school community that has been my home for the past nine years. It is with sadness and gratitude that I leave these wonderful teachers and children to move to an exciting new job opportunity at HFL. It has been my privilege to teach many age ranges across the school and more recently, become the Acting Assistant Headteacher supporting Ms Palmer and Mrs Reynolds to ensure our school is a happy and successful place. I have enjoyed all roles and aspects of my job but the children's smiling faces has made this the best place to be every day!

My journey at Garden Fields School has been a happy and transformative one. Over these last nine years, I have had the privilege to teach such lovely children and seen them flourish and grow. Together we have shared laughter, successes and challenges. I will miss all of the dedicated, hardworking staff at GFS who have had such an impact on me and wish them all the best in the future. I also wish to say a huge thank you to the whole school community for your love and support last year and I owe you all a debt of gratitude; Garden Fields and all the people in it and connected to it, will forever hold a special place in my heart.

From Mrs Reynolds (Acting Assistant Head)

I wish to say a big thank you to the whole teaching team for supporting myself, Ms Palmer and Miss Watson in running the school this last term. It has been a wonderful experience and I am happy to have been able to ensure the children have experienced a settled, yet exciting, term. I am looking forward to returning to EYFS as the phase leader in September and wish everyone a relaxing and happy summer.

From Ms Palmer (Acting Headteacher)

At the ending of this school year, as we all transition to new beginnings, to new teachers, new schools, new roles or new jobs, I would like all of us to remember that there is nothing that you can't achieve; if you focus on your goal, everything is possible with practice and dedication. When times get tough, reach out and talk. In life, generally people are kind so don't struggle alone. Find joy in the small things and find three good things which happen in every day. In your most challenging times remember that 'this too will pass', there is always a new tomorrow.

So, I wish all our families, staff and governors safe, happy summer holidays full of joy and memories.

See you in September,

Ms Palmer

