Dear Parents and Children,

Well, the Easter break is almost upon us and it will be May almost as soon as we get back to school. Next term is a short term of 5 weeks, but we have plenty to fit in! As you know, the school turns 50 on May 1st, and there is information later on in the newsletter about how we plan to celebrate.

The children have worked really hard this term, which I’m sure you’ve seen by looking in their books at Parents’ Evening. I find it a real privilege to be the Headteacher of this school—we have such happy, polite, caring and successful children. I am often complemented on our children’s behaviour—only this week, I was told how much Debbie from NISCU enjoys coming into our school and the coaches from Fleetwood Town say that they love coming to work with us!

I hope that you have a lovely Easter break, whatever you get up to. Please remember that we are due back in school on TUESDAY 23rd April.

Stephanie Reeves  
Headteacher

50th Birthday

I’m sure it can’t have escaped your notice that the school is celebrating it’s 50th birthday this year! The school officially opened on 1st May 1969 as a proposed 2 form entry school, although the actual opening ceremony took place nearly 1 year later! On its first day the school took in 82 pupils, 15 in the juniors and 67 in the infants. By Sept 1972 this number had risen to 269, with all 8 classrooms in the school holding more than 30 pupils! There have been 4 Headteachers—Mr Greaves, Mr Bullivant, Mr McCusker and myself. Up until 1989, the Headteacher kept a log book, writing in it almost everyday—it’s a great read. For example, overnight on February 7th 1972, the school was broken into and £3 stolen! In June 1982, the children were given a choice of food at dinner time for the first time (I remember the excitement surrounding this from when I was at primary school!)

At the end of the newsletter, you will find an invitation to our afternoon events on May 1st. We will also be holding an open day on June 22nd for you to be able to look at memorabilia. On FRIDAY 3rd MAY, we will be holding a dress up day—children may come to school that day dressed in period costume of the 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s or 00s.
### Chas Jacobs Print

Our beautiful painting by Chas will be officially in place in time for our party on May 1st. The information about the silent auction for print 1/50 has been emailed and sent via paper copy to you. The closing date for this is this FRIDAY, 5th April at 12 noon. After Friday, we will be marketing the remaining 49 prints. We shall also be selling the miniatures of the print, and mugs and bags. The original painting will be displayed in the foyer at school—please do pop in after May to see it in all its vibrant beauty!

### New Phone System

Our school phones have been replaced, due to the old system no longer being supported. We now have the capacity to take messages, so you will see a difference when you next phone school. Children’s absences will be recorded and picked up by office staff. Please bear with us whilst we get used to the new system—it’s slightly more technologically advanced than the old one!

### Summer Uniform

I know many of you will be taking the opportunity over the Easter holidays to buy summer uniform, in the hope that the warm weather is not far away. Please be reminded that our summer uniform is as follows:

- White polo shirt
- Grey shorts/trousers/skirt
- Red gingham dress
- Red sweatshirt/cardigan

Please note that dark school shoes should still be worn—sandals are not appropriate, particularly as we have stairs.

Please ensure all items of clothing are named—cardigans and sweatshirts are often discarded at this time of year and then we can’t find an owner!

### School Activities and Achievements

We’ve had a few fantastic trips over the last half term, Rowan Class visited Barton Grange, learning all about plants and growing. Acorn Class had a great time at Old Holly Farm, visiting the milking parlour and petting the animals. Beech Class visited Lancaster Maritime Museum, to learn more about Vikings.

Some of the older boys have been taking part in the Premier League Primary Reading Stars programme, where all of their reading was linked to football. They learned lots, and their coach Ash said they worked really hard throughout the 10-week programme.

The PTA Easter Bingo was a great success, with a brand new and much more experienced bingo caller this year—thank you Mr Clensy—you have a job for life now!

We have been involved in several sporting activities too. 10 children from Years 5 and 6 travelled to Millfield to take part in a Dodgeball competition, coming 4th overall. 10 Year 3 and 4 children travelled to Poole Farm (Fleetwood Town’s training ground!) to take part in a football tournament—they lost out in the semi-finals of the plate competition. Well done to everyone who has taken part and represented school!

We’ve held plenty of clubs this half term: Football for KS1 and 2 and Archery. Next term we have Speedstacking, Tri-Golf, Yoga and Football! So much going on!

Please keep up to date on our activities on our Facebook and Twitter pages.
Diary Dates

**April**

1st/4th Parents’ Evening
3rd Ash Class Café 1:45pm
5th Rowan Class Assembly 9:30am
   School closes for Easter
23rd School opens
   Tri-Golf Club
   Speedstacking Club
24th Yoga Club 8:00 am
   Willow Class Swimming

**May**

1st 50th Birthday Open Day
3rd Dress in the Decades day
8th Class Photos
13th KS2 SATs start
   Maple Class to Cuerden Valley
21st Water Safety Assembly
23rd School closes for Whit half term
27th Children’s Festival

**June**

3rd School opens
4th Magistrates in the Community- Oak Class
6th Willow Class— Brockholes Nature Reserve
5th/12th Oak Class Bikeability
10th Phonics Test start—Rowan/ Willow
22nd Saturday Open Day 10-3
26th Sports Morning and picnic

**July**

3rd Ash Class to Windermere
   Acorn Class to Humblescough Farm
12th Oak Class to London
15th Wheelchair Basketball
19th School closes for Summer

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Road and Scooter safety

Thank you for supporting the school in ensuring that the children are not scooting or cycling on the school grounds. It really does make the playground a safer place to be. Please can I also remind you to take clear notice of the markings on the roads. We often get complaints that people have parked on the small ‘H’ marking on Oak Road, and also we have had complaints of some parents stopping on the yellow zig zags. Please respect all road markings as they are there to keep your children safe.
GARSTANG COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL IS 50!

Please join us on 1st May to celebrate 50 years since our wonderful school opened. You are more than welcome to drop in during the day. Please see below for our events

9:30-11:00  Open Morning for general public to view memorabilia

1:00-3:00  An afternoon of events to include:

- Maypole Dancing
- Maple Class Brass Band
- Oak Class Recorder Players
- Field activities
- Burying of a time capsule

If you can’t make this date, then we will be holding a general open day on Saturday 22nd June 10:00—3:00. Feel free to drop in, look around our wonderful school, see the display of photos and documents and have a cuppa and a cake!
Speech and Language Therapy Drop-In Sessions

**The Zone Fleetwood**
Milton Street, Fleetwood
09:00—10:30
Thursday 16th May
Thursday 20th June
Thursday 18th July
Thursday 15th August

**Garstang Library**
Windsor Rd, Garstang
13:00—14:30
Monday 20th May
Monday 24th June
Monday 22nd July
Monday 19th August

**Thornton Neighbourhood Centre**
(formerly Children’s Centre) Heys Sts
Thornton
09:00—10:30
Wednesday 29th May
Wednesday 26th June
Wednesday 31st July
Wednesday 28th August

**Sydney St Neighbourhood Centre**
(Oak Tree) Sydney Street, St Annes
09:00—10:30
Tuesday 7th May
Tuesday 4th June
Tuesday 2nd July
Tuesday 6th August

**Revoe Children’s Centre**
Grasmere Rd., Blackpool
09:00—10:30
Tuesday 14th May
Tuesday 18th June
Tuesday 16th July
Tuesday 20th August

**Grange Park Children’s Centre**
Dingle Avenue, Blackpool
09:00—10:30
Thursday 9th May
Thursday 13th June
Thursday 11th July
Thursday 8th August

**Talbot & Brunswick Children’s Centre**
Gorton Street, Blackpool
09:00—10:30
Wednesday 1st May
Wednesday 5th June
Wednesday 3rd July
Wednesday 7th August

Children must be accompanied by a parent or person with parental responsibility.

We are sorry if you have to wait a little while to see the therapist at drop ins — they may be busy.