

Garstang Community Primary School



Phone: 01995 603622

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February 2023

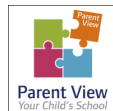
Website: www.garstangcommunityprimary.co.uk



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Dear Parents and Children

Spring is definitely in the air! It is almost light as I make my way to work each morning (although I did have to scrape the ice from my windscreen yesterday!). I noticed the crocuses in front of my offices this morning as well—what a cheery sight! The bulbs I planted at home in November are also sprouting - you might remember I was quite worried about them in my last newsletter, so I was very relieved when I saw their little green shoots!

I hope you all had a lovely half term, whatever you got up to. The children are always full of what they've done— I've heard all about ski trips, cinema visits, trips to see family and friends.

This term we've lots going on in school—please double check the diary dates section in case anything has changed. Also you should be receiving your child's class newsletter any day now, so please check for any class-specific information such as PE days, themed activities, etc.

Thank you as ever for your support

Stephanie Reeves
Headteacher



Parking Issues



Parking is always an issues outside school. Please can you ensure that when you are dropping off and picking up you are parking courteously (eg not across driveways, double parked, or on corners), and NEVER on the zigzag lines outside of school—they are there for your children's safety. Please do not use the staff car park—please pass this message on to anyone who picks up your child—there is not enough room for even the staff cars! If you do use the carpark for drop off /pick up for Discovery Vine, please again be courteous to the other users of the car park and always ensure your child's safety, preferably holding their hand. Please always use a parking bay, and never just drop off your child on the car park to make their own way into Breakfast Club. Please do not use the carpark entrance to turn your car around.

Another issue that has been highlighted by one of our parents is the amount of parents who sit in their cars with the engines idling. This is not good for the children's (or adults!) health, or for the environment. It is also very annoying for our neighbours. It is actually illegal to leave your engine idling outside of a school and you could be fined for doing so—the following article gives further information:

<https://www.lancs.live/news/lancashire-news/school-run-parents-carers-warned-25985174>

Oak Tree Nursery Job Vacancy



Come and join us here at Oak Tree Nursery School, in Garstang. We are looking for a Level 3 Qualified Practitioner to join our small team.

We are a term time only setting and the hours are 7.30am till 3.30pm. This is an ideal job for anyone who wants to work around their own child going to school.

Please contact Julie or Jill, on 07779 443960, for an informal chat, or send your CV directly to us at the email address:

garstang@oaktreenurseryschooltd.co.uk

Please can you make sure that if someone else is picking up your child from school, you have let the teacher or school office know. Sometimes the message has been sent via a child and it can get lost in translation!

Premises Works

The safety of our pupils is of paramount importance to us, and after undertaking a site survey, we have identified further ways to ensure our site and pupils are as safe as they can be. In the next few months we will be installing playground fencing at the top and bottom of our playground, that will be locked from 9:10 am until 3:10 pm. This will ensure separation of our pupils from visitors to our school. It will mean that, once the fences are fitted, anyone picking up/dropping off for Nursery during the school day will need to use the Lancaster Road gate, which will be unlocked. We are also looking to secure the rest of our boundaries (those along residential gardens) with stock-type fencing. This will ensure that our site is completely secure.

We have also been lucky enough to secure Government funding to replace our roof coverings, to ensure our building is as energy efficient as it can be. It is hoped that works will start sometime in June and continue over the summer holidays, in order to minimise disruption to the children's learning.

School Activities and Achievements

At the end of January, a group of Year 4, 5 and 6 children attended the Young Voices Concert at Manchester's AO Arena. It was an amazing night, where our singing club got the opportunity to perform as part of an 8,000 strong choir. It really is an amazing experience for them—they had a fabulous time and we were very proud of them!

As part of their topic, Ticket to Ride, Acorn Class got a visit from a fire engine and some fire fighters. They loved looking at the inside of the fire engine, but the best bit by far was being able to use the hose!



7th February was National Online Safety Day, and we undertook lots of activities in school to highlight the importance of keeping safe online. We finished the day off by hosting a parents' workshop giving tips and information on how to keep children safe on their devices. This was very well attended and received.

Willow Class treated us to a lovely assembly about their learning so far this year. They re-enacted the story of 'Caterpillar Shoes', showed us lots of work they had completed and sang about how proud they are of our school. After the assembly, they proudly looked through their books with their family, showing off all their wonderful work!

We ended the half term with a disco, which was enjoyed by all—thank you to the PTA for organising. This term, Rowan and Beech Class will be working on the Healthy Heads programme with Amy, focusing on British Values. This programme helps children to understand values such as democracy and liberty to help support their growth and understanding of citizenship. This enables pupils to develop self-confidence to distinguish from right and wrong, and respect the civil and criminal law of Britain.



Ash Class are the lucky class to be learning Judo this half term—they had a great first lesson! Oak Class went to St Aidan's this week to watch the Drama Group's production of 'Sister Act'. It was lovely to be invited to a different school and the show was very good. Hopefully it inspired some of them to get involved when they move on to their high school.

Diary Dates

February

24th Y2/6 Fire Safety talk
Rowan Class History Day

March

2nd World Book Day
10th Dentist—Curriculum Visit Acorn and Maple
14th Oak Class Dental Check
20th Oak Class to Methodist Church
22nd Maple Trip to Cuerden Valley
23rd Rowan Class Tea Dance—Marine Hall
24th Rowan Class Assembly-9:15am
PTA Easter Bingo—non-uniform
27th-31st Enterprise Week
28th/30th Parents' Evening 3:45—7:00 pm
30th Ash Class Assembly—9:15am
31st Enterprise Market
Break up for Easter



April

17th School re-opens
20th Willow Class start swimming



May

KS1 SATs take place this month



1st May Day Bank Holiday
3rd Ash Class trip to Footprint
8th Coronation Bank Holiday
9th-12th KS2 SATs
26th Sports Morning and family picnic 9:15am
Break up for half term

June

Y4 Multiplication test take place this month

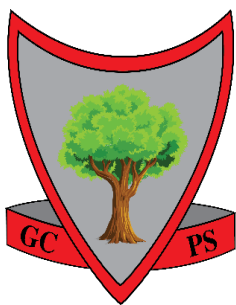
6th School re-opens
12th Y1 Phonics tests this week
12/13th Oak Class Bikeability
21st PTA Fun Day after school
23rd Willow trip to Leighton Hall
30th Acorn Class Assembly 9:15am

July



6th/7th Oak Class trip to London
17th/18th Oak Class Performance 6:00pm
20th Oak Class Awards Evening 6:00pm
21st School closes for summer





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Garstang Community Primary School
"Growing Together"

24th February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Consultation on changes to the school day

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed changes to the timings of the school day. The consultation period will run for 4 weeks from Monday 27th February 2023 until Sunday 26th March 2023. Garstang Community Primary School currently provides a school week that is 31hrs and 40 minutes. The government expectation is that state funded mainstream schools should deliver a school week of at least 32 hours and 30 minutes by September 2023. The 32.5 hours takes into account all lunchtimes and breaktimes, and runs from the official start time of the school day to the official end time. It does not include optional before or after school provision.

Our current times are:

Doors open: 8:50am
Official start time: 9:00am (doors locked – registration starts)
Official end time: 3:20pm

We propose the following changes:

Doors open: 8:45am
Official start time: 8:55am (doors locked – registration starts)
Official end time: 3:25pm

This change would take effect from 1st September 2023.

If you wish to ask any questions, or make a response to this proposal please email head@garstang.lancs.sch.uk by midnight of Sunday 26th March 2023.

Thank you
Stephanie Reeves
Headteacher