

GARSTANG ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

7th May 2021



TOUR DE GARSTANG

Our PTFA is planning an exciting event in June with an adult 50 miles bike ride plus an in-school activity for the children riding bikes on the new track on the school field. Please see pages 3 & 4 of the newsletter for more information. Sponsorship forms will be sent out nearer to the time. Children who are not yet confident to cycle by themselves will be able to run their miles.

PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION

Gill Lowcock has been elected as parent governor on the board of governors. Thank you so much to all the candidates for standing for election.

ONLINE SAFETY NEWSLETTER

This month's online safety newsletter has been published – please read a copy at the end of this newsletter.

ROAD SAFETY

ROSPA have produced a parent guide to road safety. Please click [here](#) to view the guide. It guide contains helpful guidance for parents with children of all ages.

SPORTS DAY AND SUMMER EVENTS

We would normally send out dates as early as possible but we are holding back for news of changes to restrictions. We are really keen to welcome parents/carers to these events.

REMINDER: TOWER WOOD TRIP (FOR CURRENT YEAR 4 & 5)

We are planning a residential trip to Tower Wood (outdoor and adventurous activities on the shores of Lake Windermere) on 10th -12th November 2021. Further information and permissions forms will be sent out shortly.

REMINDER: SCHOOL UNIFORM

As the shops are beginning to reopen, please can we ask that children are back to wearing full school uniform as soon as possible. Please find our information about [uniform, hair and jewellery here](#). Thank you.

SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB

The Smash Sports club will be running at GCA this year for 5 weeks during the summer holidays. Further information is available here: <https://mysmashsports.com/>.

Christian Focus this half term: **TRUST**
WEDNESDAY WORSHIP: Jesus in the storm
Mark 4:35-41

SUMMER TERM FOCUS:
HEALTHY BODY, HEALTHY MIND

DIARY DATES

Mon 10th May: Tempest class photographs
Fri 14th May: Year 6 Paddleboarding
Mon 17th May: Y4 local visit near the River Wyre (art)
Fri 28th May: Year 5 Paddleboarding
Mon 31st May: – Mon 7th June: Half Term break
Tue 8th June: Return to school
Sun 13th Jun: PTFA 50 mile ride
W/c Mon 14th June: PTFA class 50 mile challenge (in school time)
Fri 18th June: Year 6 Tower Wood and sleepover at school.
Fri 16th July: Last day of term

Full term dates are available from our website:
<https://www.garstangstthomas.com/>

STANLEY ELLIOT
QUINN AINSWORTH
MILLICENT WILLIAMS
ISLA BLAKELY
JOEY WRIGHT
MIA SWEENEY
SOPHIE CHERRETT
JACKSON TAYLOR
FREYA BURTON
GEORGE JURIN
NOAH DYER
JOHN MILLS
LILY RILEY
WILLIAM YATES
OLIVE WRATHALL
LAUREN ARMSTRONG



TREE PLANTING

Thank you for so much to Ben Jurin Architecture for the kind donation of all the blossom trees along the running track. 😊



MESSAGE TO A TEACHER

If you have a question, query or need to get a message to a teacher, please click on 'message to a teacher' on our school website: www.garstangstthomas.com

If it is an urgent message, please contact the school office on 01995 603454.

COVID

If your child has symptoms, please do not send them to school. Please book a test and keep us informed. Please send test results as soon as possible to: head@garstang-st-thomas.lancs.sch.uk.

Please note: lateral flow tests are in use for asymptomatic testing. For children/ adults with symptoms, you are asked to get a PCR test: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

REMINDER OF COVID SYMPTOMS

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste

BOOK A [COVID TEST](#)
GUIDANCE ON [ISOLATION](#)

 HM Government



NHS

CORONAVIRUS
STAY ALERT TO
THE SYMPTOMS

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

STAY ALERT
CONTROL
THE VIRUS
SAVE LIVES

TOUR DE GST

W/C 13TH JUNE 2021

50 MILES PER CLASS, 350 TOTAL MILES
£3,500 SPONSORSHIP

SCHEDULE

13/06/21 – PTFA 50 MILE RIDE

14/06/21 - YEAR 6

15/06/21 - YEARS 5 & 4

16/06/21 – YEARS 3 & 2

17/06/21 – YEAR 1 & RECEPTION

- RECEPTION & YEAR 1 COMBINED
- BRING YOUR BIKE TO SCHOOL
- NO HELMET, NO RIDE
- FUNDS RAISED GO TOWARDS SUPPORTING SPORT AND FITNESS IN SCHOOL - HELPING TO PROMOTE A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE.



SPONSOR LINK:

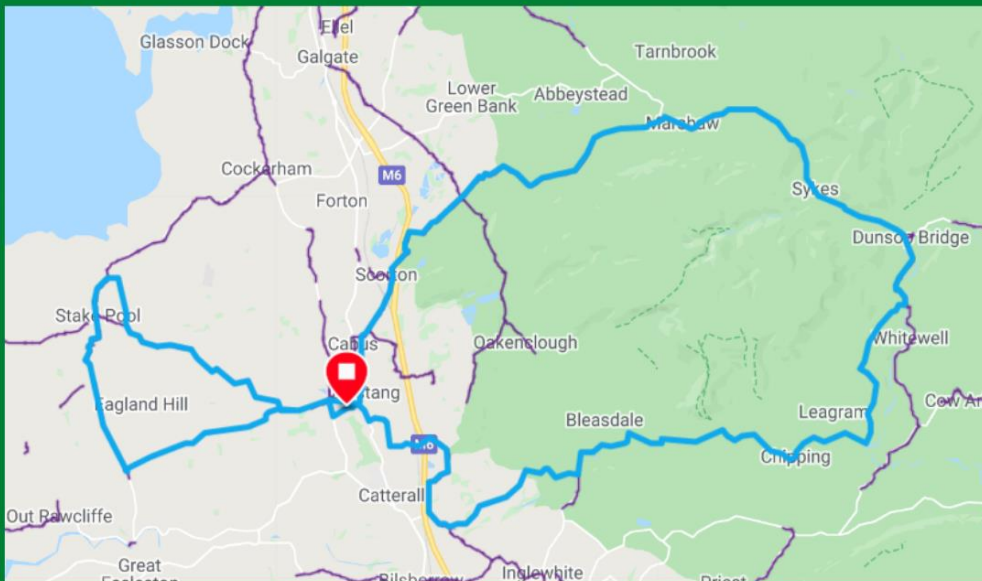
WWW.GOFUNDME.COM/F/TOUR-DE-GST

TOUR DE GST

SUN 13TH JUNE 2021

PTFA RIDE

- 50 MILES - RIDE ALL, PART 1 (35m) OR PART 2 (15m)
- RIDERS MUST BE OVER THE AGE OF 18 OR ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT
- SUPPORT CAR - REGULAR MEETING POINTS EN ROUTE
- MIXED ABILITY - NOBODY LEFT BEHIND
- NO HELMET, NO RIDE
- ROUTE MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE



SCHEDULE (ALL TIMES ARE EST.)

8.00 - MEET AT GST
8.15 - SET OFF (PART 1)
11.45 - MEET AT GST FOR PART 2
12.30 - SET OFF (PART 2)
14:00 - ARRIVE BACK AT GST

CONTACT
OLIVER BURTON
TO CONFIRM YOUR PLACE ON
07846 762001

SPONSOR LINK:

WWW.GOFUNDME.COM/F/TOUR-DE-GST



Garstang St Thomas Church of England Primary School

Online Safety Newsletter

May 2021

Nintendo Switch

Did you know there is a free Parental Controls app that you can download to your phone to link to your child's Nintendo Switch? You will need to set up a Nintendo account first to use it but then you can:

- view a report to see what video games your child has been playing.
- see how long your child has been playing for and set time limits and what time they can play.
- set which games can be played based on their age rating.
- limit in game communication.
- restrict purchases in the Nintendo eShop.

Further information

- <https://www.nintendo.com/switch/parental-controls/>
- <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/gaming-consoles/nintendo-switch/>



Snapchat

Snapchat remains a popular app for messaging and sharing photos and videos. **You must be 13+ to sign up.** The app has some privacy settings which we would recommend you explore with your child and suggest why certain options are safer, for example, setting your account so only friends (rather than everyone) can see your content.



What should I be aware of?

- **Who is your child friends with** – talk to your child about who they are friends with and why it is safer to be friends with only those they know in real life.
- **Group chats** - in a group chat, there may be people that they're not friends with on the app who can then communicate with them in the group chat, which increases their risk of interacting with strangers.
 - **Snap Map** - The map lets users see where friends are. Location sharing via the map is optional and is off by default (we recommend that it remains off).
 - **Snapchat streaks** - Streaks count how many consecutive days two people have been sending Snaps to each other, this can increase pressure to respond daily.
 - **Inappropriate content** – due to the nature of the app your child may come across content that is inappropriate.
 - **Screenshots** – whilst Snaps disappear, users may take screenshots before they do, potentially resulting in them losing control of what they have shared as it could be sent to other people.
 - **Bullying** – there is a risk of bullying on all platforms so please ensure your child knows how to block and report other users if necessary.
- <https://snap.com/safety/safety-reporting/>
- <https://support.snapchat.com/en-GB/a/remove-block-friends>

Safety tips

It is important to talk to your child regularly about what they are doing online and make sure that they know that they should always talk to you or another trusted adult if they have any concerns. **Please make sure the appropriate privacy settings are set up and your child knows how to block and report other users if necessary.**

- <https://support.snapchat.com/en-GB/article/privacy-settings2>

Further information

- Parents' Ultimate Guide to Snapchat: <https://www.commonsemmedia.org/blog/parents-ultimate-guide-to-snapchat>

Snapchat
Safety Centre:
<https://snap.com/en-GB/safety/safety-center>



Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into.
Current as of the date released 1.5.21.

Houseparty

Houseparty is a face to face (video) social network available as either an app or web version. **You need to be 13+ to create an account**, however, no age verification takes place when you set up an account.

What is Houseparty?

It allows you to video chat with other users (your connections) as well as play in app quizzes and games with each other, it's designed to feel like a house party. Up to 8 people can join each room and you can join several rooms at any one time by swiping across.

How to lock rooms:

Once you are in a video chat (room), your connections and their connections can join the same video chat session regardless of whether you invite them or not **unless** you lock the room. So, if you do not lock the room, then a friend of one of your friends can join that video session. If somebody that isn't your connection is about to join, then you will receive a notice that they are joining the session. *We would recommend locking the room by simply tapping on the padlock at the bottom of the screen once everybody that you want is in the room/has joined the session.*

If you enable privacy mode, then every room you go into will automatically be locked.

Reporting

As with all apps, it's important that your child knows how to use the reporting tools within it. You can report direct to Houseparty if you see any inappropriate behaviour by tapping their name, then tap the "Friends" button and choose "Report" or "Report or Block". Ensure your child knows how to un-friend or block a person as well.

What you need to be aware of

- **In-app purchases:** One feature of Houseparty is the ability to play games and quizzes with your friends. These can be chargeable.
- **Content:** Other users may take screenshots/recordings of your private chats without you even realising and there is also the potential to see inappropriate content.
- **Strangers:** your child may encounter people they don't know (friends of friends).

Further information

- <https://houseparty.com/guidelines/>
- <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/houseparty/>

Roblox

What is Roblox?

You can either use Roblox to create games or play games that other users have created.

What should I be aware of?

Chat Facility - Players can chat to each other on Roblox. You can add parental controls to turn this feature off completely or add restrictions. Further information can be found here:

<https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>

Game content – as games are created by different users, sometimes the content may not be appropriate for your child.

Blocking users and reporting – ensure your child knows how to do this.

Virtual Currency - Players can buy Robux (their virtual currency) to buy in-game upgrades or accessories. If you do not want your child to purchase them ensure your card details are not saved.

Parental Controls

The game does include some parental controls so ensure appropriate controls are set up.

Further information:

- <https://corp.roblox.com/faq/>
- <https://www.common sense media.org/blog/parents-ultimate-guide-to-roblox-0>

Have you checked the age ratings?

When your children request to use a new app or game, it's important to evaluate whether it is appropriate for your child to use it. One of the **first things** we can do is check the age rating. If your child is not old enough then explain to your child, why it is not appropriate for them.