

Garstang Community Primary School



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November 2023

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Dear School Family,

Don't be shocked—but I think I may get this month's newsletter out in the month it corresponds to! We've been studying miracles in RE in Beech Class over the last few weeks—perhaps that's what motivated me!

What beautiful weather we are having at the moment—my favourite kind! Bright, sunny and crisp! The decorations are going up in school this week, so if this weather continues, we will be feeling very Christmassy. (I must dig out the Christmas earrings ready for next week!). Please ensure that your children remember their coats and that items such as hats, scarves and gloves are named—it makes reuniting clothing with children so much easier! Please also take care on our playground and paths—stick to the areas we have gritted where possible!

The next 3 weeks are incredibly busy, as ever, at this time of year. Please see the 'Christmas Arrangements' information later on in the newsletter so that you are aware of what's going on. If you are unsure please phone school and we can help!

This is such lovely time of year to be in a primary school, and you hear sentences you wouldn't hear anywhere else, such as 'Do the sheep need more space for their dance?' - it always gives me a warm glow! We are so privileged to do the job we do. Please be mindful of how busy everyone is right now and the pressures this time of year can bring for us all.

Thank you for your continued friendship and support

Steph Reeves
Headteacher



School Applications September 2024

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/>

We have recently held 2 really successful open afternoons. If you, or someone you know, missed these, but would like to view the school, please phone the school office on 01995 603622 to make an appointment.

Christmas Cards

The Christmas postbox is now out! In our efforts to support sustainability and help the environment (and perhaps to save your sanity!), we do suggest that the children send one card to their class, rather than one to everyone in their class. If your child does wish to send a personal card via the postbox, please ensure that the recipient's full name and class is written for ease of distribution!



Christmas Arrangements

Please read the following really carefully. Pin it on your fridge!!

Friday 1st December: **Whole school** to walk to **Garstang Free Methodist Church** for a pantomime. Children will be back by the **end of the school day**.

Thursday 7th December: **KS2** to **Dukes** to panto (A Christmas Carol). Buses will be leaving at **9:15 am**, so please be at school on time!

Friday 8th December: **Oak Class** to St Thomas's School for local Santa Dash. Please donate non-perishable goods for St Thomas Food Club

Tues 12th December: **KS1** to **Blackpool** for a panto at the Grand. Buses will be leaving as close to 9am as possible, so please be at school by 8:45 that day

Wednesday 13th December: **Acorn Nativity, 2:15pm and 6pm**. Please could children return to school via **Acorn Class** at **5:30 pm**.

Thursday 14th December: **Secrets Room**. Information has been sent out separately.

Mon 18th December: **KS2 Carol Service 6pm**. Please could **ALL KS2 children** be dropped off in full school uniform off at **Garstang Free Methodist church** by **5:45**—please use the entrance nearest the **YMCA**.

Tuesday 19th December: **Maple Class Ukulele Concert 2:30pm**. This includes those children in **Y5 and Y6** who have lessons with Mr Lupton. All parents of performers welcome!

Wednesday 20th December: **Rowan/Willow Nativity 2:00pm and 6pm**. Please could children return to school via their **classroom doors** at **5:30 pm**.

School Activities and Achievements

A team of Y5/6 boys travelled to Poolfoot Farm in Thornton (Training ground of the mighty Fleetwood Town!) to take part in an interschool football competition. They had a great afternoon, going from strength to strength and winning one of the competitions. Their sportsmanship was amazing!

Ash Class attended the Hindu Temple in Preston to see how Diwali is celebrated. They were amazed by the experience and really enjoyed seeing a festival they had been learning about brought to life.

Two groups of children from lower and upper KS2 have recently taken part in glo-dodgeball events at GCA. They all donned luminous bibs and glow sticks and played dodgeball under the UV light. They looked amazing and had a great time.

Dance Club performed before 3,000 people at the Winter Gardens in the Wyre and Fylde Dance Festival. The theme was Superheroes and they danced incredibly well to Heroes (we could be) by Alesso. It's an incredibly long afternoon but the children were great and Miss Julia and I were super proud!

Oak Class spent a very wet and windy five days at Tower Wood, caving, abseiling, canoeing and jumping off the Leap of Faith. They also learned how very wet clothes dry (after a few reminders!), how to keep their bedrooms tidy and how to organize themselves. They had a fabulous time! I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Wilkinson, Mrs Simpson, Mrs Walsh, Mrs Robinson and Mrs Brindle for giving up time with their own families to ensure our children can have this wonderful experience! We celebrated anti-bullying week, by holding assemblies, wearing our odd socks and looking really carefully at how we behave and treat others.

Beech Class had a great day at Hangar 42 in Blackpool, learning all about Morse Code, rationing, evacuation and Spitfires during WWII. A really interesting trip, and the organizer commented on the beautiful behavior of our children. Well done Beech Class!

I took a group of girls to Poolfoot Farm to take part in the interschool girls' football tournament. They were super and narrowly missed winning the plate trophy, losing 1-0 in the final. The game had been theirs, but a lucky goal for the other team dashed our hopes. The girls were fabulous—well done!

On Tuesday this week, I took the school councilors from Year 6 to choose the school Christmas tree. They had great fun at Christmas Tree workshop in Forton—huge thanks to Terry and Ian for inviting us!

Diary Dates

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
 15th Acorn to United Reformed Church
 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
 5th Dance Competition—Tower Ballroom
 7th Young Voices—Manchester Arena
 8th School closes
 9th Staff Training day

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



ParentPay

Please check your ParentPay account regularly! We have quite a few accounts that are in debit and it takes office staff away from their other tasks to chase these up. Your lunch account should always be in credit please.

We have quite a few outstanding payments for the pantomimes this time. We may need to look at the feasibility of running these trips next year, as we are struggling to cover the cost of unpaid tickets and bus seats. We do understand that this is a difficult time of year financially, and we are looking to get panto trip info out earlier next year. Please do come and talk to us if you are struggling and we can look at how we can help and support you.

Site Supervisor Vacancy

We are still struggling to fill our site supervisor vacancy! We will be without a site supervisor after 12th January if the situation does not change! We are looking into contractors, but if you know of anyone who you feel would be suitable, please get then to either email or phone for a discussion. We are a really friendly school and it is a very rewarding job!