

Garstang Community Primary School



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Dear parents and children

I can't believe that we are already at the Easter holidays! I'm not sure whether the older I get the faster the time goes (particularly at weekends!). I hope you have some lovely plans, even if those plans just involve chilling at home with the family!

Thank you for all of your support over the last term. This will be the first half term since I've been Headteacher here, that I'm not thinking 'Another term gone and still no Ofsted!'. We have yet to receive the final report, so I imagine I will be sharing it with you in the first week or two of the Summer Term. Thank you for all of your lovely comments to the inspectors and for looking after us all—the staff really felt your love that week!

Summer Term is always a really busy one with all kinds of different activities planned so keep an eye on the newsletters, emails and texts. Children may return to school in their summer uniform if they wish, but please remember that open toed sandals are not part of the uniform for safety reasons—black school shoes are still mandatory.

Have a lovely 2-week break and we shall see you bright and refreshed on Monday 17th April.

Steph Reeves
Headteacher

Staffing News

Today, we say a really sad 'goodbye' to Mrs France, who has taught in Maple Class for the last year, covering Mrs Murphy's maternity leave. Mrs France has been a really positive presence in our school and we wish her well as she moves on to a new school in Longridge. Mrs Murphy will be returning to her substantive post and will be back in school on 17th April. She will also be returning to her post as SENCO, and so will be your first port of call for any SEND queries. Mrs Newiss has been covering this post over the last year, and has done a fantastic job! Remember, to contact Mrs Murphy with any SEND issues, you can either call the school office or email her on senco@garstang.lancs.sch.uk.

We will also welcome a new member of staff in April—Mr Harrison will be supporting in Maple Class

Consultation on Changes to the School

Day



Our last newsletter contained a consultation on changes to the start and end of the school day, in order for school to be open for the 32.5 hours stipulated by the DfE. I received no negative feedback to the proposal, so, now that the consultation date has passed, I can confirm that the changes will take effect from **1st September 2023**. As a reminder the new school times will be:

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

Enterprise Week

Today sees the culmination of Enterprise Week. The classrooms have been a hive of activity this week, with lots of product making going on, ready to sell at the Enterprise Market this afternoon. The children have really enjoyed the whole process, with KS2 children taking part in a Dragons' Den style pitch (my favourite part!), undertaking market research and then marketing their products, including a great TV advert from Year 6!

We shall be able to report profits for each class after the Easter Break, but whatever the outcome from each class, some fabulous learning has taken place. Thank you to Mr Dignan for organising and the staff for undertaking such a mammoth task, especially on Parents' Evening week!

Garstang Theatre Group

Garstang Theatre Group Youth drama workshops starting Wednesday 26th April!

It's a six week program, for young people aged 8-16, finishing with a whole day session and showcase for family and friends on 3rd June! Every Wednesday starting 26th April, 6:30pm - 7:30pm in St Mary and St Michael's School Hall £35 per young person!

To book your place email us now at garstangtheatregroup@hotmail.com

Coronation of King Charles III

Please remember that everyone has been granted an extra bank holiday to celebrate this event. Therefore school will be closed on both **1st and 8th May**. In order to celebrate the coronation, we are planning a joint event with St. Thomas's School, involving Garstang Town Council. We hope to hold this on Friday 5th May. This will be followed by a celebration picnic lunch. This lunch is open to all children and letters were sent out this week. Last date for ordering a meal if your child does not usually have one on a Friday is 21st April.



School Vacancies

As a school, our cleaning is undertaken by contract cleaners. They are currently looking for a cleaner to fill a vacancy at our school. Please see the details below:

Assured Cleaning Services are looking for a reliable operative with previous cleaning experience to carry out the daily cleaning at GCPS.. Working 40 weeks per year. (39 weeks term time, plus 1 week deep clean carried out in summer holidays) The role is Monday to Friday from 3:15-6:15pm Monday to Friday.

Working alongside another operative duties include cleaning of offices, classrooms, and toilet areas. Vacuuming, mopping, emptying bins, cleaning of desks etc

Ideally applicants will have an enhanced DBS Certificate, however if you don't hold a current certificate, we will undergo an enhanced DBS check prior to starting.

Weekly Hours: 15

Rate of Pay: £10.42 per hour

5.6 weeks holiday per year

Full Training & Uniform Provided

Free on site Parking

To apply for the position please contact Debbie on 07706363973

School Activities and Achievements



Rowan Class have learned so much about The Great Fire of London, and enjoyed a fabulous dress up day to immerse themselves in their learning. They then shared all of their learning in their assembly with their parents.

Oak and Willow Class had a visit from the Fire Brigade to talk about fire safety in the home. These are always incredibly valuable sessions and the children learn a lot from them (as do the adults listening to the sessions!!)

World Book Day happened on the last day of our OFSTED inspection, but there was no way we were going to let that stop us! The children showed some real creativity in dressing as an adjective—there were some really super ideas! Lots of reading related activities took place over the day and the children really enjoyed themselves.

Ash Class have been enjoying their judo sessions on a Thursday morning, learning all about the discipline of the sport, and thoroughly enjoying the rough and tumble of the sessions.

Debbie from NISCU has presented 2 assemblies this month—one including a remote controlled robot called Eric! She also got the children thinking carefully about the Easter Season and the idea of sacrifice. The Open the Book Team have re-enacted the events of Easter Week for the children, which has really complimented their learning in class.



The dental team visited Acorn and Maple Classes to talk about mouth hygiene, and Oak Class underwent a dental check! Hopefully this means clean and shiny teeth are abundant in our school!

A group of boys and girls from Maple Class represented the school at an inter-school football tournament, held at Poolfoot Farm in Thornton. It was a really cold afternoon, but the children demonstrated great resilience and sportsmanship and had a fabulous time!

Oak Class walked down to the newly refurbished Methodist Church to learn about the Passover Meal and the important part this plays in the Easter Story. Rev Keith explained all about how the Passover began when the Israelites escaped Egypt, and the significance of each part of the meal.

Maple Class visited Cuerden Valley as part of their Rivers and Water Cycle topic. They learned all about how the river was formed and even went panning for gold! They had a great time and this interactive experience really brought their learning to life.

This term Rowan Class have been learning a specially choreographed dance, to perform at the Annual Tea Dance Show, held at The Marine Hall in Fleetwood. The theme this year was Commonwealth and they had been allocated the country Kenya. They performed a brilliant dance as different African animals in front of a packed audience—we were super proud of them. Thank you to Sarah for all her hard work choreographing and teaching the children the dance, and the Rowan Class staff who had a particularly busy week that week!



The Easter Bingo was a great success (first one I've missed in 11 years!). I hear there was a lot of chocolate eating going on! Thanks to Mr Shillitoe for doing the bingo calling—I think he has a job for life now!



Ash Class made us really think with their class assembly. They had looked at the theme of chocolate and how we all enjoy it. They also looked into Fairtrade and how this works within the chocolate industry. They were very keen to show us how unfair the world can be and that by buying Fairtrade, they could help less fortunate people around the world afford the things that we take for granted. A really thought-provoking assembly!

Oak Class visited Lancaster University yesterday in order to see what life after school could offer them. They undertook some sessions that looked at moving on to high school and beyond, and then they went on a campus tour. Their favourite places were the library and Greggs! They were surprised at how big the university is and the amount of subjects covered. They also took part in healthy living workshops, presented by 2nd year Medical students. They learned lots and enjoyed all the prizes they were given (including one inflatable banana that wouldn't have looked out of place in the Union Bar!)

Diary Dates

April

17th School re-opens
 20th Willow Class start swimming
 25th Dogs' Trust Workshops
 26th Class Photographs

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
 17th Oak Class Dance Day
 Acorn Trip to Booths
 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
 8th Oak Class Dance Day
 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

