



Garden Suburb Junior School

Childs Way • London • NW11 6XU



Tel: 020 8455 3269 • E-mail : office@gsjs.barnetmail.net • Website : 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

20th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your families are well and staying safe.

This is the last newsletter of what has been a very unusual and difficult academic year for us all.

The staff have responded positively to the ever-changing requirements that the Covid-19 pandemic has forced upon us and I would like to thank them all for their hard work and support. Throughout this period there has been a great team spirit and willingness to learn new skills to get the job done.

Many parents have expressed their thanks to the staff during this difficult time. We have had to manage our own personal challenges that Covid-19 has caused and we have appreciated this support – thank you!

Up until 4 weeks ago we had 18 members of staff, including staff with key roles in the school, unable to come to work due to their personal circumstances. However, we were still able to open to key workers, invite all of the Year 6 pupils back to school, alongside providing home learning.

Towards the end of June, more staff were able to return to work and I am pleased that we have recently been able to provide the opportunity for every child to return to school to say goodbye to their teacher, as well as meet their new teacher for September.

It was fabulous that the majority of parents took up these opportunities for their children to come into school. I would like to congratulate your children for their respectful behaviour whilst in school throughout this period. I am very proud of how they responded to the measures that we had to introduce to keep everyone safe.

Year 2/ Year 3 Transition

Last week we were able to welcome in the Year 2 pupils, who will be joining us in September, to meet their Year 3 teachers and to see their classrooms. It was lovely to see the many familiar faces of the parents as they dropped off their children; many siblings of current or former pupils will be joining us next year!

Goodbye Year 6

We said goodbye to the Year 6 pupils on the 10th July. I hope that the children are enjoying their 'Kudoboard' digital memory books. The children also received their school bookmark, in person or through the post, as a memento. Thank you to Mr Levi Hevroni, otherwise known as 'Eldi – Balloon Comedian', who kindly provided fun workshops for the Year 6 pupils, free of charge. Check out his website for more details of the fun activities that he can provide www.BalloonHero.co.uk





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PTA

It is hard to think back to before Covid-19, but I need to express my thanks to the PTA for all of their efforts to provide fun and fund raising. Many thanks to our Chair, Rachel Joseph. Rachel has worked hard to bring new ideas and ways of communicating through social media. Thank you for supporting all of our PTA events. In addition, thank you for your recent donations of clothes etc. for recycling, and to those who are continuing to purchase lottery tickets.

Rachel would also like to say a huge thank you to Dani Elton, for the book and toy sale she organised to raise funds for the PTA last Saturday. Thank you so much to the families who turned up to buy and sell. 20% of the takings were donated to our PTA fund and that amounted to £20. At a time when we have been limited as to how we can fundraise, as all of our lovely planned events had to be cancelled, every single penny helps. The PTA are so grateful to Dani and every family who participated.

Plans for September 2020

I am currently planning with my team to reopen the school in September 2020. As I am sure that you are aware this has been a lengthy process. We are following guidance from the DfE and have conducted risk assessments. We have also consulted with staff and governors to agree our model. Our new risk assessment is on our website for you to read – follow this link and scroll down the page to find the risk assessment:

<https://www.gardensuburbjunior.co.uk/page/?title=COVID%2D19+information&pid=1596>

Important details of our plans for reopening will be sent in another ParentMail message tomorrow. Please read it carefully as this message contains important details for everyone, in particular regarding drop off and pick up.

Home Learning

Thank you to those who have responded to the survey regarding the school closure and home learning. Throughout the school closure we have reviewed and adapted our provision and have considered the different options that are available to enable more feedback and contact with the teachers. We are currently setting up an online platform to use in the future and staff are receiving training this week. We plan to teach the children and parents how to use this platform during the first few weeks of September. More details to follow.

Message from Cllr David Longstaff

Below is a link to a message on the Barnet website from the Deputy Leader of the Council and Chairman of the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee, Councillor David Longstaff, regarding the re-opening of schools in September.

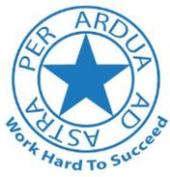
<https://www.barnet.gov.uk/news/end-term-message-parents-about-re-opening-schools-september>

Young people COVID-19 survey aimed at all pupils in Y5, Y6 and all secondary school students.

Barnet Council are seeking the views of how COVID-19 has affected pupil wellbeing during lockdown. Responses from the survey will be valuable in giving the Council a better understanding of the opinions of the Year 5 and Year 6 pupils and will assist with ideas to support them.

You can access the Survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YoungPersonsCOVID-19-Survey>





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Attendance

Parents need to be aware that the attendance of pupils will be compulsory in September. Please see the link to a short film aimed at children, with young people voicing over what to expect when they return to school in September. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MxDF5YKFaFk&feature=emb_title

This film covers:

- the fact that the return to school in September **will be compulsory for all**
- the changes students can expect to see around school
- what 'bubbles' mean
- where to go for support
- a reminder of good hygiene
- how to get to school safely.

Staff training is taking place today and Tuesday, so that we can prepare for September, and then the term comes to an end for the staff too. We are all ready for a well-deserved holiday.

Parents, more than ever this year, deserve a break. Well done for supporting your children during this period. Thank you for all of the effort that you have put in to communicating with the school. During the school closure, it has been more important than ever, to stay in touch regarding your child's education and wellbeing. Now you too can enjoy your break from school.

Have a lovely holiday and stay safe!

Yours sincerely

Mrs Eileen Bhavsar | Head Teacher

