

Garstang Community Primary School



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Dear Parents and Children

What a beautiful half term break we had (although it seems a distant memory now!). The weather has been amazing over the last few weeks and the children have really enjoyed their time on the field. I'm sure I'm not the only one though that has been glad of the odd cloudy and rainy day, if only for my poor garden!

We seem to be galloping towards the end of term at breakneck speed and my to-do list seems to get longer by the day. I'm doing one of my favourite jobs at the moment though, which is reading the children's reports. We are so lucky in our school to have the lovely, funny, entertaining children we do, and reading their reports really brings home to me how well the teachers get to know the children over the year. I still have my old school reports from primary school and I love reading them every now and again (apparently I was a very untidy writer, but my 'needlework' was spot on!)

As we enter the last few weeks of term, the children will be having 3 'moving up' sessions in their new classrooms. This is a lovely way to start the transition into their new year group, and to get to know their new surroundings. Hopefully you will have all read the class changes email I sent last week—we are really excited about next year!

As ever, thank you for your support—we couldn't do it without you!

Steph Reeves
Headteacher



School Roof Works

Lancashire County Council have identified that our school roof needs replacing and are committed to doing this under the condition led funding, meaning that they will cover the cost. A new roof will help massively with our insulation issues—keeping us warmer in winter and cooler in summer. Obviously this is a huge project, and at present, we are looking at 7 weeks worth of disruption. Luckily, the majority of this will be during the summer holidays, however, some of the works will be starting before we break up. From next **Monday 3rd July**, the top part of the school carpark will be surrounded by Herris fencing in order to create a compound for the roofers. This will mean there is incredibly limited parking for staff. Discovery Vine parents are asked **NOT** to use the carpark at drop off and pick up times—please park on the road and walk up the path. During this first week, scaffolding will be erected all around school, and we will talk to the children about this in assemblies. The actual roofing works themselves are due to start on the 10th July and finish in the last week of the summer holidays, minimising any disruption to learning. Thank you, in advance, for your co-operation.



School Activities and Achievements

Oak Class are busy rehearsing for their end of year production of Shrek and had another day of choreography with Sarah from Blue Moose Dance. She was thrilled at how their dancing had come on and the effort they are putting into their performance.

Beech Class had a great visit to BAE Salmesbury, where they took part in engineering workshops based around fairy tales. They learned lots and were very impressed with the goody bag they were given!

Oak Class took part in their Bikeability sessions, learning how to ride safely on the road. Everyone passed and the instructors commented on what lovely children we had!

Acorn enjoyed their day at Humblescough Farm, taking part in lots of fun forest activities. They made dens, wands, leaf prints and played with the fairy house and outdoor kitchen. They came home tired and grubby—a sure sign of a great day!

Every class had the opportunity to take part in a yoga session, run by The Yogi Group. It was a lovely way to unwind and think about relaxation and mindfulness.

The results of our photography competition 'What Makes me Happy' were announced in celebration assembly, with the judges from Garstang Camera Club presenting the prizes—enlarged framed prints of the entries. Isabel from Willow Class was the KS1 winner with her picture of her mud kitchen, Emily I in Maple Class was the KS2 winner with a selfie of her and her hamster, and Zara from Beech Class was the overall winner with her picture of Fern the dog, mid-jump! The Camera Club reps were incredibly impressed with the standard of photography. £171 was raised for the Bone Cancer Trust.

Four children from Oak Class joined with other schools and the Town Council for the annual Armed Forces Flag Raising ceremony at Kepple Lane.

Willow Class went on their trip to Leighton Hall and had a great time den building, playing hide and seek, playing in the mud kitchen and even eating dried bugs!

Creativity Week

What a fabulous week we had! Our theme was Lancashire—Where We Live. We started with a carousel of activities, mixing the year groups up to take part in activities such as wand making, orienteering, spooky story telling and stop frame animation. We were then visited by Chas Jacobs, who did a masterclass in drawing and painting—the children's efforts were amazing! We were visited by Travelling by Tuba who took the children on a journey through the history of musical instruments and led workshops where the children got to make some fabulous music. We had a visit from a local author, Julie Allen, who has written a children's book focusing on different areas of Lancashire, and a poet Andy Tooze, whose enthusiasm was infectious! We also spent time learning to Morris Dance. An absolutely fantastic week—the children and staff got a great deal from it. Thanks to Mr Dignan for organising!



Uniform Reminder

The 'Back to School' signs will soon be up in the shops—I'm sure that they put them up in the 1st week of the holidays just to annoy me! Just a reminder of our uniform requirements:

Grey trousers/shorts/skirt/pinafore
White polo shirt
Red cardigan/sweatshirt
White/grey/black socks
Red/grey/black tights
Black shoes

PE Kit:

Black shorts/ skorts/joggers
White crew neck t-shirt
Red hoodie/sweatshirt/cardigan
Dark coloured trainers
PE pumps

NO BRANDED CLOTHING OR LEGGINGS PLEASE.

Children will still be coming to school on PE days in their PE kits as this gives more time for the lesson. Thank you for your co-operation in ensuring our children look smart.

Diary Dates

July

6th-7th	Oak Class to London
11th	Maple Class Ukulele Concert 2:30pm
14th	Oak Class to GCA—Matilda Reports home
17th/18th	Oak Class Performance 6pm
20th	Oak Class Awards evening 6pm
21st	Break up for summer

September

1st	INSET DAY
4th	School opens

Please remember from September, the **doors will be open at 8:45 am** and school will start 5 minutes earlier than now **at 8:55am**. School will also **end 5 minutes later at 3:25pm**

Reverend Keith

On 5th July, we will be saying a very sad farewell to Rev Keith at our last Open the Book Assembly. Rev Keith is a huge part of our Garstang family and brings great fun and much silliness to our assemblies. He's a super support in RE lessons, whether at school or in the Church and we will miss him terribly! We wish him a very happy retirement as he returns to his roots in Oswaldtwistle.

School Dinners

Please can parents make sure that their ParentPay account is up to date by the end of term. A reminder that school lunches will cost £2.50 per day from September—a bargain for a delicious, home cooked meal. Mrs Bickerstaffe and her team really do provide a quality hot meal, with lots of fruit and veg options.



Whit Festival

A massive thank you to the parents and children involved in our walking tableaux over the Whit holidays. The attention to detail in the Charlie and the Chocolate Factory themed entry was amazing, and won us 'Best in Parade' at Garstang and 2nd place at Catterall. The time it takes to create this is massive and I'm so pleased that everyone's efforts were rewarded!

We had mixed fortunes in the various football festivals. Our Y3/4 team won the Churchtown Festival, our Y5/6 team were knocked out in the semi-finals of the Whit Cup, and our girls' team played brilliantly at Catterall. A huge thank you to everyone involved in getting these teams ready!

