

Garstang Community Primary School



Phone: 01995 603622

e-mail: head@garstang.lancs.sch.uk

July 2023

Website: www.garstangcommunityprimary.co.uk



Garstangcommunityprimary



[@garstangprimary](https://twitter.com/garstangprimary)



11

Dear parents and children

The end of year seems to come round faster each year—perhaps that's just my age though! Although this is a particularly busy time, it is also incredibly enjoyable, as we really see how the children have grown over the year and what delightful young people they are!

This will be the first summer since I started here 11 and a half years ago that I won't be going into a summer holiday thinking, another year without Ofsted! It's amazing how much of your headspace is taken up with it before the visit! It will be really good to start the new school year without that constant cloud hanging over our heads! A huge thank you to the staff for all of their hard work over the year—they really do go above and beyond! Also thanks to the Governors who also work incredibly hard behind the scenes to ensure the school maintains its excellent standards!

Whatever you are doing over the summer, I hope that you get some lovely family time, and the children get some downtime after a busy year. My daughter has just taken on a puppy, so no doubt I shall be tied up with that, and Mr Reeves is supposed to be putting our motorhome back together so we may get away in that—fingers crossed the weather improves!

For those families who leave us this time, thank you for your love and support over the years! Please don't be strangers and do encourage your children to pop back occasionally and let us know how they are getting on!

Thank you all so much for your support over the year and for your kind words and gifts for the teachers. It is all very much appreciated.

Have a great summer!

Steph Reeves
Headteacher



CONGRATULATIONS!



Huge congratulations to Mr and Mrs Almond and Isabel, on the birth of Edison who arrived in the world on Friday 14th July as a beautiful addition to the family! We will really miss Mrs Almond whilst she is on maternity leave, and can't wait for snuggles with Edison when she brings him to visit!



Reverend Keith

This summer we bid a very fond farewell to Reverend Keith, who has been involved in our school for the past 11 years. He conducts assemblies, he is one of our Open the Book Team, he helps with RE lessons, both in school (mars bars were involved last time to explain the Trinity!) and at Church, he accompanies us on trips, and is also a very caring and perceptive listener. We will miss his sense of humour, his overacting, his terrible taste in football teams and most of all his friendship and warmth. We wish him well as he takes up his retirement back in his roots of Oswaldtwistle, and we hope he visits us often!

Summer Homework

Although we are not mean enough to set homework for your child over the summer, I cannot stress enough how important it is that your child continues to practice their learning. 6 weeks is a long time to be away from school (remember lockdown?!) and without regular practice, children can lose some of their learning. Reading daily is still important, and writing a diary can help them practice their writing skills. Maths games can help them keep their number skills sharp too. Undertaking a project that combines all three can be a good idea too.

The library are running their annual reading challenge—information can be found at the end of this newsletter, or at the following links:

[Reading Heroes! - Lancashire County Council](#)

[Events - Lancashire County Council](#)



Fundraising



Two of our Year 5 children, Kiara and Ella, decided to raise money for Help for Heroes by selling bookmarks and loom bands. They made £77.50—well done girls, and thanks to all who bought something from them.

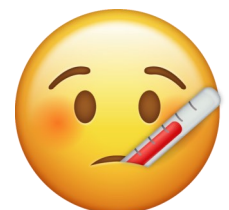
This has now inevitably started the floodgates of children wanting to make things and raise money for charity, which is lovely but which can also get rather overwhelming. I have told any children who approach me that they will need to write a business plan, detailing exactly what they want to do, how they are going to do it and who they are raising money for. I also time-limited the last fundraiser to 2 weeks.

Attendance

As I have been writing this newsletter, I have received an email from the Secretary of State, Gillian Keegan, regarding attendance, which I was going to cover anyway! Attendance is at the forefront of education policy, as excellent attendance at school has been proven as one of the drivers to your children's success in GCSEs. Lancashire County Council have committed to every school in Lancashire receiving a termly visit from the attendance officer to scrutinise attendance, something which hasn't happened for many years. In fact I don't ever remember being visited by the attendance officer whilst I have been head here.

You will have received an attendance certificate with your child's report, which contained a chart on the back to explain what constitutes good attendance. I also wrote to the parents of any child with attendance at 90% or lower, as these children are recorded as persistent absentees for this academic year. I had intended to write to all those at 95% and below, but there were 47 names on that list (almost a quarter of the school!).

Please ensure that your child has excellent attendance at school next year. The rule in my house was always: unless you are infectious, or producing a bodily fluid, you are going to school! Obviously, we don't want poorly children in school, and there are still rules such as the 48 hour D&V rule, but if you are unsure, send them in and we will call if we think they are unfit. Always ask yourself, would they miss a club they love, or a day out, if they felt this way? Thank you for your support.



School Activities and Achievements

Acorn Class showed off all their learning from the year in their class assembly—they were such confident little people! And the amount they have learned over the year is phenomenal!

A group of children represented the school in the local cricket heat. They put all their newly learned skills from their sessions with Garstang Cricket Club into practice and played really well.



All of the children have now taken part in 3 'Moving Up' sessions, spending time in their new classrooms, thinking about all that awaits them next year! They have produced some lovely work that will be on the walls to greet them when they return in September.

We had our final Open the Book assembly of the year, where we also presented Rev Keith with cards from each class. After the assembly, the OTB team presented Bibles to our Year 6 leavers.

Oak Class had a fabulous trip to London! After an incredibly early start (the 6:00 am from Preston!), we arrived in London and walked to our Youth Hostel where we deposited the bags. We then took the tube to the Tower of London, where we hopped on a boat (after Mrs R's gruesome stories of what went on in the Tower!) and had a cruise down the Thames past such sights as St Paul's Cathedral and the Shard. We sailed under Westminster Bridge and gained a beautiful view of the Palace of Westminster from the river. We were then able to go down Downing Street to have our photo taken in front of No 10. We also got a glimpse of Larry the cat. Following this, we ate our lunch in Trafalgar Square, before watching the matinee performance of 'We Will Rock You'. We then walked up to Buckingham Palace, through Green Park, past The Ritz and into Leicester Square. After tea in Pizza Hut, we had some shopping time—mainly the Lego Shop and M&M shop! We then got the tube back to our hostel, very much ready for bed! On the Friday we arrived at the Palace of Westminster



for a tour of the Houses of Parliament. This is always fascinating and we were able to go into the House of Commons itself. We saw a debate in the House of Lords (and Floella Benjamin!) and we were able to see the plaque commemorating where the late Queen lay in state. This was followed by lunch at Honest Burger and a trip to The British Museum. We then collected our bags and headed back to Euston. 31 exhausted but happy children and 5 very exhausted but equally happy staff! I find this trip a real privilege each year, and the children are always beautifully behaved and so interested in all they see.

Maple Class thrilled us with their ukulele concert - it always amazes me how Mr Lupton can get a whole class to play an instrument so well in just a year! They did some really upbeat numbers, and were complemented by the Year 5 and 6 children who had continued to learn to play the ukulele and guitar.



Oak Class were invited to Garstang Academy to see their production of Matilda Jnr. It was a really good performance, with some familiar faces of ex-pupils which was lovely to see!

A very busy Oak Class have also performed in their own end of year production of Shrek—which has been amazing! They have worked incredibly hard to learn loads of lines and songs and their confident performance astounded me. Year 6—you are amazing!

Reports

You should by now have received your child's report. We hope that you found them helpful. I love reading them—they give such a lovely picture of the children and their achievements! Please can you ensure that you send back the acknowledgement sheet so that we know the report got to you safely.

Roofing Works

As you may have noticed, the work to install our new roof has begun. Whilst the work is due to be completed before we come back in September, with the weather we are having, I'm not holding my breath. Thank you for NOT using the school carpark when dropping off and picking up from Discovery Vine. I'll give you an update just before we return!

Have a lovely summer and we shall see you bright and early (remember the doors will be locked from 8:55 on our return!) on Monday 4th September!





This summer, we are challenging children across Lancashire to become a Reading Hero and help Dr Paige Turner to stop the evil super villain "The Spoiler"!

Sign up at your local library and receive a booklet containing all the information you need to help defeat The Spoiler, including your own superhero name and a comic book story which can be unlocked along the way.

To become a Reading Hero, you will need to read five books over the course of the summer, collecting stickers and prizes along the way!

To become a Reading Superhero, you will need to read five books and complete 3 of the suggested tasks in the booklet. Doing this will enter you into a prize draw for a special prize!

Garstang Library Events

Comic Books and Pebble Painting- Wednesday
26th and Friday 28th July

Create a Getaway Vehicle- Wednesday 2nd and
Friday 4th August

Science and Water- Wednesday 9th and Friday
11th August

Superhero Stop Motion- Wednesday 16th and Fri-
day 18th August

Experiment with Weather- Wednesday 23rd and
Friday 25th August

Wednesday sessions 10-11am

Friday sessions 2.30-3.30pm (delivered with the
Children and
Family Wellbeing Service)



Free, book your place at garstang.library@lancashire.gov.uk

Saturday Stories, Lego and board games- every Saturday 10am-12pm

Did you know?

You can also join Reading Heroes on the **Mobile Library**! Glenys will be at Strandsdale Close 2:30-3:00pm and Oak Road 3:10 –3:40 pm on 20th July, 10th August and 31st August.

If you can't make it to one of our libraries you can also complete the challenge online!

Find out more details at www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives/libraries/lancs-reading-heroes/

or contact us at garstang.library@lancashire.gov.uk