



## Staffing News

I am sorry to advise Rachel Wray, our Music Lead, will not be returning to GFS following her maternity leave. She will be missed by the GFS community and we are grateful to her for all her hard work in elevating music in school over the years.

I am also sad to let you know that Inger Howe, Hub Manager, will be leaving us at Easter. Inger has been part of the GFS community as a parent and colleague for over 20 years. In recent years, she set up The Hub and has been instrumental in its success. Again, we will miss Inger and send her our best wishes for the future.

*Paul Sutton*

## Football News

We are so proud of our Girls' Team who played against Alban City in the St Albans Girls' Cup Match on Friday 26th January.



It was a tense, well played match that went into extra time and then to penalties. Despite never having played to penalties before the girls won the match with excellent shots and superb saves.

Well done, girls!

*Miss Elson and Miss Banks*

## Herts County XC

On Saturday 3rd February, eight pupils represented Garden Fields at the Herts County XC Championship in Bushey. This was a new and very demanding course.

All of the team representing the school ran incredibly well and three of our team ran well enough (top 10!) to qualify to run in the National Primary School XC Championships to be held in March.

Congratulations for outstanding running in Y6 girls - Sadie (3rd), Maisie (4th), and Tom NW (8th) in Y5 boys. Special mention to Fionn in Y5 who fell twice during this challenging race but showed true grit in his attitude. He's determined to come back next year.

Overall our whole team ran their socks off - I was so proud of all of them - and their support for each other was wonderful to watch.

*Miss Smith*



## Parking

Please be mindful of where you park on the roads around the school and avoid blocking pavements and our neighbours' driveways.

Thanks *Mr Sutton*



## House Points

The house points for this week are:



2884



2928



2822



2866

## Cricket Achievement

Evan C, Y5 Moorhen, has been selected for the West Herts Area Cricket Squad. This is the highest level in West Herts U10s. Here he is in his West Herts Area kit.

Well done, Evan - a great achievement!

*Mr Sutton*



## Hair Cut for Charity

A couple of weekends ago, Freya H, Y4 Medway, had a whopping 10 inches cut off her hair in order to donate her hair to The Little Princess Trust, a charity that make and provide real hair wigs for children who have lost their hair to cancer treatments.

Well done, Freya - what an incredible act of kindness.

*Mr Sutton*



## Vacancy - Aspens

There is a vacancy for a catering assistant working for Aspens, the school's catering company.

Job ref: pineapple/TP/76/2546

Job title: Catering Assistant

Please [click here to view details](#)



## Football News

On Saturday 27th January, Garden Fields took part in the ESFA Primary 7-a-side Herts County Finals Day at Parmiters School. We were representing the district of St Albans.

The level in this competition was extremely high and it was dominated by the three fee-paying schools involved.

Our boys acquitted themselves admirably, winning two (including a thrilling 2-1 win over St Mary's after being a goal down and a 6-0 thrashing of Knebworth), drawing two and losing two out of the six games played.

Up to the penultimate game, our team was very competitive in all the games and indeed they won a creditable point against the eventual winners, St Edmunds; however the boys had nothing left for the final game, the only time they were well-beaten.

They represented the school - and the district - very well, indeed.

On Thursday, 1st February, the Boy's A team played a home league game against Wheatfields.

Although GFS were the better team, this was not a routine win. The team made a sloppy start and found themselves 2 down within five minutes.

Gradually, the boys began to exert control and they largely dominated the game for the remaining time.

There were still some testing moments to negotiate but the team held out to win an exciting game.

The Boys' B team played a league fixture at Wheatfields on Wednesday 7th February - and won for the first time.

It was another close game and our opponents had the better of the opening exchanges, dominating midfield and creating some chances from which they might have done better.

Nevertheless, Garden Fields was looking dangerous on the break and from one of these turnovers of possession, Koray found himself with the goalkeeper to beat. He finished expertly, into the bottom corner.

Shortly after, it was 2-0. Sam C pressed well to force another turnover and again, Koray supplied the finish.

It was 2-0 at half-time and for most of the second half the game was fairly evenly balanced, with few clear opportunities for either side. With a minute to go, Wheatfields got one back but there was to be no equaliser. A great performance from all the boys and a deserved win.

Well done, all!

*Mr Berman*

## Litter is not OK!

St Albans City & District Council is on a mission to educate the district that dropping litter is not OK; it is ugly and has a negative impact on our communities and worst of all, is dangerous for wildlife.

We know this is a topic children feel passionately about and so we would love to include them in our drive to stamp out litter!

Every year, hundreds of thousands of individuals take part in Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean campaign, picking up litter that pollutes our streets, parks and beaches and showing the world that they care about the environment on their doorstep.

Research has shown that 'Volunteers Have Tidied Here' signs reduce littering by an average of 40% when colourful signs are erected to tell the public about volunteers' clean-up efforts.

The intervention was most effective in areas where people had time to reflect on the message, such as parks, walking routes, cycle routes and car parks.

The signs, which encourage people to value and respect the actions of local volunteers in the community, also had an impact in an area suffering from littering from vehicles too.

It is a way to discourage littering behaviour and, at the same time, celebrate volunteers by giving them greater recognition for their efforts.

We would love to get the children and young people involved and are running a competition to design a 'Volunteers Have Tidied Here' poster.

The only things which must be included on the poster is the wording Volunteers Have Tidied Here and on the back the name, age and school of the entrant. Other than that, the children can let their creativity run wild!

The winning poster will be used by litter pickers and groups to celebrate their great work, not just during The Great British Spring Clean 15th – 31st March, but for the rest of the year!

*Mr Sutton*





12/02/24	Boys' B Team Football v Fleetville AWAY Girls' Football v Killigrew AWAY
13/02/24	EYFS Fairytale dress up day Y6 A Team Netball AWAY @ Maple
14/02/24	NSPCC Workshop Y6 Y6 Netball AWAY @ St Albans & St Stephen Y5 Football vs Wheatfields HOME
15/02/24	Y5 & 6 Athletics Team Finals @ Herts University
15/02/24	INSET Day: School Closed
16/02/24	INSET Day: School Closed
26/02/24	Boy's A Team Football AWAY @ Bernards Heath
27/02/24	Y6 A Team Netball vs STAHS, HOME match
28/02/24	Y3 & 4 Rapid Fire Cricket @ Beaumont School Y6 Boy's Football National League Trust @ Borehamwood FC
29/02/24	Cross Country Race @ Mandeville School
01/03/24	Y6 Boy's Football Cup Match vs Abbots Langley @ Beaumont School Y6 A Team Netball HOME vs Killigrew

### Attendance (year to date)

<b>Reception</b>	94.5%	<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>95.2%</b>
<b>Year 1</b>	94%	Female	95.5%
<b>Year 2</b>	95.9%	Male	94.9%
<b>Year 3</b>	97%	EAL	94.8%
<b>Year 4</b>	94.8%	SEND	92.4%
<b>Year 5</b>	94.6%	Pupil Premium	92.1%
<b>Year 6</b>	95.3%	Persistent Absentees	11%
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	
<b>Serious Concerns</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>1 month off each year</b>	

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

## Make your street a place to play and meet



We'll help you plan your 2024 street parties, Playing Out sessions and other street gatherings in St Albans, Harpenden and the villages. We lend road closed signs.



### Free information sessions from Sustainable St Albans

More information and booking via our website: [www.sustainablestalbans.org/meet-your-neighbours](http://www.sustainablestalbans.org/meet-your-neighbours)

- Tuesday 13th February  
At the Beech House pub, St Peter's St, St Albans  
Street Parties 7pm; Playing Out 8pm
- Friday 1st March  
At Bennet's Cafe, Leyton Rd, Harpenden  
Street Parties 10am; Playing Out 11am
- Wednesday 6th March  
On zoom - Street Parties 7pm; Playing Out 8pm

### Or drop in and chat with us

- Find us at the Harpenden Sustainability Market, 17th March from 10am-12noon on the Sustainable St Albans stall



With thanks to:



## PTA events

Two new PTA events are coming up after half-term. These are just for the grown ups!

To find out more about both events and to book tickets go to PTA Events, availability is limited so book quickly to guarantee your space.

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/gardenfieldsjmischool/>

### HAIR BRAIDING CLASS

**WHEN:** THURSDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 2024  
DOOR OPENS 7.00PM, CLASS STARTS AT 7.30PM

**WHERE:** GARDEN FIELDS SCHOOL

**TICKETS:** £5.00

**BUY TICKETS ONLINE AT PTA EVENTS**

**BYOB!**

**WHEN:** GEDDING WINE SOCIETY  
BOTTLES START POURING AT 7.30PM

**WHERE:** CHATELAIN TOTTENHAM  
GARDEN FIELDS SCHOOL

**TICKETS:** £5.00

**BUY TICKETS ONLINE AT PTA EVENTS**

**LADIES WINE TASTING EVENING**  
CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



SPRING 2024 |  
PARENTS/CARERS

## ONLINE SAFETY NEWSLETTER.



### DEVELOPING ONLINE SAFETY SKILLS TOGETHER

Here, you'll find lots of simple ways to reinforce the important online safety lessons your child has been learning in school, through Google's **Be Internet Legends programme**. Created in partnership with Parent Zone, the programme is empowering families to make the most of the internet by helping them become confident digital citizens.

Here are some games, recommended by **8 online safety games for kids | GoHenry**, that can be played together to develop and enhance online safety awareness:

**Cloud Quest** – A fun, interactive adventure website with videos and activities teaching your kids about online safety. Cloud Quest has cartoons that teach online safety skills to a wider age range. Cloud Quest is designed for kids under the age of 10.

**Safe Online Surfing** – This is a range of fun games from word searches to matching games, aimed at kids aged 7 to 13. They cover everything from online etiquette to avoiding scams.

**Finn Goes Online** – This app teaches kids about online safety as a 'Choose Your Own Adventure' game. It explains data privacy, cyberbullying, password security and how to stop and avoid online abuse. While it covers some advanced topics, the cute design and the simple language make it suitable for children ages 7 and up.

**Band Runner** – A fun game for 8 to 10-year-old kids with exciting gameplay, where your kids have to answer online security questions to level up their character. The **Child Exploitation and Online Protection** website also has educational content and quizzes for other age groups, making it easy to find lots of great information about online safety, once they're done playing the game.

**Privacy on Patrol Squad** – This is a free set of educational materials for children aged 7 to 11. It includes fun worksheets and quizzes to help your kids learn about internet privacy, passwords and cyber security. There's a big focus on privacy and data protection to make sure that your children lower the risk of identity theft in later years.

**Cyber Defence Quiz** – This is a fun quiz for ages 8 to 12 where your kids answer questions about password strength, email attachments and phishing. The website has a lot of other games and



learning material as well, so you will always find something to help your children learn about online security. It's worth either letting your child watch some of the videos, or you can help explain online security to your kids as they play the quiz.

**Interland** – An educational game made by Google to help teach kids about a range of online safety concerns, it has lessons on cyberbullying, phishing, data protection, and more. Every separate online safety skill is split into a different area in the game and your children get to learn through a variety of mini-games and quizzes. Interland is designed for kids aged 8 to 12.

**That's Not Cool** – A site with interactive games and activities to teach online safety to kids ages 13 to 18, That's Not Cool focuses on healthy and safe friendships and relationships online. This can help your teens make sure they are acting safely online when it comes to interacting with other people and avoid cyberbullying.

## EE MOBILE AND INTERNET MATTERS

EE have partnered with Internet Matters We understand the importance of internet safety and want to help you and your family stay safe online.

*The internet is a great way for families to learn and have fun, but there are issues to be aware of such as cyber-bullying and age-appropriate content. By following a few simple steps, you can help your family, especially children, stay safe online.*



Our partners, **Internet Matters**, have a website full of free and easy to follow expert advice

**The information in the newsletter is given to help promote the safety of children and young people online.**

Every care has been taken to ensure the information and any recommendations in the newsletter are accurate at the time of publishing. Schools must make their own judgements when sharing our recommendations with parents and carers and, where appropriate, always risk assess with their pupils and whole school community in mind.

This newsletter is brought to you by the HFL Education Wellbeing team as part of their online safety support for schools and settings in Hertfordshire. Contact the team at [wellbeing@hfleducation.org](mailto:wellbeing@hfleducation.org) or call 01438 544464.

HFL Education is a leading national provider of school improvement and business support services, training, and resources, which enable schools, educational settings and multi-academy trusts to deliver a great education.

We support those we work with to achieve successful long-term outcomes for their children.

We believe that every young person, through access to a great education, should be able to realise their potential, regardless of where they live, their background or circumstances.

