



Garden Fields School Newsletter

Spring Term No 3

February 新年快乐

HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR

Happy, Caring, and Inspiring!

9th February 2018



Governors' Day

Our Governors came into school yesterday for one of our termly Governors' Days. These days are an opportunity for governors to see the school in action. Yesterday the governors spent the first session in the morning actually helping out with class activities rather than just observing, in order to get a real feel for teaching and learning in a classroom. This aids a better understanding of the role of teachers and support staff and the challenges and successes they encounter within a lesson.

After morning break, they had a presentation from Miss Lincoln, our new phase leader for Reception and Year 1 about the Early Years Foundation Stage. Miss Lincoln outlined her vision for our Reception classes going forward in terms of developing the outdoor area, the quality of adult observations and improving the opportunities for advancing our Reception children's mathematical thinking.

Our governors then had dinner with the children and during the lunch hour spoke informally with them over their thoughts about the school.

They went on to meet with our Junior Leadership Team (JLT) and asked them about their opinions of the school and sought their ideas for any improvements.

The day ended with looking at potential Ofsted questions and the evidence that Governors require to answer such questions about the quality of education provided by the school.

The Governors then fed back to our Senior Leadership Team (SLT) with their thoughts on what they saw over the day.

We are very fortunate to have such engaged and interested governors at Garden Fields. They are supportive but also provide the necessary critical eye through which to help us to continually improve the school. Thank you to the governors for giving up their time in what is after all a completely voluntary role. Thank you also to our JLT and all the children who spoke to our governors over the day.

Hearing your voice is the most important one in helping us to keep improving our school.



Y4 At The O2

We are so fortunate that Miss Wray leads and organises so many wonderful musical opportunities for our children. This term alone we will have one choir going to the Alban Arena to perform, another going to the Albert Hall and this week the whole of Year 4 went to the O2 to take part in the Young Voices concert.

The great thing about this event is that all members of the year group have the opportunity to perform - not just members of a choir or an orchestra.

The concert is an opportunity for thousands of children to sing together at one of the capital's biggest stadiums

Indeed the children can now say that they have sung live at the O2!

Many thanks to Miss Wray and all of the staff who supported Miss Wray - Miss Ellwood, Mrs Huntley and Mrs Johnson as well as all of the parent volunteers.



Sports Update

It may be cold, it may still be pretty dark, but we have still been involved in a feast of sporting activity over January and early February.

We have had a **fencing** match at which GFS beat Fleetville. In **football** there was a 2-0 win for our A team footballers at Samuel Ryder, a 5-1 defeat for the B team (I blame the manager!) and a Year 4 game in which a very promising young team beat Bowmansgreen 2-0.

Also recently, 27 of our Y5 and Y6 pupils represented Garden Fields at the St Albans District heat of the **Herts Indoor Athletics** championships. It was a successful afternoon for the children who emerged as winners!

Our **netballers** won their group last term and are now facing some very strong teams in the Super League.

We also had a very successful Saturday morning last weekend at the **Cross Country Championship** at Verulamium Park. Adam, Iris, Poppy and Imi all finished in the top 10 to qualify for the National Finals!

This week we hosted the St Albans District Year 4 **Speed Stacking** competition and the children had a great time competing. Many congratulations to Camp School who were the overall champions for the day.

Thank you to Mrs Johnson and the PE team for organising all these fantastic opportunities for our children. Thank you too to our parent volunteers who assist in transporting children to and from events.

PTA Sausage Sizzle

The PTA are holding a sausage sizzle at Bunnings on Griffiths Way from 8.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. on Sunday 25 February.

We still need some extra volunteers and cake donations so if there is any way that you can help then please let us know on PTA Social.

<http://www.gardenfields.herts.sch.uk/pta/>

Odyssey Family Cinema Morning

We have organised another family cinema morning at the Odyssey cinema on **Saturday 10th March** where you can see the film **Coco**.

The Odyssey have reduced their normal ticket prices for us and it's a great opportunity for Garden Fields families to see the film together in a fantastic cinema. There are still lots of tickets left so even though the initial deadline was today you can still buy tickets at:

<http://www.gardenfields.herts.sch.uk/event/pta-the-odyssey-2/>

World Book Day

We will be taking a break from dressing up for World Book this year, however we will still be marking the day with a visit from story teller and performer John Kirk on Wednesday 28th February (the day before WBD). John will be performing a whole school assembly and then working with year groups throughout the day. Many thanks to the PTA for funding this story telling enrichment day!

We will also be celebrating reading at our book fair which will run after school from Wednesday 28 February until Tuesday 6 March—more details will follow after half term. Also, look out for the special lunch menu on 1 March!

Also coming Soon: Happiness and Wellbeing Week

Our Assistant Head and INCo Miss Palmer is currently masterminding a fantastic Happiness and Wellbeing week for the week beginning 19th March! She is organising a wealth of amazing activities for the week, many from parents who have specialisms in a range of health, nutrition, mindfulness and activity based disciplines.

More information will follow the next half term. It promises to be an inspirational week! For details of all of our events go to:

<http://www.gardenfields.herts.sch.uk/events-list/>

Have a great Half Term everybody! We will see you all again on
Monday 19th February