

Garstang Community Primary School



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June 2017

Dear Parents and children,

Can you believe how lucky we were with the weather for Sports Day?! Looking out at the pouring rain today, it is a relief to know that it is one more thing ticked off! It was a real shame that we had to cancel the picnic, but I really must thank all of the parents who came back after lunch to attend our Online Safety session. It was the best turn out we have ever had, and much bigger than we were expecting. I hope you found it useful. The presentation will be put on the school website very soon for you all.

It is a really busy time of year, and there is an awful lot going on. Please make sure that you look at the diary section, and check your emails and children's bags regularly for updates. As ever, thank you for your support

Stephanie Reeves
Headteacher

Staffing

As you know, we say goodbye to three members of staff in July - Mrs Winstanley and Mrs Yates are retiring after 17 and 31 years of service respectively - I think they deserve a rest! Mr Marshall will be heading off to Dubai, and hopefully sunnier climes!

We have appointed two new members of staff, and both will be visiting in the coming weeks. I shall drag them out onto the playground with me before school, so that you have the opportunity to meet them. Mr Wilkinson, the new teacher in Oak Class, will be here on Thursday 29th June and will spend the day getting to know our current Year 5s. Miss Parkinson will visit on Monday 10th July, ready to meet her new class, the current Year 4s. I am sure they will be made to feel very welcome! We have decided that Miss Parkinson will teach Year 5 from the very start of the Year, and Mrs Newiss's maternity is due to start 3 weeks into the new term. You should have already received the staffing list for next year. The children's transition sessions start this Thursday.

Office News

As we hurtle at break neck speed towards the end of term a few pleas from the school office. Can you make sure that all payments are up to date by 14th July at the very latest. This includes school dinner payments, Tower Wood payments and trip money. With the closure of banks, it is proving more and more difficult to bank money and cheques. However school is charged 32p for every ParentPay payment also, so please chunk these payments into as few instalments as possible. Please can you also ensure that any addresses and phone numbers are up to date - an email or note with any changes is best. Thank you.

Twitter



In September we hope to be tweeting all our news as well as putting it on Facebook - more news in the new year!

Diary Dates

June

29th Y5 Chef James visit

30th Maths Puzzle Day



July

4th Maple Brass Concert
2:30pm

5th Maple Class Creative Arts Day @
GCA

6th Year 6 Pirates of the Curry Bean
Performance 7pm (Dress Rehearsal)

13th Year 6 Pirates of the Curry Bean
Performance 7pm

14th Reports home
PTA Disco

17th KS2 Campfire Evening 6-7:30pm

19th Rowan Class Trip to Blackpool Tower
Circus

21st Oak Class leavers' assembly 9:30am
School Closes

September

5th School re-opens (PLEASE NOTE
THIS IS A TUESDAY!)

Summer Building Works

Over the summer, we hope to create a fenced off play area for Rainbow Nursery School. This will be funded by money that was in Rainbow accounts when the Management Committee ended. It is hoped to continue the fence line of Acorn across the field to the top of the steps. This means we will need to create a new access path for year 6, and a new waiting area for Rainbow and Acorn parents. The work should be started during the holidays, but may not be finished by September. If this is the case, a contingency will be in place for Year 6 and Reception school entry. It should be beautiful by the time it is finished, and give Rainbow children a safe and exciting area to explore!



Uniform

Attached to this newsletter is the new uniform policy. The main changes to note are that from September, no earrings will be allowed to be worn, and we are phasing out red polo shirts. White polo shirts will be required for all pupils. ALL pupils should be in possession of black pumps at all times. We are heading to the time of year when children begin to come to school in trainers as their shoes have broken - school policy is that the children wear their school pumps rather than trainers in school. Thank you.

Wicked Young Writers Award 2017

On Friday I was honoured to travel to London to support 5 of our children who had been selected as finalists in The Wicked Young Writers Award. We sent lots of entries (thank you for your support at home) and Thia, Jack, Ollie, Ivy-Jane and Rosa were selected as finalists in the 5-7 age category. They were invited to the Apollo Victoria Theatre to the ceremony hosted by Gaby Roslin. They were able to listen to members of the Wicked cast performing songs, Cressida Cowell talk about writing, and see the fantastic scenery for the show Wicked! It was a fabulous occasion and the children did so well to get to the finals.

Because we were the school with the highest amount of entries, we have won a workshop, which will take place in the new Academic year. Thank you to Mrs Thomas for co-ordinating the competition!



Parking

Please can I yet again remind you to park safely when dropping off and picking up from school. **ON NO ACCOUNT** should any cars be stopping on the yellow zig zags on Oak Road and Lancaster Road. Please avoid parking on or close to corners as this gives other people limited visibility. We want our children to be safe. I have asked the local police to keep an eye on the situation. Also a polite reminder that the staff car park should not be used. This includes walking up the driveway. Thank you.



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School Activities and Achievements

Road Safety & Bikeability

All of our infant children have been undertaking road safety sessions in school, under the Right Start programme. They are now able to identify safe places to cross, and think carefully about the dangers of roads. Oak Class undertook their Bikeability training, where they learnt how to safely cycle on the roads around Garstang. Thank you for your co-operation with bikes and scooters when this training took place. Valet parking bikes in pouring rain is not in my job description!



Curriculum

Year 4 learned all about the Water Cycle in a workshop which supported their science learning. Beech Class and Acorn Class have both held their Class Assemblies, where they shared with us the wealth of learning that has taken place in their classrooms this year.

Community Involvement

Year 5 & 6 found out about Dementia from Sandra Perkins. They learned about how dementia affects sufferers and those who love and care for them. They showed great maturity and understanding of a very difficult topic.

3 girls from Year 6 raised £121 with a craft stall after school. Anna, Olivia and Megan would like to donate the money to Derian House, where Pippa Cole was cared for.

6 children represented school at the Flag Raising Ceremony for Armed Forces Day at Kepple Lane.

Sports



We were very successful in the various Whit Gala Football tournaments. We won the Whit Cup (the biggest trophy I've ever seen!), won the Churchtown Trophy and were runners up at Catterall. We had several different teams playing, and all played their very best!

The inter school cross country was held at St Thomas's. We won overall, Liam was first boy home and Rebecca 2nd girl! Well done!

School hosted a Sports fundraiser, where the children met Paralympian Michael Chum, who talked about his struggles and determination to become an athlete. The children then took part in a very energetic and noisy circuits activity, raising money for school equipment. We will let you know the final figure soon.

A team of children travelled to Myerscough College to take part in the inter-school tag Rugby tournament.

There have been several tennis competitions taking place over the last few weeks, and 4 of our children are through to the Wyre Finals. Good luck to Kiera, Nya, Kai and Joe.



Trips

Acorn Class went on their first class trip to Humblescough Farm. They had a fantastic day, exploring the woods and undertaking Forest School activities.

Willow Class visited Brockholes, and had a great day exploring the outdoors.

Beech Class visited the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester and got lots of hands on experience with the exhibits.

PTA

PTA held a very successful cake sale - thank you for both contributing cakes, and then buying them too!

The Summer Fun Day was a great success, and yet again the weather was kind. We hope to have raised about £1,000 by the finish, which is about one third of what we need to pay for the 2 touchscreen boards that are being fitted over the summer.

Uniform Policy

Introduction

At Garstang Community Primary School, it is our policy that all children wear school uniform when attending school, or when participating in a school organised events outside normal school hours where required. A complete list of the items needed for school uniform is included in this policy, and is available on our school website www.garstangcommunityprimaryschool.co.uk

Aims and Objectives

Our policy on school uniform is based on the following principles:

- It promotes a sense of pride in the school
- It engenders a sense of community and belonging
- It is practical, smart and safe
- It identifies the pupils with the school
- It makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance

Jewellery

On health and safety grounds we do not allow children to wear jewellery in school. This includes earrings. The exceptions to this rule are: a small discreet watch and small objects of religious requirement (all of which MUST be removed for PE and swimming lessons, and any sports clubs). We ask that any parent wishing to have their child's ears pierced waits until the start of the school summer holiday to give time for ears to heal, as they will be unable to wear their earrings in school.

Hair and Make-up

The school does not allow children to have 'extreme' haircuts such as completely shaved heads, shaved designs, Mohicans etc. Hair gel should not be worn for school. Any hair longer than shoulder length needs to be tied back for health and safety reasons. School has a stock of bobbles so children can comply with this requirement. Hair accessories should be suitable for school, discreet and not serve as a distraction. Make up and nail varnish are not allowed in school.

Footwear

For health and safety reasons, pupils must wear flat, closed toe school shoes that are dark in colour, preferably black. Trainers, boots or sandals should not be worn for school. If children come to school in inappropriate footwear they will be asked to put their school pumps on. School keep a stock of these spare that children may borrow.

PE

Our PE kit consists of a white t-shirt and black sports shorts. All children should have black plimsolls for indoor work. KS2 children may wear trainers for outdoor work. In cold weather, dark tracksuit bottoms may be worn.

All pupils need to ensure that their PE kit is in school at all times. It should arrive in school at the beginning of a half term, and will be sent home for washing at the end of each half term. Any child without a PE kit for 2 consecutive lessons, or on a regular basis will receive a note home.

Swimming happens throughout the school year for selected year groups. Children must have a one piece suit (girls), swimming trunks (not long shorts) (boys), a swimming cap for hair longer than shoulder length or long fringes, and a towel.

School Bags

Children need a bag to carry possessions to and from school. Due to the limited storage space and to comply with health and safety regulations, we ask that all bags comply with the following measurements:

Book bag (thin or satchel style) max. size Height: 31cm. Width: 37cm. Depth: 6.5cm

Small Rucksack max. size Height: 40cm. Width: 28cm. Depth: 11cm

Non-Uniform days

School occasionally hold non-uniform days, and all children may come to school in their own clothes on their birthday (or the nearest school day to their birthday if it falls on a holiday or weekend). Hair and make-up rules still apply on these days (unless they are themed dress up days), and sensible footwear must be worn.

The Role of Parents

We ask all parents who send their children to our school to support the school uniform policy. The school welcomes families from all backgrounds and faith communities. If there are specific reasons, for example, on religious grounds, why parents wish their child to wear clothes that differ from the policy, the school will look sympathetically on such requests.

We teach children to take responsibility for their own belongings, but items of clothing do get misplaced. Please ensure all clothing is clearly named, ideally with name tags, so that property can be quickly reunited with owners. We do not have a lost property box - we will endeavour to return all misplaced clothing to its owner as soon as possible.

School Uniform List

Red school sweatshirt/cardigan
White polo shirt
Grey school skirt/trousers/shorts
White/grey/black/red socks or tights
Dark coloured school shoes
Red gingham dresses may be worn in summer

Boots/wellies may be worn to school on wet days, but school shoes must be changed into on entering school.

PE

White crew neck t-shirt
Black shorts
Black plimsolls
Dark tracksuit bottoms and trainers may be worn in winter for outdoor games

Swimming

One piece swim suit (girls)
Swimming trunks (not long shorts) (boys)
Swimming cap (long hair/fringe)
Goggles may be worn after filling in a Goggle Request Form

School uniform with the school logo on can be bought from:

Tesco www.clothingattesco.com
Mike's Sportsworld, Garstang