

# Garstang Community Primary School



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Happy New Year! (Am I allowed to say that so late in the term?)

Sorry for the delay in the Newsletter—it's been a hectic few weeks.

Firstly I hope you all had a restful Christmas, although it does seem to be a distant memory now!

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mr Dignan to the team as our new Deputy Headteacher. He has settled well and is getting used to our ways!

Spring term is one of my favourites—we get so much done! The children have already done so much over the last 4 weeks—you can read about it later on in the newsletter, and don't forget to check out our website and Facebook and Twitter pages.

As ever, thank you for your support

Stephanie Reeves  
Headteacher

## 50th Birthday

We are currently planning activities for our 50th birthday celebrations. The school opened its doors on 1st May 1969 and so that's when our celebrations will start. There is lots planned including maypole dancing!

As part of the anniversary, we have asked Chas Jacobs to paint a picture of our school in his distinctive style. We think it is a lovely way to mark the occasion, and we would then be able to use the print to raise money for years to come. In order to raise the money to pay for this commission, we will be running some fund raising activities in the coming months.

Publicity for the events is currently being planned—if you can offer any suggestions, please let us know!



## Scooters

As many of you know, last year we had a nasty accident where one of our grandparents was knocked over by a child riding a scooter. Since then there has been a strict ban on riding bikes and scooters on the school premises. Children have been told that they must dismount their bike or scooter before entering the school gates and push them to the racks. Unfortunately, I received a complaint last week that some children are still riding their scooters down the path, and are also not being careful when riding on the pavements on the way into and from school. I will re-iterate the rules to the children in school, please support this by reminding your children about safe use of their scooters. I really don't want to have to ban them!

## School Activities and Achievements

As part of our Service Level Agreement with Fleetwood Town Football Club Community Trust, we receive lots of support both within the curriculum and in after school activities. This term, Maple Class are benefitting from support within their PE lessons, Oak Class are participating in the Healthy Heads programme to look at how an active lifestyle promotes good mental health, some boys are taking part in the Premier League Stars Reading initiative, and some of our most talented athletes are being coached in the Gifted and Talented programme. Other sporting activities in school at present include judo in Rowan Class, Dance in Willow Class; and after school we have clubs in Hockey for KS1, Dodgeball for Years 3 and 4, and Tag Rugby for Years 5 and 6. I don't think we've ever been so busy!



Continuing the sporting theme, our athletes have spent time after school training for the Sportshall heat held in Blackpool on Thursday 31st January. We competed against 11 other Wyre and Fylde schools in a range of track and field events. Although we didn't get through to the next stage of the competition, the children worked hard to put in fantastic performances and were certainly the best behaved on the night!

4 of our Year 6 children took part in some table tennis training at GCA last week and learned some great skills whilst having lots of fun!

Every year we are asked to help up at Kepple Lane Park, ensuring that the willow tunnel is kept neat and useable. In order to do this, the branches need weaving back into the willow structure at the coldest time of year, when the willow has no leaves. Mrs Gregson and 4 Year 6 children undertook this activity on a cold January morning, alongside our friends from other local schools. They battled freezing fingers and numb toes and the tunnel is now neat and tidy again, ready for blooming in the Spring term.



As part of our love for reading, Mrs Newiss organised some sessions for some of our pupils at Garstang Library. The children walked down to the library to take part in a range of reading activities designed to ignite their passion for a good book!

Acorn Class walked to Booths last Wednesday, to have a look at how a shop runs.

They looked at the different types of fruit and veg on offer, and visited the fish and meat counters where they thought about where their food comes from. They were then taken behind the scenes to the warehouse, where they got to stand in some huge fridges and freezers. The visit culminated in a tasting session in the café where they tried mandarin segments, carrot sticks, grapes, cheese, and, the most popular, chocolate cake! They had a great time learning all about the workings of a supermarket!

As we look towards the last 2 weeks of this half term, there's lots to fit in! One of our parents will be taking assembly, talking to the children about Islam, our RE theme for the term. Singing Club, who have been meeting weekly since September, will be visiting Manchester Arena to take part in the annual Young Voices concert, singing in a choir of approximately 7,000! Blue Moose Dance Company will be in school running some workshops for our KS2 children. Oak Class will be going to Garstang Academy to take part in the annual Maths Challenge. Acorn Class are holding a café for their families in the last week of term, where they will be taking orders for food and making it too! They have been practising in their role play area, and last week I was served a lovely dish of dried pasta, a cup of air tea, and invisible ice cream on some plastic bread for afters. I think you'll get real food if you come along to their café! On the last day of term, Willow Class will be presenting their assembly. All are invited at 9:30 a.m.

### Diary Dates

#### February

6th Dance Workshops KS2  
 7th Oak Class to Maths Challenge  
 13th Singing Club to Young Voices  
 Acorn Café  
 14th Film Night  
 15th Willow Class Assembly 9:30  
 Half Term  
 25th School re-opens

#### March

1st Ash Class Archaeology Day  
 6th Acorn Parents Phonic Session  
 20th Acorn to Old Holly Farm  
 22nd Easter Bingo  
 27th Disco

#### April

1st/4th Parents' Evening 4-7pm  
 5th Rowan Class Assembly 9:30  
 Break up for Easter