



## GARLINGE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

### Term 2 Newsletter- December 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

It is difficult to believe that once again we are rapidly approaching Christmas, unfortunately still with uncertainty in the air with regards to Covid. However, despite that, it has been fantastic to see the pupils back throughout the Autumn Term and resuming their learning, which they have done with a real sense of purpose and enthusiasm. Their spirit has shone through during the past three and a half months and it has been lovely to see normality return in the form of school sporting events, music and arts activities and also pupils mixing between the classes.

I would also like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the entire staff body at Garlinge. 2021 has been a difficult year for many reasons, with restrictions and rules reducing the way we operate in so many ways. However, despite this, the staff have continued to persevere and work hard to try and produce the very best outcomes for your children and they should be highly commended for this under the most trying of circumstances. I have very much enjoyed the challenges of the past year and also the opportunity to work across other schools which has been presented to me and I am hugely hopeful for a happier and more positive 2022 for all of our community. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and I look forward to seeing you back at school on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

Yours faithfully,

**Mr James Williams**  
**Executive Headteacher**



Dear Parents and Carers,

This term it has been fantastic to join together with the children to share all of the Festive Celebrations that have been organised across the school. In the past couple of weeks we have enjoyed welcoming our families of Nursery, Reception and Year 2 into school to share our Christmas Nativities. The children proudly performed with confidence and enjoyment. Some of our Year 3 children took part in the St James' Community Carol Service where we also welcomed members of St James' Church to our school. It was lovely to sing together and share tea and mince pies with the community. Year 6 participated in the Christmas Unwrapped Event at St James' Church and they represented the school well by demonstrating all of our school values at all times. All the children have also enjoyed other Christmas events including their class parties, candlelight services and Christmas Dinner where Maggie, our school cook, served over 700 hot meals!

We have had another successful term with our sporting achievements. A large number of children have represented our school in a range of sports such as Basketball, Dodgeball and Athletics to name a few. Our Dance crew were able to treat us all to a live performance in our department assemblies to showcase their amazing routine. Well done to all of the children involved. Keep an eye out for the latest PE, School Sport and Physical Activity Newsletter for more detailed information.

We also had an exciting visit from ITV Meridian News. We were chosen out of hundreds of schools in the South East region to have our school choir recorded as part of the build up to the Young Voices Concert which is held at the O2 Arena in London each year. We look forward to this being reported on ITV Meridian News in the New Year.

We hope you enjoy the Christmas break and we wish you a very Happy New Year.

Yours faithfully,

**Mrs Northrop and Mr Cope**  
**Heads of School**



### **Foundation and KS1 Christmas productions**

**Nursery and Reception** have been learning all about Celebrations this term and therefore have been busy rehearsing their Christmas production. This year's performance is titled 'Our First Nativity' and tells the well-known story of Jesus' birth. There were lots of songs to practise and lines to learn but the children were up for the challenge. The children then thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to perform in front of their parents and carers and show off all the hard work that they had put in.



**Year 2** have worked really hard showing our school values of Perseverance, Aspiration, Respect and Teamwork to produce for their adults a very simple, but traditional, Christmas assembly. We had a team of narrators who beautifully told the traditional tale of Mary, Joseph and their donkey on their journey to Bethlehem to have Baby Jesus. A journey we have learnt about and grown up with, this story helps us all to understand the true meaning of Christmas, a story that means so much to Christians around the world. Year 2 have added a small twist to this humble tale, it has been a challenging time for families over the last two years and this Christmas we can finally get together and share our happiness and joy with those closest to us. We wanted to show that this year Christmas is about families being together, so we had a family sitting around their fire listening to the story as it was told. The children thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to perform in front of their parents and carers and show off all the hard work that they had put in.

### **Christmas Dinner**



A BIG thank you goes out to the Principals Catering kitchen staff, Maggie Barnes and her team, who produced an excellent Christmas dinner recently, catering for nearly 700 pupils and staff! The food was absolutely delicious and there was a very festive atmosphere in the dining hall, with our new twinkling decorations.

### **PTFA Christmas Raffle Success**

We are happy to announce that an incredible **£1,386** was raised for the children of our school! Huge congratulations and many thanks to our school's PTFA and everyone who supported our Christmas Raffle and made it such a success.

### **Safety around the school**



There are regular messages in this newsletter to remind parents and carers of courteous parking and careful driving. Could we please ask that all parents and carers, park respectfully and consider the needs of all parties, local residents, other road users and especially pedestrians. Please can you ensure you arrive at school on time so that you can find a suitable and safe parking space.

Westfield Road is a very busy road with a lot of traffic during peak periods. There have been many times recently when parents and children are not crossing the road with the Road Crossing Patrol, putting themselves, other pedestrians and the drivers of any cars near the school in danger.

### **Your child's safety depends on you!**

Thank you for your cooperation, understanding and action in this important safety matter.

### **Cycle Training Course – Bikeability Levels 1 and 2**

In February next year our Year 6 children will have the opportunity to take part in a practical cycle training course designed to teach the skills necessary to ride safely and confidently on today's roads. The 'Bikeability' course is the Cycling Proficiency for the 21st century. Training will take place on roads close to school as well as in the playground and is delivered by qualified Bikeability instructors. Please note that this course is not suitable for complete beginners to cycling. More details to follow.



## Key Dates- Reception September 2022

Apply online at: [www.kent.gov.uk/ola](http://www.kent.gov.uk/ola)

Opening date for Primary applications	Friday 5th November 2021
Closing date for Primary applications	Monday 17th January 2022
National Offer Day for Primary applications	Tuesday 19th April 2022 (after 4pm by email)
Parents to accept or decline offer with the school	Wednesday 4th May 2022

If you need any help with applications, please contact please come and see our Admissions Officer, Mrs Brazier in the office.

### Dates for you Diary

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December**                      **INSET DAY (children do not attend)**

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021 – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022 inclusive- Christmas Break**

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January**                      **Return to School**

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January**                      **Bags to School**

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February**                      **Last Day of Term (normal finish time)**

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> - Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February - Half Term**

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February**                      **INSET DAY (children do not attend)**

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February-Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022- Year 6 Bikeability Training**

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April**                                **Last Day of Term (normal finish time)**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022 to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2022 inclusive -Easter Break**  
**(Easter Bank holiday is Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April & Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2022)**

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April**                                **INSET DAY (children do not attend)**

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April**                                **Return to school**



## ATTENDANCE

### COVID ABSENCE

The main three Covid-19 symptoms:

- a high temperature – a temperature of 37.8 or above,
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

If your child is showing any signs of Covid-19, please keep them at home while a PCR test is done. For advice about your child's health contact 119, either online or over the phone.

If a child shows any of the three symptoms, the Welfare Team is notified immediately. The child collects their belongings and will normally sit in the medical room until an adult can collect them. They will be supervised by an adult at all times.

The child will need to have a PCR test done or isolate for 10 days before returning to school. This is school policy. We will need to see a negative result before the child returns if the child has taken a PCR test.

Results can be sent to Rebecca Lindley, Attendance Officer, via WeDuc or emailed to [office@garlinge.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@garlinge.kent.sch.uk).

If a child comes in without a negative result when a PCR test was requested, we will have to send them home.

**Lateral flow tests are not to be used for this purpose and will not be accepted.**

If your child is absent due to sickness and diarrhoea, please bear in mind our School Policy. **Your child must be clear of any sickness and/or diarrhoea for 48 hours before returning to school.**

### SCHOOL TIMES

School doors will open for all children at 8.45am and close promptly at 8.55am.

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 finish at 3.10pm

Years 3 – 6 finish at 3.15pm

### Attendance Winners

#### Term 2

<u>Class</u>	<u>Attendance Percentage</u>
Early Years Foundation <b>RA</b>	93.4%
KS1 (Years 1 & 2) <b>1D &amp; 2B</b>	95.8%
LKS2 (Years 3 & 4) <b>3B</b>	95.9%
UKS2 (Years 5 & 6) <b>5C</b>	96%

New direct dial telephone number for Miss Lindley – Attendance Officer: **01843 307903**, should you wish to make direct contact.