



# GARSTANG ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

13<sup>th</sup> November 2020

## GOVERNORS

Mr Doug Willoughby has retired as chair of governors and from the board of governors. He has been a key part of the school, being a governor, for two decades and being the chair for more than one. He certainly will be missed and we owe Mr Willoughby a great deal of gratitude for his service over the years. THANK YOU DOUG! ☺

In last night's governor meeting, Dr Emma Bray has been elected as chair of governors with Mrs Wendy Clarke as vice chair.

## PARENTS' EVENING

We are planning to hold parents' evening by video call on the 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> November. Bookings can be made from 6pm today up until the day before by clicking [here](#). Bookings and the parents' evening video call can be made using a smart phone/ computer without any additional software.

## ODD SOCKS DAY – FRIDAY 20<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER

Children are invited to wear colourful/ odd socks next Friday. Odd socks day is part of anti-bullying week and we'll be focusing on our Christian value of the half term: FRIENDSHIP and learning about bullying and how to respond to it.

## READING BOOK AMNESTY – KS2

We're missing quite a number of books from the school library (following COVID Lockdown 1/ summer term). If you have any school books at home, please could you send in early next week? Thank you.

## PHONICS SCREENING – YEAR 2

The Department for Education has asked primary schools to conduct phonics screening in Year 2 this term. We are planning to do this during the week commencing 7<sup>th</sup> December. Please note this will not be like any sort of formal test and will not seem different to normal classroom practice in phonics. We will share the results with parents/carers. If you'd like further information, please speak to Miss Mercer.

## NO PENS WEDNESDAY

One of our school improvement areas this year is oracy. We're working on developing speaking skills in class and are planning to have a day to really focus on this area in No Pens Wednesday on the 25<sup>th</sup> November.

## DONATIONS – THANK YOU.

Thank you to Charlie's dad for a kind donation of lots of card for Christmas. Thanks to William's parents for a kind donation of footballs for the school. ☺

Christian Value this half term: **FRIENDSHIP**

### DIARY DATES

- Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Odd Socks Day
- Wed 25<sup>th</sup> Nov:** No Pens Wednesday
- Wed 25<sup>th</sup> / Thu 26<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Parents' Evening
- Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Nasal flu vaccination
- Tue 8<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Year 4 Train on Track for Christmas
- Wed 9<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Year 3 Nativity from Scratch
- Thu 10<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Years 5 & 6 Oliver Twist day
- Fri 11<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Year 1 Nativity from Scratch
- Fri 11<sup>th</sup> Dec:** GST Santa Dash – all classes (nothing required to bring in)
- Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Year 2 Nativity from Scratch
- Tue 15<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Reception Nativity from Scratch
- Wed 16<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Christmas lunch-please pay on Parent Pay(Christmas jumpers optional)
- Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Last day of school before Christmas - Non-uniform day – Christmas fun afternoon. Please bring a donation for the local St Thomas' Church foodbank
- Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Jan:** First day of the spring term

## STAR OF THE WEEK AWARDS

- Bethany Yates
- Henry Cushen
- Joseph Earp
- James Baker
- Jacob Bennett
- Joseph Wright
- Lucas Hackett
- Lauren Cowell
- Isla Rowlandson
- Alfie Stephens
- Lily Riley
- Jack Shields
- Hattie Askew
- Evie Addis
- Lacie Dixon



## CHRISTMAS IS COMING...LIGHTS, CAMERA, STAGE, ACTION!

Christmas will be different this year but it is certainly not cancelled. Below are some of our plans for each class. We hope to film what the children do so that we can share the Christmas chaos fun, excitement and smiles with you all! ☺

### RECEPTION, Y1, Y2 & Y3: NATIVITY FROM SCRATCH

We are planning a special day for each class in which we will transform each classroom with a stage, lights and enjoy putting together the nativity story.

Children are asked to come dressed up as a character from the nativity story for the day - it doesn't matter how many of each character we have (although at least one of each is helpful!): Mary, Joseph, angel, star, shepherd, wise man, donkey etc.

### YEAR 4: TRAIN ON TRACK FOR CHRISTMAS

Children in Year 4 will be taking a slightly different take on the Christmas story and linking it with their topic...

Children are asked to dress up as a character (information sent out separately).

### YEAR 5 & 6: SCENES FROM OLIVER

As part of their topic, children in Year 5 & 6 will be acting out a number of scenes and singing songs from Oliver.

Children are asked to come dressed as a Victorian for the day (Year 6 could possibly reuse their outfits from last year).

## COVID UPDATE

As we enter the second lockdown and COVID cases remain high in the Wyre, please support us by keeping a safe distance on the one-way system and ensuring children sanitise their hands before entering school.

Please keep us informed about testing and send results as soon as possible to: [head@garstang-st-thomas.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:head@garstang-st-thomas.lancs.sch.uk).

## HOME LEARNING



### INDIVIDUAL CHILD ISOLATING

All children who must isolate will now have access to Google Classroom learning activities. If your child needs to isolate, we will give you access to a new classroom designed to keep children engaged in learning for the period at home. A member of staff from school will give feedback and encourage the children on a daily basis.

### WHOLE CLASS ISOLATING

We may need to send a class home to isolate if we have a confirmed case of COVID-19 and there has been close contact. If we do this, we will be using Google Classroom to continue learning at home. Please keep a copy of your child's log in details at home. Thank you.

HM Government

# CORONAVIRUS GOT SYMPTOMS? GET TESTED

**NHS**

**STAY ALERT  
CONTROL THE VIRUS  
SAVE LIVES**

**HIGH TEMPERATURE OR  
NEW CONTINUOUS COUGH OR  
LOSS OF TASTE OR SMELL?**

Find out how to get a test, and how long to isolate, at [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)