

# Garstang Community Primary School



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Dear School Family

Late with the newsletter again! I really don't know where my days go!

Firstly I would like to welcome Elodie into our school. Elodie has joined us in Willow Class and is making lots of new friends.

Autumn has certainly arrived and, alongside the beautiful colours, it has brought the inevitable wind and rain! Please ensure that your child is coming to school every day with a coat. Also, as hats, scarves and gloves start to appear, please could we ask that you ensure these are named!

We have a long term ahead of us and it is always so incredibly busy. We also realise that at this time of year, we are constantly asking for money/donations. Please let us know if you are struggling and we can look at ways in which to help you—we do try to keep it to a minimum. This is why we don't officially do anything for Children in Need Day, although if your child wants to wear their Pudsey ears/t-shirt (with school uniform on the bottom half) to school, we have no issue with that.

Please ensure that we have all of your latest contact details, so that you don't miss out on any of our news and events. A quick email to the school office or a note, if you have changed phone number or email, will mean everything that should reach you, does!



As ever, don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries or questions—our door is always open!

Stephanie Reeves  
Headteacher

## Christmas Activities

In the diary section you will find all our dates for the Christmas activities we have planned. Please note that it is expected that your child takes part in their evening performances. In Acorn, this will be the evening of Wednesday 13th December, for Rowan and Willow, it will be the evening of 20th December and for all of KS2 it will be the evening of 18th December. If this poses a problem, please speak to your child's teacher as soon as possible.



## Mr Forshaw

Mr Forshaw, our Site Supervisor, has decided that the time has come for him to retire, and he will leave us on his 65th birthday on 12th January. Mr Forshaw is an absolute diamond and goes over and above to ensure are pupils are safe and have a lovely, clean environment. He will be much missed and difficult to replace. If you know of anyone who might be interested in this rewarding role, please pass on the following advert:

<https://tinyurl.com/yny8n6n3>

### 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.

### Changes to Swimming

Following advice and training from Swim England, we are changing the way in which we organise curriculum swimming. From this year onwards, only Year 3 (Ash Class) will receive curriculum swimming lessons. They will swim all year. At the end of the year, they will be assessed as to whether they have achieved the statutory 25m. If they have not achieved this by the end of Year 3, they will be identified for 'top-up' lessons higher up in the school.



### School Activities and Achievements



Maple Class had a morning with Garstang in Bloom, planting bulbs and bedding plants, making compost with leaves and helping to tidy up the war memorial. We can't wait till spring to see our bulbs!

Some Year 4 and 5 pupils undertook a food hygiene course, where they learned all about how to safely store and serve food. They have now begun their job as salad bar servers!

Debbie and Abi from Niscu came to school to do a 'Whole-hearted Assembly', talking to the children about how, if we do all tasks whole-heartedly, we would get so much more out of it!

Our Open the Book Assemblies have started, and we have learned all about Daniel in the Lion's Den and also the story of Gideon.

Rowan Class had a fabulous day at Blackpool Zoo. They saw lots of amazing animals and the children were absolutely brilliant! There were some fantastic animal impressions on the way round as well - well done everyone!



Oak Class had a fun filled day learning all about Brazil and Venezuela. Poetry, tasty food making, South American string art and then a live Zoom call from Caracas in Venezuela. The Brazilian wear was brilliant to see too!

Rev Michael, from St Thomas's Church, came to present our Harvest Assembly. We looked at how the word Harvest gives us so many more words that relate to food, and how lucky we are in Garstang to have enough food to eat. Oak Class then went to our neighbours in the Regenda housing to deliver harvest gifts to them.

Mrs Ayers and 3 Year 6 councillors were invited to Wyre Civic Centre in Poulton to join with other school councils in a Democracy session. They enjoyed a look around the civic centre followed by an interactive session in the council chamber. They undertook an activity where they had to think about how they would allocate money across services. They also met a group of Wyre Councillors.

At the start of this half term, the Fire Service came to speak to Year 2 about fire safety in the home, and to Year 6 about road sense. Hopefully the children all took away the important messages they were given and shared them with you.

Adrian from the Travelling Science Show visited school on Tuesday and the children were incredibly excited about the type of science experiments they could attempt around the home with everyday objects. Thanks to the PTA for funding this!

The PTA organised a great pumpkin competition with some fabulous entries—the winners were announced in assembly on Wednesday. Also congratulations to Joseph in Maple Class who won the PTA logo competition. The PTA also organised a great disco this week. Please follow their page on Facebook to keep up to date: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61551097494336>

## Diary Dates

### November

13th Year 6 Tower Wood Residential  
**Ash Class visit to Hindu Temple**  
 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  
 16th/17th Life Education  
 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

### Roofing Works/Fencing

As you can see, our roofing works are all but finished, so hopefully we will be nice and snug in winter. Just the windows to tackle now! Over half term we also had some stock fencing installed along our boundaries with gardens in Calla Drive and Larch Grove.

### 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  
**8th Maple Class Trip to Cuerden Valley**  
 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



If you have a child that will be aged 4 by 31st August 2024, you need to make an application for school 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 another Open Afternoon, on Monday 20th Nov, with tours happening at 1:15, 2:00 and 2:45. If you, or anyone you know, would like to book on one of the tours, please telephone the school office.