



“Inclusion at our Heart”

September 2017

Dear Parents & Carers

Welcome back to the new academic year and it was lovely to see so many happy and smiling faces at our first assembly of the year. I would like to also extend a special welcome to all of our new pupils and our Reception pupils who are taking their first steps into Garlinge – I hope that you find it to be a welcoming place where you learn and thrive!

As usual, it has been a busy summer here, with the site team overseeing lots of improvements to the school. We have had the years 5 and 6 corridor flooring replaced, new lockers put into the year 3 classrooms, new intervention rooms in the years 3 and 4 building and further improvements made to the SEN office, to name but a few! We are very proud of the learning environment and are continually striving to improve it, with further projects planned for the future.

I have also made some changes to our staffing structure, with Mr Cope and Mrs Northrop becoming Deputy Headteachers and each of the Department Leaders (Mrs McLevy, Mrs Wasway, Ms. Ellis, Mrs Goode and Mrs Pegden) becoming Assistant Headteachers. This will allow me to have much greater Leadership capacity and is a reflection on how much the school has grown in the two and a half years since I have been Headteacher. I wish them the very best in their new roles. We also welcome three new teachers due to the expansion of school: Mr Saddler (Year 4), Mr Atterbury (Year 3) and Miss Thompson (Year 1), as well as Mrs Smith, who is our new Safeguarding Officer.

There is already lots going on in the school, with many clubs already running well and lots of children taking part in sports and activities. We are also looking forward to the John Curran cup (football) first round (29.09.17), the first Thanet Schools Cross Country at Quex Park (07.10.17) and our Harvest celebrations during the week of 16.10.17!

Mr J Williams
Headteacher

Rights Respecting School

Following our fabulous news that Garlinge Primary School is now a Rights Respecting School, we are proud to announce our new water bottles. As a school, we actively promote the articles which underpin our values as a school and being a Rights Respecting School. As the new school year begins, we have provided every single child across Foundation Stage, KS1 and KS2, with a Garlinge water bottle, promoting Article 24, ‘all children have the right to clean water’. We understand the importance of drinking water to aid good health and improved concentration, so feel that by providing a free water bottle for all our children, highlights our ethos as a school. These bottles will be kept and washed in school to ensure that all our children have access to water at all times.



Football

Our football teams have been enjoying the warm up festivals this term and will be taking part in the competitive events in the next few weeks. We have also had 80 entries for the first of the cross country events on 7th October, which is a school record! Go Team Garlinge!

Year 6 Application Process for Secondary School Admission

Can we please remind parents of Year 6 children that the application process for children starting secondary school in 2018 opened on 4th September and closes on 31st October 2017. If you have any queries please contact admissions by phoning 03000 41 21 21 or email kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk.

School Dinners

Principals Catering would like to remind parents of children in Years 3 to 6 that school meals **MUST** be paid for IN ADVANCE. This has to be on the child's first school day of the week, for all of the days that the child needs to have a meal provided. You will be unable to pay daily. If your child does not pay at the beginning of the week, you will be contacted and asked to provide a packed lunch. School dinners are £2.15 per day, £10.75 per week. You can pay by cash at the school office or online www.principals-catering.com

If you think that your child is eligible for free school meals, please apply on-line:

www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals

(or pick up an application form from the school office if you do not have on-line access).



Parents/guardians who receive any of the following benefits are entitled to Free School Meals:

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (not including Working Tax Credit) - if the household income is below £16,190
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- An income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 if you are an asylum seeker

This applies to all pupils from Foundation Stage through to Year 6. If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact the School Office.

Attendance

Please may we remind all parents that children leaving before the end of the school day **MUST** be kept to a minimum and only under exceptional circumstances. Frequently, the end of the lesson is when the teacher re-caps and important information is given to the children. As your children's education is a priority, any appointments should, wherever possible, be made outside of school time. In the event of this not being possible, we would like to request that both the class teacher and school office are notified as soon as possible prior to the appointment and a copy of an appointment card or hospital letter brought in as evidence. Thank you for your co-operation, attendance has started of this year very positively and this is much appreciated.

Absence from school

We would appreciate it if all absences from school could be telephoned in to the school office on a daily basis by **9.30am (01843 221877 option 1)**. If your child is going to be absent due to illness, evidence may be requested, such as a doctor's prescription or a medical appointment letter/card. We do ask that parents/carers, where possible, make all appointments outside of the school day.

Collection Arrangements

We take the security and safety of our children very seriously. If your child is to be collected by someone else, even if it's another parent or carer, then you must inform the school office at the beginning of the school day to ensure that teachers are aware of the day's collection arrangements - and don't forget to remind your child too.

Parent and Carer contact details



Please remember how important it is that we are able to get in contact with you when necessary. This is not only necessary in times of emergency, but sometimes for forgotten items or just to change picking up arrangements etc—it is vital that the school office has up to date mobile telephone numbers on the system, thank you.

Entry into the school building

Please would Parents & Carers be aware that they are **NOT** allowed to enter the school buildings unless accompanied by a member of staff, thank you for your co-operation. If you have a message for staff please speak to a member of staff on duty, or pass a message via the school office.



All items of your child's belongings must be clearly marked with your child's name. Please be aware that pen or biro fades quickly and needs regularly replacing, so nametags are a good idea. Please include shoes, coats, bags and lunch boxes in your labelling. If a named item is found, it is a lot easier for us to return it to your child.

After School Clubs

It is great to see so much interest from the children across the school in wanting to take part in the 15 different after school clubs we have to offer this term. Due to the large response, children who did not get a place in a club this term have been placed on a waiting list until spaces become available in the next few terms. Please note that when applying for a club place please can parents and carers bear in mind that they need to receive an acceptance slip or text to confirm their child has been successful in gaining a place.

The School Day

Key Stage 1

Gates open at 8.45 am and close promptly at 9.00 am- anyone arriving after this time will be asked to report to the school office.

Morning break:

Reception 10:10 am to 10:25 am

Y1/Y2 10:30 am to 10:45 am

Lunchtime:

Reception 11:30am to 12:30pm

Year 1/Year 2 12:00pm to 1:00pm

School finishes at 3:10 pm

Key Stage 2

Gates open at 8:45 am and close promptly at 9:00 am – anyone arriving after this time will be asked to report to the school office.

Morning break: 11.00 am to 11.15 am

Lunchtime: 12.25 pm to 1.20 pm

School finishes at 3:15 pm

Morning Nursery: 8:45 am to 11:45 pm

Afternoon Nursery: 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Remember - the school gates are locked at 3:30 pm.

Please collect your children promptly at the end of the school day. We will ensure that children are safely supervised if parents or carers are unavoidably delayed, but late collection should not be a routine occurrence.

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 5 th October	Fun Lunch
Thursday 19 th October	10 Year Anniversary of Garlinge Primary School and Nursery
Friday 20 th October	INSET DAY - school closed
Monday 23 rd –Friday 27 th October	Term Break
Monday 30 th October	Back to School /School Photographs
Monday 13 th – 17 th November	Anti-bullying Week
Wednesday 15 th November	Parent Consultation Evening 2:40pm-7:30pm (school closes at 2:25pm)
Monday 11th-15th December	Christmas Party Week (details to follow)
Wednesday 20th December	INSET DAY – school closed
21st December 2017-3 rd January 2018	Term Break
Thursday 4th January 2018	Return to School

Please note that from now on all the messages from Garlinge Primary School and Nursery will be prefixed with **GPSN**.

Please take the time to either check in your child's book bag each day or visit our website informed of any events and/or school news. For all diary dates please visit the EVENTS PAGE on our website www.garlingeprimary.co.uk.

STICK ME ON YOUR FRIDGE!

