



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 Andrea Bailey

Newsletter 14/2020

4th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Please Help Us to Raise Much Needed Funds

We are lucky that we have an active PTA who have contributed funds towards technology such as iPads, interactive whiteboards in the classrooms, as well as the installation of our new sports pitch. We have also been able to secure some money from the Local Authority to make improvements to our building. **However**, we are really seeing the impact of reduced funding on our core budget and on the support we are being able to offer our children.

Over the last few years, in order to set a balanced budget, we have needed to reduce the numbers of teaching staff across the school. This has resulted in a reduction in teacher-led interventions in English and Maths and will impact on the continuing professional development of the staff. We have also reduced the hours of some staff for example our SENDCo and Music Co-ordinator.

We have cut the money we are providing for curriculum resources and will be relying on donations from parents to buy many of the basics. In the current financial year, when we set the budget, we had a zero contingency – so no budget left for any emergencies! We may even be facing a budget deficit as we have just been informed that will not be reimbursed for any of the additional cost caused by Covid-19.

Our high standards of attainment and progress have been maintained, and we have worked hard to build successful teams of teaching and support staff, working together to provide a strong and broad curriculum, supported by effective targeted interventions. We are worried that this is at risk.

We are determined to provide the best education possible to our children. As your head teacher, I hope that you will be able to support the endeavours of our PTA in raising additional funds.

The PTA wrote to you last week regarding a fund raising campaign. Sadly, this term, the PTA hasn't been able to run our biggest fundraiser, our Seasonal Fair. The Seasonal Fair alone made over £4,000 last year.

Thanks to your continued loyalty, support and generosity the PTA were able to purchase some fantastic resources for the children last year, including 6 interactive whiteboards at a cost of £2,500 each. However, we still need to buy 6 more of the whiteboards ensuring that there is one for every class which will cost us £15,000. We were well on our way to this target when lockdown struck.

The PTA are appealing to you all to help us raise as much as possible towards our goal.

Thank you to those families that have already donated this week. If you still wish to, donations can be made by Cash, Cheque or Bank Transfer. Please see the letters attached **and complete the gift aid declaration if you are a UK taxpayer**. They can also be downloaded from our website.

<https://www.gardensuburbjunior.co.uk/page/?title=Fundraising+for+the+school&pid=374&action=saved>

As a thank you for all your donations, the PTA will be buying a small, personalised gift for your child which they will receive before the end of term.





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Attendance

Our attendance remains high. **If your child does develop symptoms, you must seek advice from NHS 111.**

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/> or you can speak on the phone by calling 111.

They will advise you if you should book a Covid-19 test. To book a test you can also call 119. **Please ensure that you follow all advice regarding testing and self-isolating** and inform Mrs Morgan Chiswick of any test results on the new welfare email address: welfare@gsjs.barnetmail.net

Seasonal 'Thank You' to our Support Staff

It has been our custom for many years for the children to say 'thank you' to our support staff, for all that they do for the school, by giving them a Christmas gift. These are invaluable members of staff whose dedication and hard work is often unseen. This includes our: meal time supervisors, kitchen staff and cleaning staff, caretakers Mr Adolphe and Mr Shepherd and the team of learning support assistants.

We would be very happy to receive your donations – please send any donations, in a **sealed envelope marked 'Support Staff Christmas Gifts'** and ask your child to hand to their class teacher, by **Friday 11th December**, thank you.

Assemblies and Curriculum Events

- **Friendship** was the theme of assemblies this week. The children also learnt the history behind the Christmas Tree in Trafalgar Square. Ask your child to tell them who it is a gift from and why.
- **Y5 Black History Workshops** - The Year 5 classes took part in Black History workshops today and learnt about 'The Windrush' (Year 6 workshops - were last week there was an error in last week's letter).
- **'Wear Your Seasonal/Favourite Jumper to School' Friday 11th December – suggested donation £1**
We are taking part in this fundraising day for 'Save the Children'. This is a non-uniform day and the children are invited to bring a donation in for the charity.
- **Parties** – all classes will be having a party, more detail to follow.

PTA Notices

- **PTA Lottery - You have got to be in it to win it!**
Congratulations to Mrs A who is our latest Garden Suburb School Lottery Winner. If you haven't signed up yet, visit our lottery here for your chance to win £25,000. Next draw takes place this **Saturday 28th November**.
<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/garden-suburb-junior> Good luck everyone!
- **Discounts for Parents/Carers - Support small businesses and help support GSJS PTA fundraising.** The PTA are delighted to be able to offer you the following discounts from these fantastic two companies who are helping to support our PTA.
- **Christmas Trees** - Holidays are coming 🎄🎅🎄. Get a discount when you buy a gorgeous real Christmas Tree and help to raise money for our school. Please use the code **'GARDEN'** to get your discount.
Buy your tree here: <https://christmastreeexpress.co.uk/>
- **Wooden Gifts** - www.esjaylondon.co.uk Use Discount code: GARDEN10

Have a lovely weekend and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

E. Bhavsar

Mrs Eileen Bhavsar | Head Teacher

