



4th September 2020

Christian Value: THANKFULNESS

WELCOME

It has been fantastic to welcome the full school family back to school this week. Welcome back to all our parents/carers and a huge welcome to all our new reception children and families. ☺

In school family news we would like to say a welcome to the following children who have joined us this year in KS2: Ruby & Thomas Baker, Archie Beesley, Florence Beresford, Ewan Livingstone and Bronte Pinder. Well done all for settling into school so well.

Congratulations to the following families:

- Joshua Billington and his family on the arrival of baby Grace.
- Isabella & Sienna Mitchell and their family on the arrival of baby Jude.
- Harriet Bell and her family on the arrival of baby Charlotte.

BACK TO LEARNING IN SCHOOL ☺

We're pleased to say the children are settling back into school life really well. Parent information/ curriculum news should be coming home with children today at the latest. Please do have a read to find out about new routines etc.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's class teacher. You can send a message to a teacher/ find a teacher's e-mail address using the links on the front page of our [school website](#). If you need to send an urgent message, please phone the school on 01995 603454.

Your child's class teacher is due to give you a call in the first few weeks to have a discussion and share how well your child is settling in.

SUPPORT

The past few months have not been easy for many people in our local community. If you need support in anyway, please do contact our pastoral leader, Lee Baker on lbaker@garstang-st-thomas.lancs.sch.uk or call us on 01995 603454.

DIARY DATES

Mon 7th Sep: First day for all of Reception class

Thu 17th Sep: Year 6 archery (in the school day)

Mon 5th Oct: School photographs: Individual

Mon 26th Oct – Fri 30th Oct: Half Term Week

Mon 2nd Nov: INSET day (teacher training day)

Fri 18th Dec: Last day of school before Christmas

Monday 4th Jan: First day of the spring term

More dates to follow.

Full term dates available on our website: www.garstangstthomas.com

PARENT PAY

All our communications are sent through ParentPay – if you do not have an account set up, please contact school.

WALK HOME LETTER – KS2 ONLY

KS2 children are permitted to walk out of school by themselves if they have parent/carer permission. The permission form is available [here](#).

MULTI USE GAMES AREA

Planning conditions were accepted yesterday, and we are hoping that work to create this area will begin in the next few weeks. In the first instance the plan is to have a tarmac surface with pitch lines. We hope to add artificial grass later (when there is the money). This area will be really useful for breaktime, lunch time and PE as we enter the winter months.

COVID-19 INFORMATION – SEPTEMBER 2020

It has been a real joy to have all our school family in school this week for the first time in months. The government has committed to prioritising keeping schools open, particularly primary schools, and taking other measures to avoid children across the country from being locked down again at home.

In school we are following the guidance from the government and our own risk assessments. The government's strategy of keeping the children in bubbles is the system we have running in school - classes keep apart from other classes. In the event of a COVID-19 case in school, the bubble system reduces the risk that it spreads quickly through the school.

You will have seen the measures outside of school but there are lots of new measures inside school including: screens in the school hall, sanitiser on all classroom doors, staff room screens, additional cleaning and lots more.

The children have adapted to these measures so quickly and there have been lots of happy children enjoying learning again, with their friends, in their classes.

WHEN CAN MY CHILD NOT COME TO SCHOOL?

If your child has a new and **persistent cough** or a **high temperature**, or has a **loss of or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell** (anosmia), please follow the [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#), which sets out that they should self-isolate for at least 10 days and [arrange to have a test](#) as soon as you can to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). **Please contact the school as soon as possible to let us know the result by e-mailing: head@garstang-st-thomas.lancs.sch.uk.**

CAN MY CHILD COME TO SCHOOL WITH A COLD?

If your child has **any** of the COVID-19 symptoms listed above, they **must not** come to school, however, runny/blocked nose is not recognised as a symptom of COVID-19 that would require a test.

WHAT HAPPENS IF SOMEONE IN SCHOOL HAS SYMPTOMS?

If a child in school has COVID-19 symptoms, they will be isolated and cared for until they can be collected (staff will be using PPE in this event). If you receive a call to collect your child, please come as soon as possible to collect your child, arrange a test and follow the government guidance. **Please let school know the result as soon as possible by e-mailing: head@garstang-st-thomas.lancs.sch.uk.**

If there is a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 in school, we will work with Public Health England (PHE) Health Protection Team and will contact those who need to self-isolate. In the event of a class having to self-isolate, staff will continue teaching and learning using Google Classroom for the period.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to Mr Blakely. head@garstang-st-thomas.lancs.sch.uk or ring 01995 603454.

The poster features the HM Government logo on the left and the NHS logo on the right. In the center, there are four circular icons: a thermometer, a person coughing, a hand with a red 'X' over it, and a nose with a red 'X' over it. Below these icons, the text reads: 'CORONAVIRUS STAY ALERT TO THE SYMPTOMS', 'HIGH TEMPERATURE OR NEW CONTINUOUS COUGH OR LOSS OF TASTE OR SMELL?', and 'Find out how to get a test, and how long to isolate, at [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)'. On the bottom right, there is a yellow box with green borders that says 'STAY ALERT CONTROL THE VIRUS SAVE LIVES'.