

GARSTANG ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



Friday 27th January 2023

Wednesday: Jesus is baptized

INTERNET SAFETY DAY #INFLUENCERS

Coming up on the 7th February is Internet Safety Day and, as usual, we will be using this day to have another opportunity to learn about how to keep safe online.

This year will be focusing on **who** we are watching online and how we can be **influenced** by them - from Blippi to Logan Paul x KSI. We will be thinking about this in the main school day and also in breakfast/after school club.

There is an information poster for parents/carers about influencers further below in the newsletter.

RECEPTION CLASS – PET AT HOME?

Reception class are enjoying learning about animals. If you have a pet at home, please could you e-mail us a photograph? Please e-mail: reception@garstang-st-thomas.lancs.sch.uk. Thank you.

YEAR 6 YORK RESIDENTIAL VISIT: WED 5TH - FRI 7TH JULY

The York visit is on Parent Pay. There is a deposit of £19 to pay as soon as possible. Thank you.

SCHOOL TERM DATES

School term dates (including INSET days) are on our school website for this academic year and next. [Click here](#) to view.

REMINDER: 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.

READING PARENT/CARER INFORMATION SESSION

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.

PTFA NEWS

We need you!! If you would like to join the PTFA then please get in touch with Claire, one of the other PTFA members or via Facebook, and we will add you to our group. As always please follow us on Facebook ([GST PTFA](#))

We may be a little late for this next one, but if anyone has any Christmas jumpers they no longer need, we will be collecting them in preparation for our Christmas jumper sale next year. There will be a box at the office next week for you to drop them off.

Dates for the diary

- Beetle Drive Fri 24th February (info to follow)
- Chocolate Bingo Thursday 30th March

www.garstangstthomas.com • office@garstang-st-thomas.lancs.sch.uk • 01995 603454

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 session 6pm (phonics/early reading)

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

ISAAC LOCKLEY

COLEBY WILKINSON

LOUIE GOULD

MATTHEW HUDSON

OLIVIA THOMAS

GEORGIE FRODSHAM-CROSS

ERIN MORTON

JERRI BARTON-WILKINS

ELIJAH WILKINSON

ANNABELLE HORNER

LOGAN ROBINSON

ARCHIE BEESLEY

SOPHIE CHERRETT

JESSICA SMITH

JOSHUA BILLINGTON

ERIN GIBSON

EWAN LIVINGSTONE

ANNABEL WALTON

BREAKFAST CLUB - DEXTER REDMAYNE

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB - DENIS MARTIN

Awards will be given in next week's Friday Celebration

LAMDA UPDATE: 100% pass rate in Year 5 LAMDA exams! Well done all! #ConfidentCommunicators
Certificates will be given out in next week's Friday Celebration.



PE: Year 1 want to share their friendship dance! 🍀👉 View on our [Facebook page](#) or [Twitter](#).



HISTORY: Y6 have been deciphering the Anglo Saxon Chronicles to find out how the Anglo Saxons felt about the Viking invasion of Lindisfarne in 793AD.





Social media influencers are people who have established credibility in a specific industry and have the power to influence other people's decisions. Most commonly associated with YouTube and Instagram, 'influencers' will usually have a large number of followers and be viewed as authentic by their audience. It is for this reason that many influencers are often paid by big companies to promote their products in the hope of persuading their followers to purchase those goods.



What parents need to know about SOCIAL PRESSURES LINKED TO 'INFLUENCERS'



AN UNREALISTIC PERCEPTION OF BODY IMAGE

Some of the most popular social media influencers often depict themselves as having the 'perfect body' and are paid to promote items such as health supplements or swimwear, which young people believe can help them achieve the same look. What is not always realised is that these images can be edited or filtered and aren't always a true-life representation. Your child may feel like this is what they need to look like and in some cases, become obsessed with their body image, which could contribute towards a lower self-esteem or even becoming depressed if they can't achieve the same look.



BECOMING UNREALISTIC ROLE MODELS

As children become more and more involved on social media and identify who their favourite people are to follow, they may come to see social media influencers as role models, particularly if they are attracted by the lifestyle they see online. This could lead them into developing potentially unrealistic expectations of life and in some cases, using their role models as an escape from reality, particularly if they feel like their own life isn't very fulfilling.



ENCOURAGING BAD HABITS

Although many social media influencers will get paid to advertise brands and their products, they will also post their own material online too, usually depicting their daily life or an activity for example. This may have both desirable and undesirable consequences, with influencers able to inspire both good habits, such as healthy eating, exercise or kindness. However it may also encourage children to adopt bad habits, such as drinking, smoking, swearing or even criminal behaviour, particularly if these are seen to be endorsed by the influencer.



THE NEED TO HAVE EVERYTHING

Many social media influencers will take photos or videos of themselves wearing the latest fashion or jewellery which companies want them to promote. They may also be provided with the latest gadgets to promote or, if they are children, toys to play with in order to persuade their followers to purchase them. Many children will be keen to buy these items in order to keep up with the latest trends however if they get left behind, they could be made to feel inadequate or inferior by other children who do have them.



AUTHENTICITY OF ENDORSEMENTS

Social media influencers hold a lot of persuasion with their audience and are often looked up to by younger followers. Many children will see them as credible, authentic and trust what they see online. However, some influencers may not always believe in the product they are promoting and therefore can mislead their followers, abusing their level of confidence in them. Your child may therefore find themselves looking up to people who are disingenuous or who feign interest in activities that they themselves do not actually care about.



Safety Tips for Parents

FOLLOW WHO THEY FOLLOW

A good way to see first-hand who may be influencing your child is to create your own social media account and follow the same people they do. This will give you a strong indication of what is shaping how your child behaves, what they like and what they are taking an interest in.



TALK ABOUT ROLE MODELS

Role models can play an important part of your child's life, particularly outside of the home. Talk to your child about who they look up to and why. Remind them that not everybody online is who they seem to be and if you do have concerns that your child is being negatively influenced, work with them in finding more positive alternatives.

BUILD THEIR SELF-ESTEEM

It's important that your child is aware of how unrealistic perceptions of life can be depicted on social media and that it is easy to be deceived. Discuss with your child how images can be heavily edited, cropped or manipulated to create artificial scenarios and that often the lifestyle that people display on social media isn't always realistic or in fact the truth.



DISCUSS REALISTIC VS UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

If you notice your child has suddenly taken a strong interest in the way they look, or you find they are a lot more body conscious, then it's a good idea to speak to them about why they feel that way. If they seem unhappy, try to build their self-esteem by talking to them and listening to their concerns, helping to build their confidence through praise and positivity. Remind them that looks aren't everything and not everything they see online is actually a true depiction of real life.



ENCOURAGE INDEPENDENT THINKING

Social media influencers can be quite powerful individuals who hold a lot of persuasive power so it's important to encourage your child to think independently about everything they see and engage with online. Talk to them about the dangers of blindly following others and in keeping an open mind when viewing content. Teach them to always question people's motives online, especially when they see individuals are promoting a brand or product which they are likely to have been paid to advertise but may not necessarily personally endorse.



Meet our expert

Pete Badh is a writer with over 10+ years in research and analysis. Working within a specialist area for West Yorkshire Police, Pete has contributed work which has been pivotal in successfully winning high profile cases in court as well as writing as a subject matter expert for industry handbooks.



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.

EASTER RUGBY AND MULTI-SPORTS CAMP AT GARSTANG RUFC



BOYS & GIRLS AGED 5-11

WED 12TH, THU 13TH FRI 14TH
APRIL 09.00 - 15.00



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

£15

per day

£40

for all 3 days!

£6

per day

breakfast & lunch

SCAN TO BOOK



Complete.

next generation
TRAVEL GROUP



wyre
council

Lancashire
County Council





GET INTO BASKETBALL

**FREE EVERY THURSDAY
5-11 YEARS OLD / 5-6PM
GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY
BOWGREAVE DRIVE, GARSTANG, PR3 1YE**

**FOR MORE INFO: [PRIESLEY.DUFFY@FLEETWOODTOWNFC.COM](mailto:priesley.duffy@fleetwoodtownfc.com)
OR CALL: 01253 208 442**


LIONEL BART'S
Oliver!
AUDITION PACK

SHOW DATES: 11TH - 14TH OCTOBER 2023

Click [here](#) for Garstang Musical Production's Facebook Page

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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