

# 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 Andrea Bailey

Newsletter 2/2021

8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/Carers

## Home Learning

Thank you to those who have given us feedback this week on our home learning.

Bearing in mind that we are only at the end of our first week with our new platform 'Showbie', the engagement of the pupils has been fabulous and feedback from parents has been, for the most part, positive. Well done everyone!

Please can I remind you:

- Our new 'Home Learning Policy' was sent to you in the newsletter of the final week of term. This policy was approved by the Governing Body in December 2020.
- We were informed of the school closure on the 30<sup>th</sup> December 2020.
- Staff worked tirelessly, over the Bank Holiday weekend, to ensure that our Key worker and online provision would be ready for Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.
- This pandemic is happening to school staff as well as to you. Every day brings new challenges including staff being unavailable for a variety of very valid reasons.

We wanted to use the 'Showbie' video chat for our live sessions, as this is a much safer option than 'Zoom' as it is only accessible to the children. However, as it does not enable all children to be visible at the same time, we realise that the experience is not as engaging. We are working on introducing the use of 'Zoom' next week.

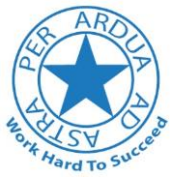
There are some families who are expressing that they would like 'live lessons'. However, many families have told us that this would **not** work for them at all and have informed us that the resources that we are providing are working well.

We will be adapting and developing our 'Home Learning' in order to support you and your child. We are still evolving our provision. Please give us time to evaluate our current practice and drive positive change together.

In most cases pre-recorded lessons are at least as good as live lessons, and may be even better. A recent article in the Times Educational Supplement raised the following points:

- Perhaps the biggest advantage of pre-recorded lessons is accessibility. In many homes, there aren't suitable devices for all children to access lessons at the same time. One laptop can't serve three children who all have live lessons simultaneously, but it will give access to lessons that have been recorded.





# 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 Andrea Bailey

- There can be a problem with the amount of bandwidth streaming that live lessons require. This often becomes an issue when children are trying to join live lessons at the same time that parents are trying to have virtual meetings or teachers are trying to deliver lessons live at the same time in school.
- Pre-recorded lessons also mean that pupils can pause, rewind and revisit explanations that they have struggled with.
- As remote learning on a national scale, is fairly new, there is little definitive evidence that one method is better than another. A report from the Education Endowment Foundation points out that the method of delivery is much less important than the quality of that delivery. The quality of delivery of pre-recorded lessons is very good as teachers watch their lessons back and spend time improving them – time permitting.

I can understand why it feels that live lessons would be better as they, on the surface of it, more closely replicate what happens in the classroom where the teacher at the front interacts with a group of pupils, and I am in no doubt that is usually the best way to be taught something. However, take away the classroom and the magic is lost. In the classroom, we can direct a pupil's wavering attention, we can pose questions with ease and purpose, we can judge how work is going and where we need to change the pace. In a live virtual classroom this is not possible.

That isn't to say that I think there is no place for live remote interaction. We have had positive feedback from our children and parents regarding the video call catch up sessions - they have enjoyed reading class books, discussing their learning and 'show and tell'. This is something we want to enhance and we are piloting a project on zoom which we hope to roll out across the school next week.

## Technology

We are liaising with some families who have told us of issues regarding availability of technology. We have ordered our laptop allocation from the government and are awaiting delivery.

## Free School Meals

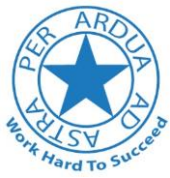
We are currently liaising with our school meals provider to provide families who are eligible for FSM. More details will follow next week.

## Communication

Please be assured that we are here to help, especially if you are having difficulties with accessing 'Showbie' or if you have welfare concerns. Your child's class teacher can be contacted on their class email which are listed on our website along with all of our other contact

details. <https://www.gardensuburbjunior.co.uk/page/?title=Contact+details&pid=238>





# 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 Andrea Bailey

## Attendance

Remember for registration the children should be on time, smartly dressed and in their school uniform. It is important to inform the school if your child is not going to be attending registration, just as you would if your child was not attending school. Please email Mrs Morgan Chiswick [welfare@gsjs.barnetmail.net](mailto:welfare@gsjs.barnetmail.net) and ensure that you **include the full name of your child, their year group, class** and reason for absence.

## Key Worker School

We are almost at full capacity for our Key Worker school and are now closing the online application form. If you would like to apply for a place in the future, please contact Ms Bailey. [office@gsjs.barnetmail.net](mailto:office@gsjs.barnetmail.net)

**Breakfast or Afterschool Club (Key Worker School only)** If you do require either breakfast or afterschool club, please could you get in touch with Sharon directly to book a place. Sharon's contact number is 07506 030037 or [shaz.funtime@outlook.com](mailto:shaz.funtime@outlook.com)

## Symptoms or contact with Covid-19

**PLEASE ENSURE:** If your child develops symptoms you must not send them to school. 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 the school of any test results on the email address: [welfare@gsjs.barnetmail.net](mailto:welfare@gsjs.barnetmail.net) When communicating with the school - Please ensure that you include the **full name of your child and their year group and class**.

It's the weekend and you all now deserve a break.

Thank you everyone for your continued support.

I am very lucky to have such a committed and hard-working team of staff, as well as a community who are supporting their children well, at this very difficult time.

Stay safe.

Kind Regards

Mrs Eileen Bhavsar

Head Teacher

