

# Garden Fields School Newsletter



Autumn Term Newsletter  
No 3  
26th October 2018

Happy, Caring, and Inspiring!



## Poppy Creation

Our poppy project is nearing completion with children in our upper juniors helping to make large scale poppies to adorn the front fence adjacent to the upper school car park.

The project was undertaken to mark the centenary year of the end of the First World War. It also reflects the poppies on our school logo.

We are very grateful to our PTA for paying towards the project and for the support of local artist, Michelle Dibden, in making them.

We are having a small remembrance gathering, outside of the school, just in front of the poppies and parents are able to attend and watch. It will be towards the end of the school day on:

*Friday 9th November at 2.40 p.m.*

If you have any notes, photos, messages to remember any service men or women from any campaign and you would like us to put them up as part of the proceedings then we would be very happy to do so.

**Please name them on the back with your child's class name and we will display them.**



## New Garden Fields Breakfast and After School Club

Just to alert you, we are setting up our own Before and After School Club, on our school site, from January 2019.

I am delighted to say that Mrs Howe our former Nurture lead and teaching assistant, will be the Club Manager.

Initially the club will serve around 30 Garden Fields School children, but ultimately from September 2019, we aim to serve a much larger number.

The breakfast club will run from 7.30 a.m. until the start of the school day and the After School Club from the end of the school day until 6.00 p.m.

The children can still attend other before and after school clubs at GFS and can be dropped off/collected from clubs by our Breakfast and After School Club team.

If you are interested then please contact us at the following email address:

[baasclub@gardenfields.herts.sch.uk](mailto:baasclub@gardenfields.herts.sch.uk)

Please state which days and sessions you would be interested in.

**This is not an official 'registration/sign up' at this stage, simply an expression of interest.**

Once we have sufficient numbers we will invite you to a meeting to discuss our plans further and see whether you would like your child/children to join in January.

We look forward to hearing from you!

## Thought about becoming a teacher?

Garden Fields School is a member of the Alban Federation partnership in the area of teacher training. Each year the Federation trains a large number of adults (51 in 2018/19), either straight from University with their degrees, or people who are changing careers, and places them in a host school for the year to enable them to complete their training and gain Qualified Teacher Status.

All applications are submitted through UCAS (the University Admission System) and this year, the application window opened on 9th October 2018 for courses starting in September 2019.

Courses are available in both Primary and Secondary programmes, with salaries or bursaries available for suitably qualified candidates in many subjects....

Further details can be obtained from the school by contacting Mr Farrugia or Miss Cole or direct from the Alban Federation team via [afgtpenquiries@sandringham.herts.sch.uk](mailto:afgtpenquiries@sandringham.herts.sch.uk)

## Alban Academies Trust Update

We have entered a rather quiet period in terms of our application to join the Alban Academies Trust (AAT) but nonetheless an important one.

**We have entered a period of what is known as ‘due diligence’ between us as a school and the Trust.**

This is a period of investigation, research and examination of the ethos, values, **financial condition, business operations and contractual obligations of each other’s** schools and in the Trust itself.

This is an important period, because as a governing body we need to ensure that the vision, aims, ethos and values of the Trust are fully compatible with our own as a school and also that the structure and decision making processes will ultimately improve the outcomes for our children.

It is only if/when we are satisfied that this is the case that we will fully complete the process and join the Trust.

I will keep you posted with any further developments as we go forward.

## Music Concert and Music Mark

Many thanks to Miss Wray for her fabulous music concert on Wednesday night **at which she showcased some of our children’s choir and orchestra work from** this half term.

Miss Wray runs two choirs - one for each Key Stage - as well as an orchestra, and over the last year different choirs have performed at a range of venues including the Royal Albert Hall, the O2, the Alban Arena, Marlborough School M Fest, the St Albans Abbey and The Hare And Hounds pub(!)

Miss Wray also plans music across the school and trains class teachers and support **staff in teaching music, particularly in the younger age classes that she doesn’t** directly teach. Miss Jones has also supported with the KS1 choir this half-term and Miss Ellwood supports with KS2; Thank you Miss Jones and Miss Ellwood!

It is no wonder therefore that Miss Wray was able to demonstrate that Garden Fields met the criteria to be awarded the Music Mark kite mark in recognition of providing a high quality musical education for our children. Many thanks Miss Wray for your dedication and hard work in leading our musical provision at Garden Fields and in gaining this recognition for our school.



## Swimming Gala Success

Many congratulations to our swimming team who represented the school at **the weekend at this year's St. Albans and District Swimming Gala at the** University of Hertfordshire Sports Village.

Garden Fields has a noble tradition of success in this event and the children worked incredibly hard to become the overall winners in the Large Schools version of the event.

Many thanks to Mrs Johnson for giving up her Saturday evening to both manage the event and our successful team!

Thank you to the children for representing their school so well and to their parents for supporting.

## Checkmate Club

I had the pleasure of visiting the Take One Chess club recently.

The club, run by Fai Ally, runs every Tuesday afternoon after school.

Chess is a great game for children to learn and helps in developing their problem solving skills and concentration.

Congratulations to Sofiane, Zachary, Dan, Judah and Max for passing their Checkmate in One - Level 1 this half term.

After half-term there is a new tournament starting for anyone who would like to participate.

Details on how to join can be found on our website at:

<http://bit.do/ezqyZ>



## If you have a concern

Please note that if you have any concerns to do with your child then please talk to the class teacher in the first instance. In most cases matters can be resolved very **swiftly and easily by going through things with your child's teacher first as they** have the best day to day experience of your children. If you still have concerns **then by all means try and book an appointment with your child's phase leader.**

These are- For Reception and Year 1: Mrs Reynolds  
for Year 2 and Year 3: Mrs Gleeson  
and for Years 4, 5 and 6: Mrs Girdwood

If you still have concerns then you can book a time to see either my deputy head Miss Cole or assistant head Mrs Palmer. I would hope that in most instances matters were then improved but if not I will then investigate matters on your behalf. If you were still dissatisfied you then have the option to contact the governing body—**contact details are available on the governors' section of our website.**

**Any emails should be sent to the school's admin address and these will be** forwarded to the relevant member of staff.

Also, may I please ask you to keep all conversations, whether in person or by telephone, with all of our staff civil, polite and non-abusive.

We are all human after all!

Also, if you have an issue regarding another child then please talk to a member of staff and not approach that child yourself. We have a duty of care to all of our children.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

## Zebra Crossing

One of our parents has set up an ePetition and contacted St.Albans Council about adding a diagonal crossing to the traffic lights at the Ancient Briton (Harvester) Junction (Harpenden Rd/ Beech Rd).

Those coming and going to and from the South West corner of the junction to the Bathstore are often crossing diagonally and although people have time if they use the full light time, those that don't risk getting caught in the road.

As it affects the route of a number of Garden Fields parents, and indeed those who attend STAGS, we are highlighting it to parents.

Councillor Roma Mills is overseeing the matter and as many signatures of support as possible are needed for the petition to be successful.

The petition has 85 signatures to date and the Petition closes on the 7th November.

The link to the ePetition is at:

<https://democracy.hertfordshire.gov.uk/mgEPetitionDisplay.aspx?Id=20>

## Parking and Scooters

Please can you ensure that your children dismount from their scooters on the school premises for the safety of everyone. Some of them are very young **and have not learnt to 'drive carefully'!**

They are whizzing along at high speed and we have had some narrow escapes.

I will also be notifying our local police about the number of cars parking on the double yellow lines and by the drop down kerb outside the school.

This is very dangerous for our children.

**Please don't do it!**

Please report any contraventions to St Albans District Council—  
01727 845283 Email: [vehiclesincontravention@nsl.co.uk](mailto:vehiclesincontravention@nsl.co.uk)

## Awesome Engineers Vacancy

A vacancy has arisen with Awesome Engineers – the Lego engineering club. It is a fantastic club which teaches children in a fun way basic engineering principles using Lego.

If you are interested in this then please contact Melvin on  
07872 610750

or at:

[info@awesome-engineers.com](mailto:info@awesome-engineers.com)

## Half term round up/Uniform

Many thanks to everyone in our school community for your hard work this half term. It seems a long time since our wonderful circus week!

The children looked fantastic when they came back after the summer. Please can you have a good check of uniform at the moment. We have a lot of trainers (these are allowed for playtimes/PE only) and accessories such as friendship bracelets etc. which are not part of our school uniform.

Guidance on our uniform is available at:

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

We look forward to seeing everyone back on:

5th November 8.40—8.50 a.m.

Have a great Half –Term!