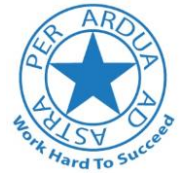




# Garden Suburb Junior School

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

4<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

## Talking to Children about War

The distressing events in Ukraine will be affecting all of our families in so many ways. Some of you will be very worried about close family and friends who are in the areas affected; some households will be following the news constantly over TV or other devices; and some parents will be choosing to mute coverage at home, so that your children are not exposed to the images and sounds from this frightening conflict.

At school, we are careful to consider the different experiences of our very young children. We will not initiate discussions about the war in Ukraine with our classes, but we will respond thoughtfully to questions and concerns from the children and give them space to talk if they need it. Some children may have feelings of uncertainty, anxiety and fear. A useful approach, which you might like to use at home, is:

Limit their exposure to breaking news, and try not to let them experience it without you.

Ask your child, "What have you heard and how are you feeling?"

Give them some facts and context.

Avoid using labels such as "bad guys"

Encourage them to process their thoughts through play and art.

Look for the helpers – you will always find people who are helping, and it can help to look for positive actions.

Here are some links to articles and information which might help. There is much online to read, geared to all ages, but these seemed a useful place to start:

<https://www.savethechildren.net/news/ukraine-5-ways-talk-children-about-conflict-0>

[https://www.bps.org.uk/news-and-policy/supporting-children-manage-anxiety-over-war-conflict-and-crises?fbclid=IwAR0x\\_0JFKiU5ZTWHbN6Srf0Hqb3uNQ7JTzbZgplBkMAU4AsyOtrTqITi9s](https://www.bps.org.uk/news-and-policy/supporting-children-manage-anxiety-over-war-conflict-and-crises?fbclid=IwAR0x_0JFKiU5ZTWHbN6Srf0Hqb3uNQ7JTzbZgplBkMAU4AsyOtrTqITi9s)

<https://www.bristolpost.co.uk/news/news-opinion/children-know-ukraine-how-talk-6725364>

<https://www.kqed.org/mindshift/59143/war-crisis-tragedy-how-to-talk-with-kids-when-the-news-is-scary>

## Food Collection to help people in The Ukraine

Many of our community want to do something to help. The Ukraine centre in Holland Park is organising for food and toiletries to be taken out to The Ukraine to support during the current situation. We are collecting cans and dried goods as well as toiletries. Tables will be in the main entrance from Monday to Wednesday next week for those who would like to contribute to this collection eg rice, pasta, tins of tuna, soap, toothpaste etc.

See the links below if you would like to donate money to support:

<https://british-ukrainianaid.org/>

<https://www.augb.co.uk/>





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## Curriculum Events and Assemblies

We engage and motivate your children with a wide variety of events that enrich their learning experiences across the curriculum. We put a lot of emphasis on developing the children's 'cultural capital' this way. In addition, these events also support remembering of their learning.

Please see the 'Latest News' on our website for more details on our curriculum events

<https://www.gardensuburbjunior.co.uk/news/?pid=258&nid=2>

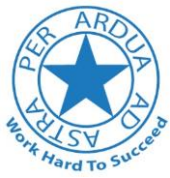
- **LGBT+ History Month:** The focus of lower school assembly this week was celebrating diversity and acceptance of difference. The children learnt that the LGBTQ+ community (that is all the people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer or questioning) have unfortunately not always been treated with respect. This is usually because people do not understand that it is fine to be different or to live a different lifestyle. The children learnt that everyone has the right to be treated fairly, to be safe and to be happy. I was proud of the Year 3 and Year 4 children and impressed with their maturity during when answering questions
- **Class Assemblies:** Well done 4S for their fabulous assembly this week on the theme of equality. Please see the dates for the 4J class assemblies which will take place in the school hall at 2:30pm on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March.
- **Football:** It has been a busy fortnight for both the girls' and mixed teams. The girls' team played a friendly against Martin who showed good teamwork to defend as a unit. We were unlucky not to score with the opposition goalkeeper making two excellent saves but unfortunately Martin finished the game as 3-0 winners. Defeats, however, are often the games that we learn most from and hoped to come back stronger.

This Wednesday, the girls played in the John King Trophy against St Vincent's who were playing with confidence after defeating Fairway 10-0. Our team performed admirably on an incredibly muddy pitch and they were able to learn from the Martin match to defend more solidly as a team. Despite hitting the post and having some good chances we couldn't quite find a goal and the match finished 0-0. In the resulting penalty shootout, the girls scored all three of their penalties to run out 3-1 winners. A match in the John King Trophy semi-final now awaits..

The mixed team also had to contend with a muddy pitch against Moss Hall Juniors in the Martin Cup. In the first half, the team played with confidence and quickly went 3-0 before half time. In the second half, however, Moss Hall came back strongly and were unlucky to lose 4-3. We are now through to the quarter-final stage where we will face Brookland later this month.

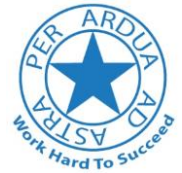
The mixed team had two league games. First up was St Mary's who we defeated 5-2. Next up was Dollis who were a team who played with controlled power and aggression. We played some excellent football to go 3-1 up at half-time. Dollis, however, stepped up their effort in the second half and came back strongly. It was a tough half of football but the mixed team should be commended for their effort and enthusiasm to keep Dollis out. In the end, the match finished 5-3 to Garden Suburb to continue our 100% record. Fixtures Frith Manor and SMSJ remain in the league.





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- **World Book Day:** The children participated well in our dress up day today. It was lovely to see the variety of costumes reflecting both the cultural diversity of our community as well as some book characters. Well done everyone. Thank you for supporting this event as well as the Book Fair where we took £1222.43 in sales of books.

## SATs and Year 6 School Journey meeting- Wednesday March 16<sup>th</sup> at 6pm

As you know, your children will be sitting statutory SATS tests in May (9-12 May). In order to prepare for this, we would like to invite you to an information evening on Wednesday March 16<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. We will be discussing how we are already preparing the children at school, what the expectations are over the next few weeks and the timetable for the week of tests, as well as giving you an explanation of how the results are presented in July. You will have an opportunity to look at the format of the papers and some example questions from past SATS papers to support you in helping your child at home.

We will also be discussing Year 6 School Journey which will take place the week after the SATs (16-20<sup>th</sup> May). There will be a presentation of all the details needed to prepare your child for this very exciting trip. It is extremely important that all parents/carers attend.

## Second Hand Uniform Sale

We hope that everyone was able to pick up a bargain on Monday, thank you to Natalie, Addy and the team for organising the sale.

**GARDEN SUBURB LOTTERY:** The next draw is this Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March. You could win £25,000! Only £1 per ticket. <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/garden-suburb-junior>. You've got to be in it to win it – GOOD LUCK EVERYONE.

Kind regards

Mrs Eileen Bhavsar - Head Teacher

