

GARSTANG ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



READING!

It's wonderful to see so many of our children loving reading at GST; from those in our nursery and reception visiting our library and choosing a book with big smiles on their faces, to children in the middle of mighty novels in KS2.

We'd like to invite parents/carers to a **reading information session on Thursday 2nd March 6pm** (World Book Day) about how we teach phonics / early reading at school. This is suitable for parents/carers of children in Reception, Y1 & Y2.

PASTORAL SUPPORT

Lee Baker (pastoral leader) supports our children and families in a range of different ways. Information about what is available is on the [pastoral page](#) of our website. There are also links to useful organisations that offer support.

STATUTORY ASSESSMENT

Please see information on this newsletter about statutory assessment for Reception, Y1, Y2, Y4 and Y6 this year. As always, there will be a parents' evening for all year groups after the half term break to share progress.

FINANCE – INCLUDING CHILDCARE PAYMENTS

LCC have moved to new financial systems and changes have not been smooth. There is a quite an impact on schools in a number of ways including childcare payments. We appreciate your patience as the LCC systems catch up.

MAD SCIENCE CLUB

There is a small number of places available for Mad Science in the summer term. Please [sign up](#) if you are interested.

PTFA

Happy New Year everyone, from all at the PTFA.

Please follow us on Facebook ([GST PTFA](#)) and Instagram ([garstangstthom](#)) for the most up to date information. We will also be communicating via the newsletter and the class Whatsapp groups.

Last term we held two fundraising events - the KS1 and KS2 discos and the Christmas raffle. Together these raised £1269. Thank you to everyone who came to the discos and bought raffle tickets. Thank you to all the parents who volunteered time to help run the discos. All money raised will be used to support your children's education and improve their school experience.

We aren't done there!! Coming up.....Beetle Drive, non-uniform day (chocolate) and Chocolate Bingo. Keep your eyes peeled for confirmed dates and how you could help.

Friday 20th January 2023

Wednesday: Christian Values

DIARY DATES

Tue 31st Jan: Young Voices (Y5)

Mon 6th Feb: Y6 educational visit

Mon 13th Feb – Fri 17th Feb: Half term break

Tue 28th Feb: Y5 educational visit

Wed 1st Mar: Reception educational visit

Thu 2nd Mar: World Book Day – children invited to bring a book and dress up as a book character. DIY costumes most welcome.

Thu 2nd Mar: Parent/Carer reading information sessions 6pm

Mon 6th Mar: Y1 educational visit

Tue 21st Mar: Y4 educational visit

Wed 29th Mar: Y3 educational visit

Fri 31st Mar: Last day of term before Easter

Mon 17th April: First day of the summer term

STARS OF THE WEEK

BETHANY HINE

ALFIE WOODBURN

JACOB SHANNON

GEORGE FINCH

DEMI SIMPSON

HENRY CUSHEN

HARRY LEECH

KAI MCGRATH

ALEXANDER CARMICHAEL

JOJO OLIVER

BROOKE BILLINGTON

SETH BEARD

ZILAN IDEM

ESMAE WILLIAMS

EVA CLARKE

GEORGE JURIN

JIMMY ORR

AARON TISSINGH

BREAKFAST CLUB - MOLLY SOUTHWELL

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB - ESTHER LOWCOCK

Awards will be given in next week's Friday Celebration

LAMDA UPDATE: Year 4 have started their LAMDA group sessions this term. Year 5 LAMDA exam results are due imminently. #ConfidentCommunicators



PSHE: Years 5 & 6 had a great session from Mrs Smith this week on 'Money Matters' – wants vs needs, credit and debt, budgeting and careers.



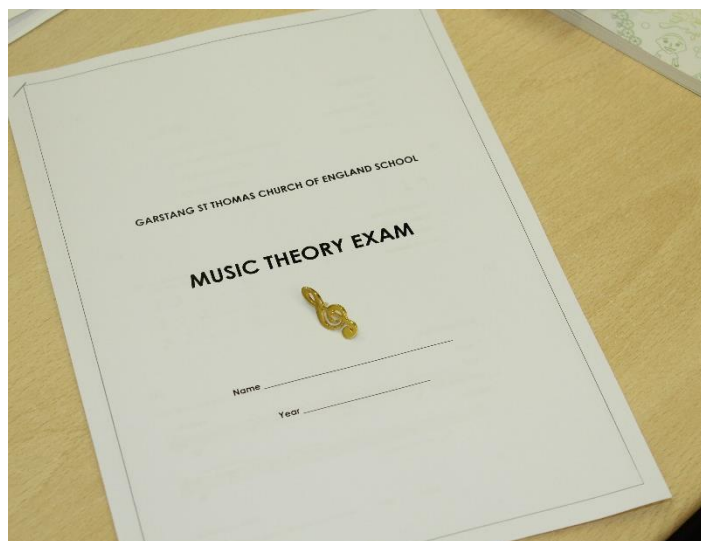
SCIENCE: Year 5 are enjoying learning lots of facts about the planets in our solar system. 🪐



ART AND DESIGN: Year 4 have enjoyed painting still life. Their artwork is fantastic! 🎨



MUSIC: Our first four children have been awarded the: 🌟GOLDEN TREBLE CLEF🌟 Well done for great performances and passing the Garstang St Thomas School music theory exam! 🎵



STATUTORY ASSESSMENT

RECEPTION CLASS: EYFS PROFILE

The statutory EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) framework requires an EYFS profile assessment to be carried out by the late June. The EYFS profile is intended to provide a reliable, valid and accurate assessment of each child's development at the end of the EYFS. It is made up of an assessment of the child's outcomes in relation to the 17 early learning goal (ELG) descriptors. The main purpose of the profile assessment at the end of the EYFS is to support a successful transition to Key Stage 1 (KS1) by informing the professional dialogue between EYFS and Year 1 teachers.

Your child will not be aware that any of this assessment is taking place – we are just sharing to let you know it is happening. You will receive information about your child's assessment in their end of year report.

YEAR 1: PHONICS SCREENING CHECK

The phonics screening check is a short, statutory assessment to ensure that children are making sufficient progress in the phonics skills to read words and are on track to become fluent readers who can enjoy reading for pleasure and for learning.

Your child will complete this check during the week commencing Monday 12th June 2023. Your child is well used to working one-to-one with teachers in school in phonics and so will probably not notice much difference with completing this statutory screening check.

You will receive the results of the check in your child's end of year report.

YEAR 2: SATS

We are asked to assess the standards your child is working at in English reading, English writing, mathematics and science, by the end of Key Stage 1. To help inform those judgements, the children sit national curriculum tests in English and mathematics, commonly called SATs. The children will also be sitting an English grammar, punctuation and spelling test.

The tests are a tool for teachers to help them measure your child's performance and identify their needs as they move into Key Stage 2. They also allow teachers to see how your child is performing against national expected standards. The tests are not strictly timed for this age group and they will be completed in a way to avoid any worry. We plan to complete these assessments during the week commencing Monday 15th May 2023.

You will receive your child's results as part of their end of year report.

YEAR 4: MULTIPLICATION TABLES CHECK

Year 4 are due to have a multiplication check in June. This assessment is in the form of an on-screen check consisting of 25 times table questions. Your child will be able to answer 3 practice questions before taking the actual check. They will then have 6 seconds to answer each question. On average, the check should take no longer than 5 minutes to complete. We plan to complete the check between Tuesday 6th June and Friday 9th June 2023.

Further information for parents is available here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1116420/2023_Information_for_parents_Multiplication_tables_check_Nov_22_PDFA.pdf

You will receive your child's results in their end of year report.

YEAR 6: SATS

Year 6 will be taking national curriculum tests in English grammar, punctuation and spelling, English reading and mathematics. This tests will take place on the following days:

- Tuesday 9th May 2023 - English grammar, punctuation and spelling papers 1 and 2
- Wednesday 10th May 2023 - English reading
- Thursday 11th May 2023 - Mathematics papers 1 and 2
- Friday 12th May 2023- Mathematics paper 3

We treat the Year 6 SATs as a rite of passage for our Year 6s, along with all the other experiences and fun that is on offer, particularly in the summer term of Year 6. It is important to note that our focus on learning continues right up until the end of term. We pass on SATs results and teacher assessment for all subjects to secondary schools but it's important the children keep being fully engaged learners right through the summer term, and as they transition to secondary school.

SATS results are given to the children when we receive them. Results will also be sent home as part of your child's end of year report.

GARSTANG LIBRARY INFORMATION

January – 64 Million Artists – Character Parade

This January, we invite everyone to exercise their creative muscles. Bring in your most inventive character designs and illustrations. Perhaps you have always wanted to cross Harry Potter with a T-Rex or wondered what Bluey would be like if she were rainbow coloured. We want to see your most fantastical character art. Bring in your own pieces to add to our Character Parade in the Children's Library, or drop in any Saturday morning in January to make your artwork with us here in the library. If you would like a template to get you started, please contact the school office. However, please feel free to make your character however you wish.

January & February – SCART Club – Winter Reads

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives/libraries/reading-journey/>

We are challenging children in Lancashire to read three books and complete one task. Once you have done this, you will receive a Winter Reads pop badge to add to your SCART collection. Call into your Garstang Library to collect your activity postcard from. The scheme will run until Saturday 25 February. We will be running activities each Saturday in February to help you on your way, however if you can't make it, you can do your task at home. We suggest making a card to give to a friend or loved one this winter. This could be to celebrate Random Acts Of Kindness Day on Friday 17 February or maybe a Valentine on Tuesday 14 February.

Uniform & Leisurewear
**WONDER
WEEK** 

WE ARE HAVING A **WONDER WEEK**
FROM Monday 23 to Saturday 28th JANUARY.

FOR THIS WEEK WE WILL BE GIVING
OUR CUSTOMERS A HUGE **10% OFF** THEIR
TOTAL SPEND.

THIS IS FROM SCHOOLWEAR TO WORKWEAR,
FROM SPORTSWEAR TO ACCESSORIES.

TELL BOTH YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS; WE CANT
WAIT TO SEE YOU ALL!

In stock items only and excluding sale goods

**Monday 23rd to SATURDAY 28th
JANUARY**
Across our Stores



Garstang Amateur Swimming Club

We are recruiting swimmers

Has your child completed lessons and wants to continue to swim and improve?

New/Improver swimmers welcome

Small friendly club swimming

For more information:

membership@garstangasc.org.uk

01995 603885 or 01995 604183

USEFUL SCHOOL INFORMATION

- 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 2 are going swimming on Wednesday afternoons from January)
<https://www.garstangstthomas.com/swimming/>
- School curriculum information:
<https://www.garstangstthomas.com/curriculum/>



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