



# Garden Fields School Newsletter

Spring Term No 1

25/01/19

*Happy, Caring, and Inspiring*

## Spring Term 2019

We are now right back into the swing of things and into term two of the academic year and it's almost as if Christmas and the New Year never happened!

The second term is known as the Spring Term. It's a shorter term than both the Autumn and Summer terms but no less action packed!

Although known as the Spring Term, we begin the term with the cold January weather but end the term with the days getting brighter and usually warmer! It really is a term of contrasts.

I began the term welcoming the first children to our new breakfast and after school club . We welcomed back Mrs Howe to lead this new school based provision and we are indebted to her for her excellent organisation and preparation to create such a great new service for the school.

We were also very grateful to Mrs Hobbs who is our deputy lead as well as the support of teaching assistants Miss Hall, Mrs Durrani and MSA Mrs Jambulingam. We have also employed a new playleader Miss Smith and three dedicated sixth formers have joined us as play leaders after school — Miss Can, Miss Rose and Miss Cammack.

We have also had the excellent support of Mrs Regan, our Finance Officer, who has sorted out the complexities of child care vouchers and helped to sort out the administration of the club.

As usual we have a host of exciting events and activities over the next few months. Our key 'wow' week for this term will be our Happiness and Wellbeing week. Of course mental health has become a much talked about issue over recent years and our wellbeing week last year was so well received by children and parents that we have decided to run another such week.

You can find out more on page 2.

We will also be dressing up for World Book Day, Year 3 are visiting the Verulamium Museum, Year 1 will be going to Whipsnade Zoo, Miss Wray will be taking Year 4 to the Young Voices concert at the O2 and taking another choir to the Alban Arena Primary Schools Music Festival. Year 5 will be having a special Ancient Greece themed day and Mrs Johnson will be organising a Mud Run for Comic Relief.

These are just a few highlights from the term ahead, as we continue to aim to give your children warm and happy memories of their school days here at Garden Fields!

## Explore Learning

Jamie from Explore Learning came into school to award Lucas, Anna, Emily and Reuben their certificates for coming first in the Explore Learning regional maths competition against 8 other local teams.

In fact they scored the top mark out of all the schools from all the area heats in St Albans and Hemel Hempstead and got as far as the national semi finals.

Jamie also complimented the team on their excellent collaborative skills and determination as they faced a series of tricky mathematical challenges.



## Happiness and Wellbeing Week

The week beginning 11th February will be our Happiness and Wellbeing Week.

Our theme this year is **Healthy: Inside and Out** – we're encouraging everyone to think about how they look after their minds and bodies as each one affects the other.

As part of this we are asking many of our classes to have a special piece of homework where the children ask you about what song/piece of music has a special place in your childhood memories. We are also asking you to think about which song you would like to recommend and pass down to future generations. We know that for many of us, music plays a key part in improving our sense of wellbeing and this is why this year we are incorporating this 'Inheritance Tracks' idea as it is known, into our week.

Further details about the week will follow with activities for children and parents including: a Gong Bath, yoga, Pilates, fitness workouts, nutritionists, mindfulness talks, local doctors and a Happiness Café run by our PTA where people can come together to talk about different wellbeing and mental health ideas.

## PTA Quiz and Curry Night

Our PTA are holding a quiz night on Friday 8th February. This is always an entertaining night out and a chance to pit your wits against some very knowledgeable parents as well as some rather less knowledgeable school teachers and support staff!

## Family Photo Day

Our parent and photographer Stephanie Belton will be hosting another family photo day on Saturday 9th March at the school. Her photos are excellent and this is always a popular fund raiser for the school.

For further details about our PTA events, please go to:

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

## World Book Day

We will be dressing up for World Book Day this year.

It is entirely optional of course, but Children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character if they wish to on **Thursday 7th March**.



## Sports update

Congratulations to our indoor athletics squad who won their first heat.

There is a good chance that when all the scores are compared from across the heats that we will qualify for the district finals.

Have a great weekend!