

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

10th February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

School Closure Thursday 2nd March

You will no doubt have heard on the news about additional planned strikes in the UK, by school teachers. The next is due to take place on Thursday 2nd March, followed by two more possible dates on the 15th and 16th March. These strikes are about the issue of funding for schools, as well as school teacher pay. These are both issues that have had a major impact on our school, and our school teachers.

We are hoping that the need for industrial action will be averted before the planned strike days, but you will need to be aware that the schools are likely to need to close on **Thursday 2nd March**, and the subsequent days if the strikes go ahead.

We will, of course, keep you updated as soon as we can.

Learning Resources and Activities on the website

The Learning Zone includes ideas and resources for children to enjoy at home. We are regularly updating this area. Click on the individual subject links to access some interesting and fun activities.

Please also see the document 'Activities for Children to do at home'

This includes a range of activities designed for your child to practise core concepts and consolidate learning in different subject areas. Most of these activities do not require access to the internet.

Click the link below to access these home learning resources.

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

Playtimes

This week we have been trialing some timetable changes in order to maximise learning time and support managing behaviour in the playground.

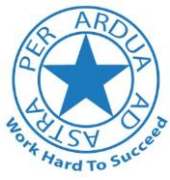
The new timetable we are trialing is:

Whole school playtime 10:10am – 10:20am

Whole school lunch time play at 12:20pm-1:20pm, however Year 3 go to lunch first at 12:15pm

We have been trialing separate playing areas for lower school and upper school which will be alternated each week.





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This timetable change has had a positive impact on maximising learning time and has facilitated for three one-hour lessons in the morning and two one-hour lessons in the afternoon. It has also had a positive impact on the behaviour in the playground and prevented certain areas becoming overcrowded.

We know that the children, especially the upper school who have had the greatest change, are still adjusting and we are listening to their feedback.

We are going to continue the trial next week.

Reminder: We encourage you to provide a fruit/veg snack for your child to enjoy at playtime. We have noticed that many upper school children do not bring a snack. You might want to discuss this with your child as a snack may support better concentration, especially now that their longer learning block is after play.

Dates for your diary

➤ **Year 4 Class Assemblies - Parents invited to attend.**

Over the course of the year all classes will have an opportunity to perform to their parents.

The Year 4 Class Assemblies are at 2:30pm in the Junior Hall on the following dates:

4S Tuesday 28th February

➤ **PTA meeting - Friday 24th February.** This is an opportunity to plan for our next event and discuss school issues. We will first discuss fundraising and then I would like to get some feedback from parents on school communication. It would be really useful for Class Reps to attend.

➤ **Parent/Teacher Consultations- Save the date**

Tuesday 7th March 3:40pm - 6:30pm

Thursday 9th March 3:40pm - 6:30pm

All parents are expected to take advantage of this opportunity to meet with their child's teacher and look at their child's work. Booking is now open through ParentMail. Please check your email.

➤ **Spring Disco**

Monday 27th March 3:30pm - 5:00pm: Y3 and Y4 Lower School Disco

Tuesday 28th March 3:30pm - 5:00pm: Y5 and Y6 Upper School Disco

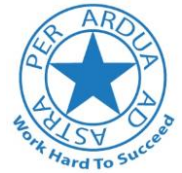
More details to follow- Please email gardenjpta@gmail.com if you can help.





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Assemblies and Curriculum Events

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>

- **World Book Day:** On **Friday 3rd March 2023**, we will be celebrating World Book Day at school with an exciting range of activities throughout the day, aimed at developing a lifelong love of reading.

Costumes

Children are invited to come to school dressed as a book character. At the end of this letter are some suggestions for simple, inexpensive ideas which have also been discussed in a whole-class brainstorming session with your child. Children will also be given the opportunity during Golden Time to create a piece of their costume using paper, cardboard and felt tips.

Extreme Reading Challenge

Children should post a picture on Showbie of themselves reading in an unusual place or position. The best entries will be displayed in the school and there will be a prize in each year group. The children had an assembly today where ideas for the competition were discussed.

School opens to the children on Tuesday 21st February.

Have a lovely half term holiday!

With kind regards,

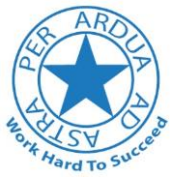
Mrs Eileen Bhavsar
Head teacher

Ideas for World Book Day Costumes:

Matilda Any dress, a headband or ribbon, any book

George (George's Marvellous Medicine) String around neck holding a cardboard bowl containing hand drawn/printed images on card with items that went into the medicine





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Charlie Bucket (Charlie and the Chocolate Factory) Plain clothes, handmade/printed Wonka Bar using cardboard

Gangsta Granny Jumper, dress, optional wig and glasses which can be made using these templates:

<https://www.worldbookday.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Gangsta-Granny.pdf>

Where's Wally Red and white striped shirt, hat, jeans, glasses from the Gangsta Granny template above

Pippi Longstocking Dress, tights, freckles drawn with eyeliner

Pongo (101 Dalmatians) Black and white face paint, white t-shirt, black paper dots

Sophie (The BFG) Pyjamas, pipe cleaner glasses, jar with sticky label: 'Sophie's Dream Jar'

The Boy in the Dress Dress or long t-shirt, football boots

Miss Trunchbull (Matilda) Sweatshirt, belt, hair tied up in a bun

Greg or Rowley (Diary of a Wimpy Kid) Draw or print face from the template below on card, white t-shirt, dark shorts or trousers (can also use school trousers), optional drawstring bag

<https://www.penguin.co.uk/articles/childrens-article/diary-of-a-wimpy-kid-printable-character-costume>

Tintin Blue jumper (can turn school jumper inside out), long socks, brown trousers rolled up

Billionaire Boy White t-shirt, dark trousers (can use school trousers), printed fake money

Mr Bump Blue top (can use school jumper turned inside out), jeans, bandage

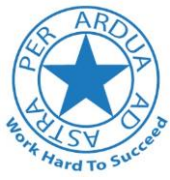
Tracey Beaker Messy hair, paint or makeup splodges on face, optional striped top

Willie (Goodnight Mr Tom) Old or plain clothes, messy hair

People books about historical times Children could re-use their historical costumes from previous years (e.g. Egyptian costume from Year 3, Roman/Greek costume from Year 4)

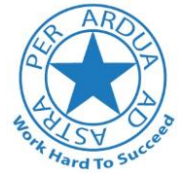
Comic book hero Example: Spiderman, Batman





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