



# Garden Suburb Junior School

Childs Way • London • NW11 6XU



Tel: 020 8455 3269 • E-mail : [office@gsjs.barnetmail.net](mailto:office@gsjs.barnetmail.net) • Website : [www.gardensuburbjunior.co.uk](http://www.gardensuburbjunior.co.uk)

Head Teacher: Mrs Eileen Bhavsar BA (Hons) MSc • Deputy Head Teacher: Mrs Lisa Berger BEd (Hons)  
Administrator / School Business Manager: Ms Julia Chalfen

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

Dear Parent/Carers

I hope that you are well and that you are managing in the extremely difficult circumstances that COVID-19 is having on our school community.

I am pleased to say that the member of staff who had a family member in a critical condition has reported that they are now on the mend.

As a precautionary measure, we had to close the school for key workers on Wednesday due to a pupil displaying some symptoms. We plan to open again for eligible pupils on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April.

**Staff were very grateful for this lovely message from the PTA this week:**

*Thank you to all our teachers who continue to work. This week, teachers across the country will go into schools where they will interact with children of NHS staff who are highly exposed to COVID-19. They will not be given face masks or protective clothing. They won't get free coffee, half price pizza or special shopping hours. They will perform their jobs in ways they have never done before and they will do it with a smile on their faces so that the children in their care don't know how scared they are; scared for those children. Scared for their own. Scared of being responsible for taking the virus home to loved ones. Thank you to all teachers, teaching assistants and anyone else heading into a school this week to keep it running so that our NHS and carers can take care of the sick and the vulnerable, our shops can stay open and deliveries can continue. You too are heroes!*

**New Home Learning Resources – Starting on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April**

From Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April, weekly home learning will be uploaded to our website. Each year group will have daily tasks for English and Maths as well as other curriculum areas. This can be accessed from our website in 'Home Learning'.  
<https://www.gardensuburbjunior.co.uk/page/?pid=323>

We hope that providing daily tasks will help to give parents and children more structure to their home learning experience.

Our school community is missing the interaction with the children, parents and colleagues. The class teachers would like to stay in touch with the children and we will upload onto the website a 'Home Learning Reflection' task. <https://www.gardensuburbjunior.co.uk/page/?pid=323>

There is also a space for you to comment on your child's wellbeing, attitude and participation over the course of the week. We would like all children and parents to complete this and return it to their class teacher by 3:30pm on the Friday of every week.

The email address for your class teacher will be sent home by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April. In line with online safety requirements, this communication should be sent by an adult. Your child **should not** be communicating directly with their class teacher by email.

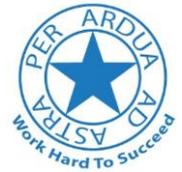
Class teachers will return the reflection task, with their comments, the following week by email. The teachers are already looking forward to hearing from the children and reading the reflections they make on our new home learning programme.





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Please be aware that there can be no substitute for the interaction that children would normally have with their teacher and classmates. At school, lessons would normally include teacher explanations, pupil discussions, partner and group work as well as the use of practical and visual resources. As a result, the home learning resources are quite different from how learning would normally take place in the classroom. To that effect, new resources have been created by each year group team.

Learning and working at home can be a much more intense experience and you will need to build in more breaks. I am sure that parents who are working from home currently will already have realised that it can be more tiring than being at work and this may be the same for the children.

We realise that many parents are having to manage the home learning of more than one child whilst also trying to work from home. We do not want to add stress to you or your child. Please do what you can and don't worry if your child is unable to complete all of the set tasks. You may have devised your own programme of study/activities and that too is acceptable.

## The Holidays

The next two weeks would have been the holidays and I suggest that you allow your children to have a break from structured learning activities. However, we have provided some daily maths revision lessons should you want your child to practise any of the concepts they have learnt this term. If you would like your child to engage in these daily maths revision lessons, then please visit the home learning section of the school website:

<https://www.gardensuburbjunior.co.uk/page/?title=Home+Learning+Zone&pid=323>

In addition, a PDF version of 'First News' will be available in the Learning Zone each week (web link as above).

I hope that you also manage to enjoy some 'down time' at home together over the course of the holiday. Be kind to each other, and especially to yourselves. We are all managing an unprecedented situation and you should take some time to celebrate the family time that lockdown has enabled us to experience.

Just a reminder that communication to school should be **via email** to either Ms Chalfen at [office@gsjs.barnetmail.net](mailto:office@gsjs.barnetmail.net) or Mrs Morgan Chiswick at [mchiswick@gsjs.barnet.sch.uk](mailto:mchiswick@gsjs.barnet.sch.uk) as there is no one in the offices to answer the telephone or pick up answerphone messages.

The staff are also looking forward to a well-deserved break. COVID-19 has created a lot of work and meant that we all have to perceive our jobs differently. Please be aware that staff are currently writing reports, working in school, working at home as well as planning the new weekly tasks. Staff are also managing their own personal challenges that 'lockdown' has forced upon us all. Ms Chalfen has been working hard on keeping the usual school business matters going as well as additional tasks that the COVID-19 situation has required. I am pleased to inform you that she has also managed to set up the vouchers for our parents who are eligible for free school meals. Thank you everyone – I am lucky to have such a committed team.

Stay safe and well everyone and, if you manage to purchase it, eat lots of chocolate (after your daily walk!)

Yours sincerely

*E. Bhavsar*

Mrs Eileen Bhavsar | Head Teacher

