

Garden Fields Newsletter

Autumn Term No 5



Happy, Caring, and Inspiring!

Merry Christmas!



Our Christmas celebrations concluded this week with 4 Christmas concerts performed by our juniors in their house groups at Christ Church in New Greens. The concerts were orchestrated by Miss Wray and included performances from our junior school choir and school orchestra. Impressively, our Year 6 children provided their own orchestration with keyboards and glockenspiels as they sang their song. Miss Wray was also supported by our recorder teacher Miss Hayden—who led her recorder group as well as accompanying the children with some beautiful violin playing over the week. Miss Mobbs and Mr Harvey also provided accompaniment on the guitar. Many thanks to all of those who supported the children in delivering such entertaining performances and to Becki at Christ Church for both hosting and presenting at the concerts. It was a great team effort and many thanks to all of you who helped us walk the children down to the church and who came along to show your support.

Last week our Reception and Year 2 children gave us two marvellous performances of Everyone Loves A Baby!

The children sang their hearts out and delivered their lines with aplomb!

Thank you to our Reception and Year 1 team for their hard work and effort.

Many thanks also to our admin and premises teams for all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes with ticketing, communications and staging—much of which goes unseen.

And the final thank you must go to our children for concentrating so hard and providing us with some real Christmas cheer!





PTA Christmas FAIR



An enormous thank you to the PTA for organising such an amazing event earlier this month.

The Fair was opened by Deputy Mayor Sandra Wood.

A special feature at the Fair this year were the playground rides which proved particularly popular with our children.

They looked great fun—I just wish that I could have fitted into one of the dodgems! There was a lovely community feel and it started off our Christmas celebrations in style! Many thanks to our PTA Committee for their excellent organisation and to all of those who volunteered and helped to put on such a great show.





Carols at the metro Bank

Our choir were invited to the Metro Bank on St Peters Street this month to perform carols outside and then to sing again inside at a meeting of local businesses.

Miss Wray led the choir through a number of carols and Christmas songs which our children sang enthusiastically!

This was one of a number of performances led by Miss Wray this term, which included a Christmas recital with other St Albans and District primary schools at St Albans Abbey as well as a performance to the residents of St Augusta's Court.

Thank you to all of the children for representing your school so well and also to Miss Wray for masterminding so many great performances from our children.





Christmas dinner

Many thanks indeed to our kitchen team led by Mrs Rossiter and her team: Mrs Keen, Mrs Choudhury, Ms Gibbs, Miss Long and Mrs Ypey for producing over 500 Christmas dinners for our children last week!

The children had a great time and looked great in their Christmas crowns!
Thank you also to Miss Corley and Mrs Dorman for organising the gifts for the children and the 'parts' for the crowns!





CAKES

Our House Captains ran their cake competition earlier this term. They were very impressed by the cakes. Thank you to everyone who made a cake and participated.

Particular congratulations go to our final three:

1st - Uzair (Y3) - 50 House Points for Townsend

2nd - Jordan (Y2) - 25 House Points for Batchwood

3rd - Otis (Y6) and Astrid (Y4) - 10 House Points for Townsend

But it was a tough decision!





December Achievements

It is always so wonderful to share the achievements of our children whether inside or outside of school.

Firstly, Elena in Year 6 passed her Grade 1 piano exam with distinction, with her teacher commenting that Elena had received the highest score over her 30 years of teaching.

Well done Elena!

Also, I had two visitors to my office this month to show me their fantastic home made Advent calenders.

I was very impressed by Astrid and Alexandra's creations—fabulous work girls!

And special congratulations to two of our parents as well!

Simon Welton and Sarah Clarke both received a BAFTA comedy award for the TV show that they work on: Play Your Pets Right on Sky 1.

Simon also got one for Horrible Histories (Entertainment award) on CBBC.

Well done to both of you!





Spor tING Achievements

We had three big achievements this term with Garden Fields winning the St Albans District Large Schools Swimming Gala held at the University of Hertfordshire Sports Village.

Thank you and well done to everyone who took part.

Our girls team also won the District Table Tennis tournament—congratulations to Ella, Alice, Poppy and Megan!

And thank you too all those who have represented the school in school sports this term.



INTER HOUSE COMPETITIONS

Whilst our Christmas Play and Christ Church concerts have been going on, back at school there have been a number of inter-house competitions.

Year 3 and 4 had a special 'virtual-sports' competition which was won by Batchwood house.

Townsend were victorious in both the Y5 and Y6 Indoor Athletics competitions.

We also had our Y5 swimming gala and the winning house were, again, Townsend.

Many thanks to Mrs Johnson and her sports team - Mr Pidgeon, Miss Elson, Miss Rees and Miss Banks for organising such great sporting events for our children!



Santa dash



Despite the rain, we still had a good number of children who turned up to run the Santa Dash this year, to burn off the Christmas Dinner that they had at lunchtime!

We even had some snow!

Thank you Father Christmas for coming and also visiting the Hub soon afterwards!

Thank you to Mrs Johnson and the sports team for organising!

The hub

I just want to congratulate Mrs Howe and Mrs Hobbs for all of their hard work this term in the relocated 'Hub'. They have developed a great club for our children and such a great service for our parents. Many thanks to you both and the whole Hub team for your hard work this term!

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to the whole Garden Fields Community—
children, parents, governors and staff!**

Our children return on Wednesday 8th January 2020.

Happy Holiday!