

GARSTANG ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



Friday 9th September 2022

Rev. Michael: Firm Foundations

QUEEN ELIZABETH II

This morning, we gathered together to give thanks for Her Majesty The Queen. We gave thanks for her remarkable life of service and we prayed for her family and all who mourn at this time. For those families who wish to leave a message, there will be a book of condolence at St Thomas' Church shortly.

NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Welcome back everyone and a very special welcome to all the new children joining our school family this week in Reception, the nursery and throughout the school.

What a fabulous start to the year the children have made –

WELL DONE ALL!

A huge GST School welcome to the new staff who have joined our school family this term. For a reminder about who is who, please visit our [website](#).

FRIDAY CELEBRATION

From **next Friday**, 16th September, onwards we will be welcoming parents/carers/grandparents to Friday Celebration. Friday Celebration starts at 2:40pm and is the time when achievements – in and out of school are shared. Our year 6 children lead Friday Celebration. The hall will be open from 2:30pm. Please note there is limited seating.

MEET THE TEACHER SESSIONS

We invite parents/carers to meet with teachers next week:

- Monday 12th @ 5:30pm – YEAR 3, MRS NEATH
- Monday 12th @ 6pm – YEAR 2, MR WILKINSON
- Tuesday 13th @ 5:30pm – RECEPTION, MRS BAMBER
- Tuesday 13th @ 6pm – YEAR 6, MRS STEWART [N.B. this includes information on the London educational visit]
- Wednesday 14th @ 5:30pm – YEAR 5, MRS BOSSON
- Thursday 15th @ 5:30pm – YEAR 4, MISS MERCER
- Thursday 15th September @ 6pm – YEAR 1, MISS SOWERBY

ONE-WAY SYSTEM

When collecting and dropping off, please follow the one-way system around school. It helps with the flow around school but it is also safer with children only leaving one way.

EXTRA-CURRICULUM CLUBS

Letters have been sent out early in the week for extra-curricular clubs for years 1-6. Confirmation will be sent out next week about places.

DIARY DATES

W/c Mon 12th Sep: Meet the teacher sessions (see main newsletter)

Wed 21st Sep: Reception vision screening check

Mon 26th Sep: Individual school photos

Tue 11th Oct Y6 London residential (1 night)

Mon 24th Oct – Mon 31st Oct: Half term break and INSET day (children not in school)

Tues 1st Nov: Back to school

Wed 2nd Nov: Y5 Tower Wood residential (2 nights)

Wed 7th Dec: Nasal Flu Vaccination for Reception to Year 6 (see below)

Friday 16th Dec: last day of term

Full term dates are available from our website: www.garstangstthomas.com

PTFA – JOIN OUR TEAM!

Over the few past years, through the pandemic, our PTFA has been held together by a very small group of dedicated people led by Ollie Burton. Despite the obvious difficulties in this period, they have raised substantial funds for school - funds that are going to be really useful for educational visits and improvements to school this year. Moving forward, we need people to join our PTFA as we plan events throughout the year to bring our school family together. We plan to have a PTFA AGM/welcome meeting on **Thursday 29th September @ 7:30pm** in the school hall. It would be great to see you there.

SPRING BULB REQUEST

We're collecting bulbs to plant in the school garden. If you have any flowering bulbs that we can have, please send into school. Thank you.



GARSTANG ST THOMAS NURSERY



We opened our doors for the first time on Monday! It's been a very busy but great week with the children all settling in.

A huge thank you to all parents/ carers for your support with transitions this week. Thank you also to our nursery team for all their hard work this week and for setting up over the summer.

Message from Mrs Wilson:

We are thrilled with the children this week they have made such a fabulous start to Nursery. The children are quickly picking up our rules and routines and are already settling in beautifully. They have been thoroughly enjoying all the fun and exciting activities. The children have loved the fabulous outdoor space - our enormous sandpit has been very popular. 😊



For booking information, contact Mrs Rachel Procter:
nursery@garstang-st-thomas.lancs.sch.uk

USEFUL INFORMATION AS WE START THE YEAR:

- School times are available here:
<https://www.garstangstthomas.com/school-day-times/>
- Full term dates are available here:
https://schoolcalendar.lancashire.gov.uk/view/schoolCalendarV.asp?p_rec=02046
- Uniform, Hair and Jewellery Information:
https://www.garstangstthomas.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/02046_UniformHairJewellery2022-2023.pdf
- Breakfast and After-School Club booking information is available here:
<https://www.garstangstthomas.com/school-office-forms/>
- School swimming information (Year 3 are going swimming on Wednesday afternoons)
<https://www.garstangstthomas.com/swimming/>
- School curriculum information:
<https://www.garstangstthomas.com/curriculum/>

MESSAGE FROM REV MICHAEL, ST THOMAS' CHURCH

It is with great sadness that we receive the news of the death of our beloved Sovereign, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second after seventy years of faithful service to our country and Commonwealth. The Queen carried out her duties with dignity, being a remarkable unifying figure, and we are all proud to have lived as her loyal subjects.

You will have heard about our new church service - an upbeat, contemporary family service that was due to start this Sunday at 4:30pm. It is no longer appropriate to launch this service in the way we had planned. However, we will still love to invite you to gather at church at 4:30pm for an all-age service with the opportunity to consider our Queen as a role model and the King who she served. This service will begin outside St Thomas' church at 4:30pm with the lowering of our Union Flag to half-mast, before proceeding into church for perhaps 45 minutes, followed by a simple, free meal for the children. We will also have, as usual, our traditional choral Holy Communion service at 10:30am.

*It would be great to see you on Sunday as we gather to pay our respects to Her Late Majesty.
The Revd. Michael Hutchinson 07933533205*

COST OF LIVING INFORMATION/ SUPPORT

Help for Households Website:

<https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/help-with-your-bills/>

(Government website which contains information about support with bills, income support, transport etc.)

Citizens Advice:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/get-help-with-the-cost-of-living/>

Is your child entitled to free school meals and the pupil premium?

Please click [here](#) for further information.

Cooking Healthy Meals on a Budget Course

The course is a practical cookery course that requires access to typical household cookery equipment during the sessions. The short course teaches people how to prepare healthy meals from scratch using fresh ingredients. Those on the course will also learn how to discover 'shortcuts' that will save time and money. All recipe details and ingredient lists are provided by the teacher prior to the course date.

When? The online course is free to any Lancashire residents and last 2 weeks, which will start on Tuesday 13th September 9.30am- 12pm. Further information: <https://www.lal.ac.uk/what-we-do/health-wellbeing/>

ANNUAL FLU VACCINATION 2022-2023 (LAIV NASAL SPRAY)

Dear Parent/Guardian,

This vaccination is recommended to help protect your child against flu. Flu can be an unpleasant illness and can cause serious complications. Vaccinating your child will also help protect more vulnerable family and friends by preventing the spread of flu. There may be a rebound in flu levels this coming winter following low levels in the past 2 years as a result of COVID-19 restrictions. The vaccination is free and is a quick, simple, painless spray up the nose.

Online Consent Form:

1. Please use the following link to access the online consent form:
www.bthimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu
2. Please quote the unique school code. The code for your school is BP119528

Please complete the online consent form for both consent / no consent giving reasons.
Please inform the School Vaccination Team (Not School) of the following on

Blackpool, Wyre & Fylde: 01253 951984
Lancaster & Morecambe: 01524 406672

- If your child has steroid tablets prescribed two weeks prior to vaccination.
- If in the few days prior to vaccination your child has been wheezy.
- If consent is received and you take your child to your GP surgery to receive the vaccination.

It is your responsibility to contact the school vaccination team to ensure they do not receive the immunisation again.

A leaflet explaining the vaccination programme can be accessed by clicking the following link: [Flu vaccination for children](#)

Yours faithfully,

School Age Vaccination Team



[Report a child's absence](#)



[Send message to a teacher](#)



[Send message to office](#)



[Visit website](#)



[Term dates](#)



[Forms and information](#)

Get school updates by following us on:

