



6<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear Parents, Staff & Governors

Welcome back! And a warm welcome to those new families and staff joining Garden Fields.

We're hitting the ground running for another busy year! We wanted to let you know our plans and budget for this coming school year, and give you an update on projects from last year.

### **How do we devise our budget?**

In June, Ewa Riches (Treasurer) and I sat down with Mr Farrugia and Miss Palmer, Deputy Head, to plan where your PTA can best support school, in line with the School Improvement Plan. Our estimated funds were allocated, a budget created and events diarised for the following academic year to support fundraising.

### **Curriculum / Faculty Allocations**

For the last couple of years, our Treasurer has devised a budget with allocated amounts for Curriculum, SEN, Sport, Music and other areas. In addition, there is an allocation of £150 per class for use with curriculum or topic-based activities - normally helping to subsidise trips and workshops, making them less expensive for us as parents.

There is also an allocation for JLT (Junior Leadership Team), giving the children control in how they'd like to spend this. JLT comprises two representatives from each year group in school and is co-ordinated by Miss Lee. They discuss an 'ideas list' with the children in their classes and then discuss feasible options as a team. It might interest you to know last year's suggestions included using their £1000 allocation for a trampoline room with trampolines on the floor, walls and ceiling! And buying X-Boxes to use in school! Miss Lee helps them focus on practicalities and budget! In the end, they purchased 'wet play' games & activities for each classroom (as ordered by the class) that were all well received.

### **Larger Project 2018/19 - Upper School Hall Refurb**

Last year, we raised enough funds (over £30,000) for our larger project of renovating the Upper School Hall.

FLOORING has been replaced over the summer and replaces a decades-old wooden floor that wasn't fit for purpose.

CURTAINS / BLINDS. It's difficult to see the screen in the upper hall as it's so bright in there and the screen is used for assemblies, class/year activities, workshops and our PTA events. Nicola Fewkes will be making stage curtains and also blinds for the windows/doors.

AUDIO SYSTEM. The system is old, outdated and no longer fit for purpose. It's almost impossible to hear what is being said unless you sit quite close to the front of the hall. An up-to-date system will also better support our children with hearing difficulties. This is being replaced in the next couple of months.

## **CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR**

### **Larger Project 2019/20 - MUSIC STUDIO**

From September 2020, Miss Wray will lose the current Music Room as it will become a Year 5 classroom. Other schools without a dedicated music classroom have used their library or even taught this core curriculum subject in corridors. We'd like to focus the majority of this year's fundraising efforts on building a Music Studio where class teaching can take place. It will also support choir and orchestra practice, Year Group rehearsals, workshops and music lessons. Estimated cost of building the Music Studio is £70,000.

### **Budget 2019/20**

- Large Project: Music Studio, approx £70,000
- Class Allocations: £150 for 19 classes: £2850
- Year 6 Leavers: £1000
- JLT: £500

We'll be in touch in the next couple of weeks to let you know ways in which you can help in our mammoth fundraising target! All our events for the year are listed on Plan Social (the new name for PTAsocial): <https://app.ptasocial.com/register/garden-fields-herts>. Tickets for Family Photography Day with Stephanie Belton and for this year's Panto will go on sale towards the end of this month and tickets will be sold via the site – make sure you're registered!

Thanks for your ongoing support #teamGFS! Here's to an amazing 2019/20!

**Carlee Herst Haywood**  
**PTA Chair**

**Garden Fields School Association**  
**Registered Charity 287318**