

# Garstang Community Primary School



Phone: 01995 603622

e-mail: [head@garstang.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:head@garstang.lancs.sch.uk)

September 2023

Website: [www.garstangcommunityprimary.co.uk](http://www.garstangcommunityprimary.co.uk)



[Garstangcommunityprimary](https://www.facebook.com/Garstangcommunityprimary)



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



1

Dear School Family,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the year! For those of you that are used to me it will come as no surprise that this is late! For those who don't know me yet, I aim to do one newsletter a month, but it does usually land on the very last day! I do have the excuse this month of almost 'the dog ate my homework'...actually my 'grand' puppy stood on my laptop just as I was about to write the newsletter on Sunday (already late I know!) and the laptop is now very poorly!

Anyway, welcome to all of our new parents! We have 24 lovely new Acorns, who have settled in amazingly well, and we also welcome Freddie into Ash Class and Alyssa into Beech. We are a lovely friendly school and I hope any families that are new to us feel welcome and settled.

As ever, we love to know what we are doing well, and it is lovely to get either the verbal or emailed feedback, expressing your satisfaction and thanks. Conversely, we do need to know when things aren't going well so that we can sort it out. The first port of call would usually be your child's class teacher, who you can catch at the end of the day, or whom you can make an appointment to see. There is always a member of the school's senior leadership team on the playground before school, so a quick word then can always allay a worry. Please speak to school about any issues affecting your child. Sometimes we find that worries and concerns are shared on the class WhatsApp, before school are informed. These WhatsApp groups are set up by parents to organise birthdays, ask for help in picking up a child etc. They are not places where grievances should be aired.

I hope you find the newsletter informative and helpful. There is a diary section that we will update on each newsletter—please keep an eye out for anything that affects your child!

Thank you  
Steph Reeves  
Headteacher

## Roofing Works

As you have probably noticed, our roofing works are almost finished! I'm not sure the weather was helpful over the summer to the swift completion of the works, and we did suffer flood damage in Ash and Willow classrooms and the nursery, which has been a bit of a nightmare! Hopefully by next weekend the job should be completely finished and all traces of a workers 'compound gone. Fingers crossed our new roof will help us be warmer in winter and cooler in summer. The works didn't scare off those crows like I'd hoped though!



## School Applications and Open Days



Even though we have only just come back to school, applications for both primary and high school places are now open for September 2024! If you have a child in Year 6, you need to have made an application at the link below by 31st October. If you have a child that will be aged 4 by 31st August 2024, you need to make an application by 15th January 2024.

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-online-for-a-school-place/>

This year we are holding 2 Open Afternoons, with tours happening at 1:15, 2:00 and 2:45. The afternoons are Thursday 2nd November and Monday 20th November. If you, or anyone you know, would like to book on one of the tours, please telephone the school office or email [bursar@garstang.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:bursar@garstang.lancs.sch.uk)

## Uniform

Thank you for sending your children back to school looking so smart. I love to see the children in their new uniform (the phrase 'they'll grow into it' often springs to mind!) Please can I remind you that trousers/shorts/skirts should be grey NOT black, but that joggers for PE should be black. Please remember that cycling shorts and leggings are not part of the school PE Kit., and no branded clothing is allowed.

I make the same plea every year about putting names in clothing that children may remove. This is vital for sweatshirts, cardigans and hoodies. I have already seen lots of examples of unnamed clothing around school. If the item is named, it should get back to your child with minimum fuss!

## Free School Meals

If you feel that your child may be entitled to free school meals, please look at the following web page, which will explain the entitlement and how to apply:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/?page=1>

Although children in Reception and Year 1 and 2 already receive a free school meal, if you register your entitlement with LCC, school receive extra funding called pupil premium. We use this in many ways to support your child's learning in school, but we also use it to pay for school milk and some school trips for qualifying pupils.

## Social Media



Please keep up to date with all we do via our Facebook and X (Twitter!) pages. The links on the top of the newsletter should take you straight to our pages.

Our PTA have created a new Facebook page—if you follow the old one, please unfollow and refollow at this link:

[PTA Facebook](#)

Here you can get up to date information about what the PTA are up to and how you can get involved!

## Vacancies in school

We currently have a Teaching Assistant vacancy in school. The post is for 30 hours and more information can be found at: [https://schooljobs.lancashire.gov.uk/nt\\_vacancyDetails.asp?id=62204](https://schooljobs.lancashire.gov.uk/nt_vacancyDetails.asp?id=62204). We are also on the look out for lunchtime supervisors. If you would be interested in this role (daily from 11:50—13:05), please contact the school office for more information.

## School Crossing Patrol

Unfortunately there will be no crossing patrol on Lancaster Road in the week beginning 16th October, as Lollipop Sue is unavailable. She has asked me to mention that she is becoming very concerned over the amount of cars that are stopping on the zig zag lines. This has been mentioned to me also by parents who use Oak Road too. The zig zags are there for your child's safety. We have also noticed parents and carers using the school carpark on pick up and drop off. Please note that the school car park is for staff only!



## Reminders

I always think that the first newsletter of the year is a good opportunity for some reminders of school routines. Particularly helpful if you are new to the school too!



### Birthday Non-Uniform

Children may come to school in their own clothes when it is their birthday so that we can all make a fuss! Don't worry if it's at the weekend or in the holidays - they can come on the school day closest to the day. Hair and make up rules still apply.

### Medication

Only prescribed medication can be given in school. If the medicine says 3 times a day please time these so a dose does not have to be taken in school. If it is unavoidable, we will endeavour to administer the medication. There is a form that must be filled in before any medication is given.



### Celebration Assembly—Friday 9:15 am

Most Fridays we hold a celebration assembly. The children may bring in any award they have achieved out of school. If badges are included, such as swimming, please seal them in a plastic pocket so that they don't fall out! I do often ask the children about their award, especially if they are gymnast of the week or suchlike, so please practise with your child what they might say. If your child has been awarded Superstar, Class Star or Learning Hero, their photo will be displayed in the foyer and on our Facebook and Twitter pages. All parents are welcome at this assembly—and you will be notified in advance if your child is to receive an award.

### Snack/Lunches

Children in Acorn, Rowan and Willow Class receive a piece of fruit each morning, as part of the Government scheme, and so they should not be bringing in any snacks. KS2 children (Ash, Maple, Beech and Oak) may bring in a healthy snack for morning break. Fresh fruit or veg is best as that is what they are used to in KS1. We do not allow sweets, chocolate and crisps. Similarly, sweets, chocolate bars and fizzy drinks are not allowed in packed lunch boxes. Small chocolate biscuits such as a Penguin are allowed in lunchboxes. Children are actively encouraged to bring in a water bottle each day to keep hydrated. This must contain plain water only. They may have juice in their drink for lunch. We do send home any rubbish in packed lunch boxes so that you can monitor what your child is eating.

### Payments

Currently, ALL payments must be made online using Parent Pay. Dinner money is £2.50 per day and MUST be paid two weeks in advance. We cannot allow the Parentpay accounts to be in debt so please monitor your balance and ensure that there are always funds on the account. Please ensure your child knows each day whether they are having a packed lunch or school dinner - they often forget they have a packed lunch and have a dinner instead! Please note that any changes to your lunch pattern must be made in writing, and changes can only be made at a half term.

### Earrings

These must not be worn to school please. If you wish for your child to have their ears pierced, this must be done at the start of the long summer holiday, to give them time to heal.

### Scooters/Bikes

These must not be ridden on the school grounds at any time. Please ensure your child dismounts at the gate in a morning, and wheels their scooter across the playground. We often get complaints about the way in which children ride their scooter on the pavements outside of school—please talk to your child about safe riding!



### Pick up

If there is someone different picking up your child, or they are going home with another family, please can you let the school office or class teacher know. This includes for extra-curricular clubs too—if we are unsure we need to make a phone call, which delays your child's exit from school. It also ensures that all children in our care are properly safeguarded. Thank you.

## Diary Dates

We have tried to put in dates for the whole year so that you are able to organise yourself. However, please note that they are subject to change, and so please check on subsequent newsletters, where any changes will be highlighted. There will also be dates that we will add during the year as trips etc are booked.

### October

- 4th Maple Class bulb planting with Garstang  
Bloomers  
Flu Vaccines  
Acorn Curriculum Evening 6pm
- 6th Acorn Class photo for LEP
- 11th Rowan Class Trip—Blackpool Zoo
- 17th Harvest Assembly and food distribution  
Parents' Evening
- 19th Parents' Evening  
School closes
- 20th Staff Training day
- 30th School re-opens  
Y2/6 Fire Safety Sessions
- 31st Life Education visit  
Travelling Science Show



### November

- 1st Life Education visit
- 2nd Open Afternoon
- 13th Year 6 Tower Wood Residential  
Dance Festival—Dance Club performance
- 15th Beech Class Trip— Hangar 42, Blackpool
- 20th Open Afternoon
- 24th PTA Non-Uniform Day

### December

- 1st Whole school to Free Methodist Church Panto
- 7th KS2 to Dukes Theatre—A Christmas Carol
- 12th KS1 to Blackpool Grand - Aladdin
- 13th Acorn Class Nativity—2:15 and 6pm
- 14th PTA Secrets Room
- 18th KS2 Carol Service Garstang Free Methodist  
Church 6pm
- 19th Maple Class Ukulele performance 2:30pm
- 20th School Christmas Lunch  
Rowan/Willow Nativity 2pm and  
6pm
- 22nd School closes for Christmas



### January

- 8th School opens
- 19th Wheelchair Basketball day
- 23rd PTA meeting 7pm
- 26th Interim Reports out

### February

- 2nd Beech Class Assembly 9:15
- 7th Young Voices—Manchester Arena
- 8th School closes
- 9th Staff Training day
- 19th School opens



### March

- 7th World Book Day
- 8th Rowan Class Assembly 9:15
- 22nd Ash Class Assembly 9:15
- 25th/27th Parents' Evening
- 28th School closes for Easter

### April

- 15th School opens

### May

- 3rd Willow Class Assembly
- 6th May Day closure
- 13th KS2 SATs start
- 20th Health and Wellbeing week
- 24th Sports morning and  
family picnic  
School closes



### June

- 3rd Staff training day
- 4th School opens
- 5th Ash Class Trip—Windermere
- 10th/11th Year 6 Bikeability
- 20th Acorn Class Assembly 9:15
- 27th/28th Year 6 London Residential

### July

- 12th Reports out
- 15th/16th Year 6 performance 6pm
- 18th Year 6 Awards Evening 6pm
- 19th School closes for Summer



## School Activities and Achievements

This term we have Heathy Heads and Fleetwood Town Community Trust working in school with different classes. Ash and Beech class are enjoying their Healthy Heads sessions with Kelly, learning how a positive mental attitude can be achieved through exercise, a good diet and promoting good mental health. Beech and Oak Class are undertaking gymnastic sessions under the watchful eye of Coach Ryan and Coach Matty from Fleetwood Town.

Oak Class are enjoying their fencing lessons—learning all the technical terms and skills. It's so funny to see them dressed up in all the kit!

Ash Class have started their swimming lessons, following on from the Summer term, and are really coming on!

Maple Class now all have their ukuleles and are already sounding amazing! They are working hard and listening carefully to Mr Lupton. I hope they are practising at home!

Dance Club has started for children in Maple and Beech Class—they will be performing to an audience at Blackpool Winter Gardens in November! Maple and Beech Class are also enjoying a handball club after school on Tuesdays.

As you have hopefully noticed, we have had some new playground markings to keep the children fit and active at playtimes. I'm sure you'll agree they look great and the children are using them very well.

Our girls played in a football tournament at the start of the year and played marvellously, considering they had never played together as a team before!

Mr Singh, the Headteacher at Garstang Academy dropped in to visit Year 5 and 6 ahead of the Open Evening, and answered some very insightful questions.

Maple Class visited Garstang Library, took part in all kinds of activities to familiarise themselves with the layout, such as a scavenger hunt, and were able to take books out on their library cards.

Our Year 5/6 boys took part in (and won!) an inter-schools tournament at Garstang Academy. They were so proud of themselves!

Singing club has started again, and the children are learning a medley of songs ready for the Young Voices concert in February.

