

Garstang Community Primary School



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Dear Parents and Children

Firstly, huge apologies! I realise that you didn't get a February newsletter! I think it's because February is so short and is even shorter in school because we have half term getting in the way! I might manage two in March, but as we only have 2 full weeks left, I'm not confident!

We are currently experiencing higher levels of COVID than we ever had during the pandemic. At one point last week we had 16 children and 4 members of staff off. Please remain vigilant to the symptoms, and undertake lateral flow testing with your child if they have any symptoms. If your child needs to self isolate, they must remain away from school for 5 full days. They then must test negative on day 5 AND 6 in order to return. If you do the day 5 test early enough (before 8), then leave 24 hrs until the day 6 test, they can actually return on the day 6. Please let us know your child's day 5 result, so that we can either plan for their return on day 6, or continue to provide work on Google Classroom.

If the parents who does the school run has COVID, please phone the school office, so that we can arrange safe drop off/pick up procedures.

If your child is self isolating, we will provide access to Google Classroom, providing they are well enough to complete it. If they are unwell, please tell us, and we will not provide work. The work will be available the day after you inform us that your child is self isolating, and well enough to complete it. As the work mirrors what the class are undertaking in the classroom, it does take the teachers up to an extra hour each day to upload the work onto the platform. Please ensure that your children are commenting on each piece of work in the classroom so that the teacher knows that they are undertaking the work. In some instances recently, teachers have been setting work that has been asked for, and the children are not completing it. If we have 2 days in a row where your child has not engaged, we will stop providing the work.

Mrs Murphy, our Year 4 teacher and SENCO, is now in the 3rd trimester of pregnancy and, because she is extremely clinically vulnerable, will be working from home until her maternity leave starts on 2nd May. If you need to get in touch with her regarding special needs matters, her email is senco@garstang.lancs.sch.uk. This week we have welcomed Miss Cookson to our team, who will cover Mrs Murphy's maternity until her return next year.



Thank you all for your continued support during these still tricky times. Hopefully brighter days are coming—it's certainly a delight to drive to and from school in the light, and see the daffodils bobbing their heads! Spring is on its way!

Supporting Children's Understanding of the News

The world is a difficult and tricky place at the moment, and however much we try to shield our children from upsetting topics, they will inevitably hear snippets on the news or from other children that may worry and confuse them. The present situation in the Ukraine is a good example of this. In school we tackle these issues with sensitivity, and at age appropriate levels. Obviously, children are exposed to differing amounts of information outside of school, and chatter on the playground can be misleading or upsetting to children who have little or no knowledge of world events. Therefore, in school, we give basic facts and, in the case of the Ukraine, focus on the fact that there are people in need and we can help through collections etc. Newsround is widely used in school, particularly in KS2, and this is a valuable resource to help children gain an understanding of wider world issues at an age appropriate level. Newsround have produced a short piece about what to do if you are upset by things you see in the news and this can be found here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/13865002>

Place2be is a fantastic children's mental health charity, and their advice on how to talk to children about upsetting things they see on the news can be found here:

<https://www.place2be.org.uk/about-us/news-and-blogs/2022/march/talking-to-children-and-young-people-about-war-and-conflict/>

If you have any worries or concerns, please either speak to your child's class teacher, or myself.

PTA News

Attached to this newsletter is a newsletter from the PTA, keeping you up-to-date on what they are up to. Please note, that due to the upturn in our COVID cases the Easter Bingo has been postponed to 22nd April. The non-uniform day and Easter Egg donation will still be this coming Friday however. The PTA are always looking for new members—they are a friendly bunch and would love to welcome new ideas and people!

School Activities and Achievements

Dance Club performed a fabulous dance at the Wyre and Fylde Schools Dance Competition, in the beautiful surroundings of The Tower Ballroom. They had worked so hard and their dance was beautiful—we were super proud of them!

Ash Class presented a lovely assembly all about love, to the school and their parents. It brought a tear to lots of eyes (mine included!).

Rowan Class performed a dance based on the book 'Supertato' in front of a huge audience at The Marine Hall in Fleetwood. They were amazing and everyone was so proud!

Ash Class had a really informative session with Mr Tempan all about Fairtrade, learning about fairness and how the Fairtrade movement supports this.

We had a fabulous day of Wheelchair Basketball with Shaun and John—the children had a great time and it was amazing how quickly they learnt to navigate where they needed to be! Shaun's assembly even made its way on to Tyson Fury's Instagram stories!

Our idea for the children to celebrate World Book Day by holding Book Oscars and getting dressed up paid off beautifully—they looked so lovely! Thank you for helping with that!

As part of their RE curriculum, Oak Class visited the Methodist Church with Rev Keith to learn about Baptism and Confirmation—it was really good for them to see the context around these sacraments.

A group of Year 3 and 4 boys took part in an interschool football tournament at Poolfoot Farm—they played brilliantly and were a real credit to our school.

February PTA Activities



f Garstang Community Primary PTA

Last month's PTA meeting took place on the 20th January at school and we discussed the previous term's fundraising events as well as what's to come for the rest of the year. Minutes are available on the PTA Facebook page for you to read in full. It's been difficult thinking of ways to work around the ~~Covid~~ restrictions which have been in place for the last two years, but we've managed to "think outside the box" and continue remote fundraising and engagement events despite the challenges!

All money raised goes straight back into the school to support our children's education and over the last year the **£6714.72** (yes even the 72p!) raised has paid for coaches for Christmas Theatre trips, Classroom supplies, Sensory garden supplies, 3D Printers and subsidising class trips amongst other things. Thank you to everyone who has contributed it really does make a difference.

Nevertheless we've really missed meeting new parents and running some of our bigger and more enjoyable face to face events which have been so popular over the years. Fingers crossed this year we can now start to plan some more sociable events which provide such a great opportunity to get to know our school family!

If you are interested in supporting the school and getting to know other parents and teachers then now is a great time to get involved as we look ahead to the rest of 2022. Each class has a PTA representative who you can chat to if you'd like to find out more, or even better; just turn up at the next meeting which is scheduled for **Thursday 3rd March at school at 7pm**. The kettle will be on and we'd love to see you!

Updates

School Cookbook- Have you got a recipe that you and your family love? If you do and you're happy to share it we would love to include it in our school cookbook. Please use this form to submit your recipe: <https://saronti.com/garstang> using password: G&rs1&ng

5p Challenge- The 5p challenge is back! Race the other classes to fill your bottle with 5p's- the winning class gets £50 and runner up £25. Competition ends 25th March

Easter Bingo- Forget Bongo's Bingo- the famous Easter Bingo is where it's at! It's back for 2022 and more details are coming very soon...

Mother's Day Flowers- Order forms will go out mid-March for pots of primulas grown by Myerscough College students- only £5 so be quick!

Christmas Hamper Basket- If you were lucky enough to win one of these please can you return your basket to school so that we can recycle for next time rather than purchase new. Thank you 😊

Ideas for 2022- New supporters very welcome!

- 🍷 Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations?
- 🍷 Summer Fayre?
- 🍷 Cheese and Wine Evening?
- 🍷 Flower Arranging Evening?
- 🍷 PTA Logo Redesign Competition?



School Uniform Freecycle

Anna Coulton has kindly managed the school uniform recycling for the past few years but we now have a new WhatsApp Group set up to recycle school uniforms- most of which are in excellent condition as our children continue to grow!

It works much like any other selling page- simply take a photo and share the details of what you are offering and then you can liaise directly with the person to hand over the items.

Previously we asked for a £1 donation for each item but we are now changing to "pay what you can". All details are in the WhatsApp group, please scan the QR code to join!

