



## Anti-bullying Week

Hello Garden Fields Families, Mr Sutton has handed over the introduction of this week's newsletter to me as he knows how much I value the children's contributions to our awareness days. This week's Odd Socks Day and Anti-Bullying Week in general has consolidated the work we have been doing as a school over the last term to raise awareness and give a children the tools to be proactive so that all children feel safe, happy, respected and valued. *Continued on page 4*

## Tiska National Kyu

Samuel (Y6 Nightingale) won two trophies at the Tiska National Kyu Grade Championships on Sunday 5th November.

He won a second place in the individual kata and a third place in individual kumite.

Well done, Samuel!

*Mr Sutton*



## Tennis Success

Marie (Y4 Avon) had a great weekend playing tennis on Saturday 5th November. It was her first time being selected to represent the Hertfordshire team.

Marie helped Hertfordshire to Gold in the LTA 8U County Cup event - Group E Girls overcoming Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Gloucestershire with a Match record of 8-1 win/loss.

Marie will be back in action later this month, playing for Batchwood T.C in the 9U Mixed Division 1 Herts Winter League which kicks off later this month.

Well done, Marie!

*Mr Sutton*



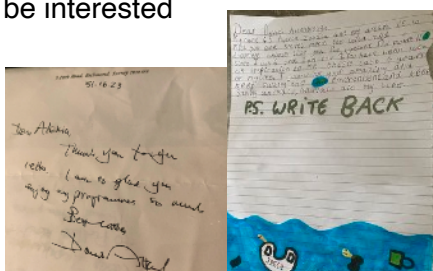
## Letter to David Attenborough

Alexia (Y5 Moorhen) wanted to share some exciting news with the school.

She sent a letter to David Attenborough and received a handwritten personal response.

If any children would be interested in writing to David Attenborough, the address is at the top of the response letter.

*Mr Sutton*



23/11/23	Flu Vaccinations
24/11/23	PTA Quiz Evening
27/11/23	St Alban's Major visit KS2 assembly
29/11/23	Year 5 Trip: Ashmolean Museum
29/11/23	Y6 & 4 Choir members to sing at The Abbey Carol Service

### Attendance (year to date)

	Attendance	Overall Total	Percentage
Reception	96.2%	Overall Total	95.9%
Year 1	94.3%	Female	96.2%
Year 2	96.3%	Male	95.7%
Year 3	97.4%	EAL	96%
Year 4	96.4%	SEND	92.2%
Year 5	95.2%	Pupil Premium	92.8%
Year 6	95.5%	Persistent Absentees	9.9%
Excellent	98%	up to 4 days off each year	
Good	96%	7 school days off each year	
Needs to improve	94%	11 school days off each year	
Serious Concerns	90%	1 month off each year	

There are 175 non-school days a year. That is plenty of time to go on holidays, visits, appointments and shopping.

## Parking

Please do not block our neighbours driveways. This is very inconsiderate.





## Football News

Garden Fields has retained the St Albans regional National Football Trust 6-a-side trophy. After losing the first group game against Skyswood, the team won its next two games to qualify for the semi-finals. There, the boys defeated Prae Wood 1-0 to earn a final place. In the final, they overcame the team that had beaten them in game one by three goals to nil - a wonderful performance. The team showed excellent resilience and character and also adaptability to adjust after the shock of losing the first game. Well done to all.



On Friday 10th November, Garden Fields played the first round of the Wix Cup, a nine-a-side competition that we have only entered once before. Our opponents were Skyswood, whom we had played twice a week earlier in the NFT 6-a-side competition. They have several good players and the game was close in the first quarter, with both teams having chances.

After that, Garden Fields pulled away and led 5-0 at half time. The bigger pitch and longer playing time really made the gulf in class apparent and the final score was 8-1. Our goals were scored by Rasmus (2), Nick (2), Oliver (2), Sam and Oscar. The team progresses to round two with confidence.



On Monday 13th, both our A and B boys' teams were in home league action against Bernards Heath. The B game was an entertaining ten-goal thriller, with both teams committed to attack. Unfortunately, the opposition were just a bit better in terms of chance conversion and took the game by six goals to four. Josh impressed in defence, whilst William bagged all four GFS goals. It is great to see the team scoring. In contrast, the A game was a much more cagey affair. Our team started poorly and found itself a goal down after a couple of minutes. That left plenty of time to find an equaliser - and even a winner - but, despite having the lion share of possession, territory and scoring opportunities, the breakthrough just would not come. Credit to Bernards Heath because they defended very well and were menacing on the counter. Thus, it was that they scored a second in the final minute of the game, with our team pressing hard for that elusive equalising goal. *Mr Berman*

On Wednesday 15th, the Garden Fields Year 5 boys played a league game away at Wheatfields. It was a close and exciting game with little between the sides. Wheatfields scored first, following a quick counter attack. Our team then deservedly equalised, with a smart finish from Oscar.

In the second half, the contest was very even, with plenty of chances for both teams. Max put GFS ahead, receiving a lovely reverse pass from his brother, Thomas. Unfortunately, Wheatfields then scored twice to lead 3-2. Despite Garden Fields hitting the post and forcing the opposition keeper to make several fine saves, that remained the score at the end. A fantastic performance but the result was not quite as good. Well done all.



The boys' football B team were in action again this week, against St Columba's, at home (on Thursday 16th). This was a closely contested match, with both sides enjoying periods of dominance. The opposition scored first but GFS came back into it with a fine finish from Samuel; however, for the second time, St Columba's exploited a weakness on the right side of our defence to re-take the lead. The score remained 2-1 until very late in the game when our opponents scored a third.

The team played really well but St Columba's fully deserved their win, in part because they were more able to play through the lines and transition from defence to attack. Well done to all.

## Christmas 2023

The following events are currently being planned as part of our Christmas celebrations this year.

- \* **EYFS Christmas songs and activities** (*In EYFS Classrooms / Music Room*)
  - \* Friday 15th December 2:15pm – 3pm
  - \* **KS1 Christmas Play** (*Two tickets per family one for each performance. Parents can swap tickets if they wish, in the Upper School Hall.*)
  - \* Monday 11th December 2:15pm
  - \* Tuesday 12th December 9:15 am
  - \* **KS2 Christmas Carols & Christingle** (*Children split into House Groups, concert at school, outside weather permitting.*)
  - \* Monday 18th 2.15pm - Houses
  - \* Tuesday 19th 2.15pm - Houses
  - \* **Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day** (*Children invited to wear either a Christmas / favourite jumper as part of school uniform as we show our support for Save the Children. Parents will be able to order a Christmas lunch via Aspens shortly.*)
- Wednesday 13th December





## PTA News

### GFS Jingle & Mingle

Friday 8th December, 3.30-5.30pm

Plans are coming together for our Christmas event. There will be festive performances by the children, hot chocolate, a bar, hot and cold food, crafts, games and a chance to see Father Christmas too! We really hope to see lots of you there. More info will be coming out through the PTA blog so please subscribe for email updates:

<https://gardenfieldspta.wordpress.com>

Here's a heads-up on a few things we will be asking for your support with; more details will follow in the next week:

- **Christmas Jumper Donations:** Please drop off jumpers in good condition in the uniform wheelie bin, near the bike shelter.
- **Cuddly Toy Donations:** In good condition, for our tombola, please.
- **Bottle Donations:** Bottle hoopla will be back - unopened alcohol, soft drinks and toiletries all welcome.
- **Festive Cake Competition:** We'll be asking for cake and cupcakes - they will then be sold at the Jingle & Mingle
- **Mystery Bags** will be taking a more festive turn this year with our Cracker Surprise stall. House points are still up for grabs though!

Full details of what, when and where will follow soon!

As ever, we will be looking for volunteers and details of that will be on PTA Events, soon. If you love getting things decorated for Christmas, we'd really appreciate your help to decorate the Christmas tree and Santa's Grotto this year. Please get in touch via email if you think you can help us with this:

[pta@gardenfields.herts.sch.uk](mailto:pta@gardenfields.herts.sch.uk) GFS PTA

### Puddlesuit Plea!

Our Reception children embrace the outdoors in all weather as part of their daily routine at Garden Fields.

The EYFS team would greatly appreciate any donations of outgrown/unwanted puddlesuits to help keep the children warm and dry during our inclement weather. Please kindly drop any unwanted items at the School Office. Thank you in advance!  
*EYFS Team*



## Children in Need

It was great to see our children in their sports kit today, to support the work of Children in Need. At breaktime, Miss Elson and Mr Weatherhead led the children in an energetic warm-up and then introduced the children to the Pudsey Bearpees Challenge. We didn't need Joe Wicks as we had Mr Weatherhead - he led a fantastic demonstration of what these should look like!

Well done to all the children who gave this a go and I hope if you are able to you support this appeal to help children who are in need of help.



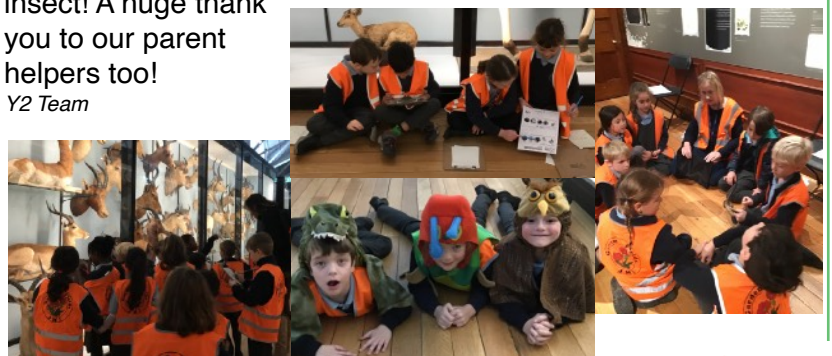
## Year 2 Trip

The highlight of the week for Year 2 was their trip out to the Tring Natural History Museum. Each class was able to attend a 'Polar Expedition' workshop, where they were able to handle some amazing resources, including a whale's rib and a reindeer's antler. They thought about how animals have adapted to life in the cold (fur, blubber, feathers etc) and used prior knowledge to answer some true or false questions.

They also visited the Museum's six galleries and were enthralled by the large selection of exhibits - they especially loved seeing the skeleton of the giant sloth, some very large spiders and some giant tortoises. They followed an alphabet trail around the museum - finding animals such as the aardvark, the lynx and the yellow-eyed penguin. Some children also got the chance to dress up as a mammal or insect!

A huge thank you to our parent helpers too!

*Y2 Team*





## Anti-bullying Week *(continued from page 1)*

This term we reinforced the messages about how our school approaches bullying. This included knowing what steps to take if someone is being bullied, ensuring our pupils know what to do if they are being bullied and that everyone should take bullying seriously because of the long-term impact it can have on friendships and self-esteem as well as emotional and mental health, wellbeing. Bullying is defined as deliberately hurtful behaviour by an individual or a group of individuals, repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves. Garden Fields defines bullying using the acronym STOP: Several Times On Purpose.

We have asked the children to use the phrase 'Please stop! I don't like that' if someone is doing something which makes them feel unhappy or uncomfortable. If a child has the phrase said to them they know that they need to walk away and stop the action. All the children are working hard to try to remember to use the phrase and respond to it!

Your children have also created 'network hands' of people that they know are trusted and safe to give them help and advice if they are experiencing challenges or are feeling like they need to talk, get support.

Lastly, Doodle (along with Mr Sutton and I) has been doing her part to support the children by walking the mile every lunchtime. She also joined in the Bearpees challenge but has spent the afternoon asleep because of it! *Ms Palmer*

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# ONLINE CONTENT

## 10 tips to keep your children safe online

The internet has transformed the ability to access content. Many apps that children use are dependent on user-generated content which can encourage freedom of expression, imagination and creativity. However, due to the sheer volume uploaded every day, it can be difficult for platforms to regulate and moderate everything, which means that disturbing or distressing images, videos or audio clips can slip through the net. That's why we've created this guide to provide parents and carers with some useful tips on keeping children safe online.

- 1 MONITOR VIEWING HABITS**  
Whilst most apps have moderation tools, inappropriate content can still slip through the net.
- 2 CHECK ONLINE CONTENT**  
Understand what's being shared or what seems to be 'trending' at the moment.
- 3 CHECK AGE-RATINGS**  
Make sure they are old enough to use the app and meet the recommended age-limit.
- 4 CHANGE PRIVACY SETTINGS**  
Make accounts private and set content filters and parental controls where possible.
- 5 SPEND TIME ON THE APP**  
Get used to how apps work, what content is available and what your child likes to watch.
- 6 LET CHILDREN KNOW YOU'RE THERE**  
Ensure they know that there is support and advice available to them if they need it.
- 7 ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING**  
Talk about what people might post online and why some posts could cause distress.
- 8 LEARN HOW TO REPORT & BLOCK**  
Always make sure that children know how to use the reporting tools on social media apps.
- 9 KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE**  
If a child sees distressing material online, listen to their concerns, empathise and offer reassurance.
- 10 SEEK FURTHER SUPPORT**  
If a child has been affected by something they've seen online, seek support from your school's safeguarding lead.

**NOS National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) Twitter - @nationalonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety Instagram - @NationalOnlineSafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 14.09.2020

## Online Safety

Please have a look at this poster about Online Content.

It is very important that you talk to your children about their interactions online if they have access to a device which allows internet access.

We will be arranging an Internet Safety Workshop for parents in the Spring Term to help and assist in keeping our children as safe as possible when they are online.