

Garlinge Primary School and Nursery



Lower Key Stage 2 Summer Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to begin by welcoming you back to a new term after the Easter holidays. It only seems like yesterday that I was writing to welcome you all to the Year 3 and 4 Department and now we are already in term 5 of a year which has had its fair share of challenges! Please may I take this opportunity to thank you all for your support during terms 3 and 4. We were so proud of how hard the children worked on their home learning and how quickly they adapted to the Zoom lessons and new way of working. It was then fabulous to welcome the children back in term 4 and they really impressed us with how happily and sensibly they were able to settle back into school life.

This year has of course felt very different, but it has been wonderful to see so many Year 3 and 4 pupils doing their best to keep involved in the extra-curricular activities and opportunities that have been running this year for example, World Book Day, sporting challenges and competitions, Red Nose Day and eco competitions to name just a few. I am sure that as the term progresses, there will be lots more exciting opportunities, so keep a look out for any news on the Weduc app.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say a huge well done and thank you to all the children and staff in Year 4 for their fantastic Easter Assembly which they managed to put together in a very short time. All the children involved worked extremely hard to learn lines, practise scenes and rehearse songs and I am sure that those who watched it will agree that their hard work paid off and even though we missed having a live audience and performing as a year group, it will certainly be an assembly that we remember!

This newsletter aims to keep you informed of initiatives and developments in the Year 3 and 4 department and the main topics of learning within each year group, as well as providing information which you may find useful when supporting your child.

How you can help your child

Attendance and Punctuality



Thank you for your support in helping your children arrive at school on time. The gates are open between 8.45am and 9.05am to allow for a more 'fluid' start and there are always adults on the doors to support the children as they arrive. A 'starter of the day' activity is planned in each class for when the children arrive and the register is taken at 9.05am. We ask that you telephone the office if your child is not well enough to attend school or is displaying any COVID related symptoms. Please follow the government advice where necessary. As always, we are keen to promote good attendance at school, so please keep an eye out for some attendance initiatives which we are looking to start soon.

Uniform

The children in Years 3 and 4 are looking lovely and smart and we would like all of the children to continue to take pride in their school uniform. A full uniform list is available on our school web-site www.garlingeprimary.co.uk or if you are unsure, please do speak to your child's class teacher. Please may I take this opportunity to remind you that children should wear black shoes to school and not trainers or sandals. Also, children should not be wearing jewellery to school, apart from stud earrings and watches and the wearing of nail varnish to school is not permitted. We thank you for your support with this. We understand that children grow fast so if you find yourself short of any uniform, we have a small supply of spare uniform available to borrow. If you have a need for a particular item of clothing, please get in touch with Ali, our Family Liaison Officer, who will be happy to help.

PE

Help your children continue to be organised for PE by making sure that they wear their PE kit into school on their year group PE day.

Year 3	Friday
Year 4	Tuesday



This should consist of their house coloured T-shirt, dark shorts/joggers and trainers. Children with pierced ears will need to remove earrings when taking part in PE lessons; this can be done either at school or at home beforehand. If your child needs a new house coloured T-shirt, there is a guide to ordering these and a link on the school website-<https://www.garlingeprimary.co.uk/uniform>

Homework

Over the course of this very different academic year, we have been focusing on ensuring the children settle into a routine of daily reading, spellings and times tables which the majority of children have achieved successfully. As you will be aware, we have now begun to introduce weekly homework tasks which the children made a great start with last week. For both Year 3 and 4, homework will be set every **Friday** and will alternate between maths and English/topic tasks to be completed in a homework book. It will be expected to be handed in by the following **Wednesday**, however, if a longer project style piece of homework is set, the children may be given longer to complete it.

Please support your children in getting used to the new routine and to take pride in their homework tasks, presenting neatly and working to the best of their ability. Whilst we understand that your child may need some guidance or help to begin with, we would also really like to see the children develop their own organisational skills and independence as they prepare to transition into Years 4 and 5. Of course, please liaise with your child's class teacher if you have any queries about homework tasks.

Your children should bring home a reading book and spellings with them each day. Please remind them that it is their responsibility to ensure that these are brought home and returned to school each day. We are trying to encourage the children to have a more **independent** approach towards their learning and your support with this would be greatly appreciated.

Please support your child by listening to them read on a daily basis as well as spending time discussing their books with them. Our 'Buster's Book Club' competition continues to be popular, where children can record a target number of minutes spent reading at home on Wednesday to help towards the possibility of winning a class trophy. The children do really enjoy finding out which class has won the trophy, so please support your child with this and do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher if you have any questions.



Times Tables

You will shortly be receiving a letter from our maths lead, Miss Rowden informing you about the **Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check (MTC)** due to take place for Year 4 pupils in **June** this year. Due to the disruption to school life caused by Covid, schools are invited to take part in this assessment on a **voluntary** basis. As a school, we are planning to take up this opportunity and are working hard to support the children as they prepare for this important assessment.



The children in Years 3 and 4 continue to work very hard on their times tables which are practised daily in school and I know that the children enjoy practising at home too and thank you for your support with this. Times Tables Rock Stars continues to be very beneficial, with children thoroughly enjoying the resource as a different way to practise their times tables.

Please do continue to encourage your children to use this resource as they particularly enjoy achieving personal successes as well as taking part in class battles. If you have any queries regarding the Multiplication Tables Check or Times Tables Rock Stars, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher, myself or Miss Rowden.

Warmer Weather

As the weather becomes warmer, please help to ensure that your child is suitably prepared at school. Although there are plenty of shaded areas on the playground, I would recommend that sun cream is applied to your child on hotter days and that they have a sun hat/cap which they can wear at break and lunchtimes. Thank you for your support with this.



Topics and Learning

The main topic areas in Years 3 and 4 for the coming terms are as follows:

Year 3

	<u>Term 5</u>	<u>Term 6</u>
History/Geography	Rivers	Scotland
Science	Rocks	Plants
RE	Why do people pray? Why do people go to places of worship?	What does it mean to be a Christian in Britain today?

Year 4

	<u>Term 5</u>	<u>Term 6</u>
History/Geography	England-North and South	Volcanoes
Science	Living things	Animals including humans
RE	Why do some people think that life is a journey?	What does it mean to be a Hindu in Britain today?

Learning Outside the Classroom

I am sure you will agree that we are very fortunate to have such a wonderful school site with many outdoor learning areas which are constantly being improved and developed. As a school, one of our priorities is to increase the use of the outdoor areas to support learning. As a result of this, we continue to look for more and more ways to get the children learning outside and enjoying the benefits that being outside can bring. Some examples of this so far this year have included: active maths lessons on the playground, reading for pleasure outside and science investigations e.g. nature walks. Please do ask your children about this aspect of their learning as I'm sure they will enjoy telling you about the opportunities they are being given.

Important Dates and Information

Please take the time to check the school Weduc app or website for any updates, events or information. The app and website are updated regularly and a useful way to keep up to date. If you have any problems accessing the app, please contact the school office who will be happy to support.

Key dates for your diary:

Monday 3rd May-Bank Holiday
WB 24th – 28th May – School Book Fair (further information to follow)
Friday 28th May - End of term 5
Monday 7th June – Term 6 begins
Monday 7th June-Friday 25th June-Administration of Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check (MTC)- (further info.to follow)
WB 21st – 25th June – Year 3 and 4 Assessment Week
Friday 2nd July – Annual pupil reports sent home
Friday 16th July – End of term 6

Further dates will be provided, as term 5 progresses and shared via the Weduc app.

Finally, if you have any questions regarding any of the information in this newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact me or your child's class teacher.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs A.Goode,
Assistant Headteacher and LKS2 Department Leader