

Garstang Community Primary School



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May 2019

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Dear Parents and Children,

At last summer seems to be on its way! The air is still a bit chilly each morning but by lunchtime the children are enjoying the freedom of playing on the field. We hope that when we get back from the Whit holidays it will be warm enough to eat outside too!

The Children's Festival is looming large—I smile every time I see another roll of paper being passed over on the playground. Massive thanks to everyone involved in preparing our entry for the Festival—I can't wait to see it on Whit Monday! Our footballers will be in action as well over the holidays, including the final of the Under-11 Whit Cup. We are in the semi-finals after smashing the heats and not conceding any goals—well done! Again thanks have to go to Mr Wilkinson who is giving up his holidays to ensure that the boys are able to compete.

As the weather is warmer, please ensure that all children have a named sunhat, full water bottle and long lasting sun cream on. Please also ensure that their clothing is named—we are starting to build up a collection of jumpers and cardis with no names that apparently belong to no-one!

This term we have welcomed a new family into school. Sam is in Willow Class, Tom in Maple and Joe in Beech—the children have made them very welcome.

Have a super Whit holiday—remember we break up on THURSDAY 23rd May—Friday is an INSET day. We are back bright and early on Monday June 3rd.

Thank you

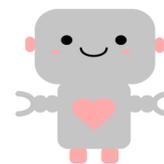
Stephanie Reeves
Headteacher

SATs

Well done to Years 2 and 6, who have completed their SATs tests this month. Both classes worked really hard and should be very proud of themselves. SATs tests are a very small measure of what the children can do, and their experiences at school. We always hope to produce happy, confident and articulate children who are able to understand their place in the world. None of the tests measure this, but you only have to look at our children to know it's working!

Year 1 phonics tests take place wc 10th June . This will also involve some children in Willow Class.

3D—Printer



We are currently 'borrowing' a 3D—printer from a company promoting the development of children's designing

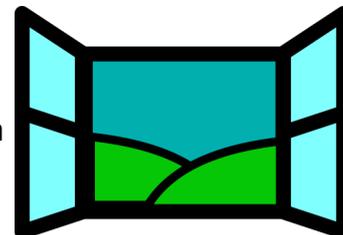
skills. I'm sure the careers our children have will rely heavily on technology such as this. The children have been fascinated by it and created some amazing designs using a programme called TinkerCad. We will be sad to see it go—perhaps it's something we could fundraise to buy? Obviously the overall running costs are also a consideration—electricity and plastic!

Window Coverings

For those of you who know the inside of our school well, you will know how unbearably hot our classrooms can be in the summer months. We have contingencies in place to try to help combat this, such as Mr Clensy opening windows as soon as he arrives in the morning and putting on fans.

This year the PTA agreed to fund solar film on 5 of our classroom windows to try to help us alleviate the problem—and I must say that in the present hot weather we have seen a notable drop in temperature. Huge thanks to the PTA for funding this—it really has made a difference to the children's working environment.

Over half term, the office and staff room windows will also benefit from covering, which school has funded. Not only will this help temperature control at the front of school, it will also give privacy, particularly for meetings held in the Head's office.



School Activities

Gosh we've been busy since the last newsletter!

Ash Class held a very successful café for parents. They made pizza from scratch (including dough!), made invitations and table decorations, took orders and waited on their guests. We are training them well. It was a lovely event and the parents were very impressed with their skills!



We took part in the interschool Swimming Gala and performed very well.

Rowan Class treated us to a delightful assembly, all about Springtime and Easter.

Ash Class have enjoyed Judo lessons within their PE time, and yesterday demonstrated their skills and learning to their parents, who were particularly impressed with their strength, determination, and folding up of judo outfits! Beech Class have undertaken the Healthy Heads program this term, ensuring that they have the skills and resilience to tackle life on a daily basis.

12 pupils from a range of KS2 classes took part in the annual inter-school AquaSpalsh at Fleetwood Pool. They took part in some really exciting activities and showed such confidence in the pool.

Sara from Preston Synagogue came to talk to the children about her faith, tying in with our whole school study of Judaism. The children were particularly fascinated to know that Jews follow 613 commandments!

12 children travelled to Rossall School in Fleetwood to take part in an Orienteering activity. This gave them the freedom to tour the beautiful grounds and think how much like Hogwarts it is!

The under 9 Whit Cup was held and the children performed well, coming joint third. As mentioned the Under 11 team are doing very well and we shall know by the end of the Children's Festival whether we are Whit Cup holders once more!

Maple Class visited Cuerden Valley as part of their Rivers topic. They had a fantastic time and found out so much to support their learning. This was followed later in the week by a Water Workshop delivered by a representative of United Utilities.

4 children attended a New Age Kurling event at Garstang Academy and really enjoyed trying a new sport—they'll be mithering to go to the Flower Bowl over the holidays!

Some of our Year 3 and 4 girls attended a Football Tournament at Poolfoot Farm recently. For some it was the first time they'd played in a tournament, and they had a great time. It's definitely piqued their interest in the game.

Oak Class are busy rehearsing for their end of term performance 'School of Rock'. They enjoyed a day with Blue Moose Dance Company, choreographing some of their dances. There was lots of air guitar!

All of the children enjoyed a Water Safety Assembly, presented by representatives of the RNLI—a really informative session that really brought home the dangers of water.





50th Birthday

What a fantastic Day we had for our birthday party! Oscar in Year 2 told me the other day that it had been the best day at school EVER! The children certainly enjoyed themselves and we have also had some lovely letters and emails from visitors who came on the day.

Thank you to all of you who came to watch at any point—we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

The day started with visitors dropping in to see the displays, find themselves in pictures, and tour the school. The children were all taking part in History lessons at this point, looking at how the school has changed, and stayed the same, over the 50 years. One of the first visitors to the school was Mrs Jean Robinson, who was one of the original 3 teachers in 1969! She was fascinating to talk to. We then held an assembly, where the children sang the song “Praise My Soul” which was one of the original hymns in school. We also had some musicians, and 4 children read a poem written by Mr McCusker. Chas unveiled our painting and Caroline and Ellie, who share their birthdays with the school blew out the candles on our cake. The children then enjoyed their picnic lunches in their classroom (a particular highlight apparently!)

The afternoon was opened by Garstang’s brilliant Town Crier, who had written a cry especially for the occasion. Ash Class then delighted us with their Maypole Dancing (thanks Miss Clare for your hard work and patience!). Year 6 recorders played some pieces that they have been working hard on, and they were followed by Maple Class Brass Band. They finished their set with the National Anthem. We then learned what Oak Class had decided should go into their Time Capsule—items such as an I-Pod, Now CD, Next catalogue, and letters to future generations. This was buried in the field, with a record made of the exact co-ordinates to be dug up in 50 years time! We then enjoyed some hilarious races on the field, particular highlights being the Wellie, 3-legged and Wheelbarrow races!”

It really was a great day to remember and my thanks go to all the people who worked so hard to make it possible. Each child has received a commemorative bookmark which I hope they will treasure.

Merchandise for the day has been very popular. Mr Bunting won the silent auction for the Chas Jacobs print. Fundraising so far, through the selling of the merchandise, and various fundraising activities has given the school fund over £2,500 so far. If you have ordered anything, we hope to have it delivered after half term.

Diary Dates

May

23rd Ash Class Assembly 9:30 am
23rd School closes for Whit half term
27th Children’s Festival

June

3rd School opens
4th Magistrates in the Community-
Oak Class
5th/12th Oak Class Bikeability
6th Willow Class— Brockholes Nature
Reserve
Oak Class Dance Workshop
10th Phonics Test start—Rowan/
Willow
21st Acorn Assembly 9:30 am
22nd Saturday Open Day 10am-3pm
26th Sports Morning and picnic

July

3rd Ash Class to Windermere
Acorn Class to Humblescough
Farm
8th & 9th Year 6 Production ‘School of
Rock’ 7pm
10th Maple Class to GCA to watch
‘Little Shop of Horrors’
PTA Discos
11th Oak Class Reports out
12th Oak Class to London
Reports out
15th Wheelchair Basketball
19th Oak Class Leavers’ Assembly

**Congratulations to Eve R in
Ash Class for being a Wicked
Young Writers Finalist. Good
luck in London!**