



This month's value is **Acceptance**

Walking

Thank you to all those who shared photos of their family walks over the holiday. Miss Dixon will be sharing them in assembly on Monday as she promotes the health benefits of walking.



This term, we are introducing a programme of walks during school hours to provide an opportunity for children to develop their mapping skills year on year, make learning links in our local environment, as well as enjoying walks of increasing difficulty and which celebrate and look back towards Morecambe Bay and the area around it. Miss Dixon is to be congratulated for completing Lowland Leader training, a new health and safety requirement when taking children on uneven surfaces and away from roads. Without her many additional hours of training and testing we wouldn't be able risk assess the walks.

The Health benefits of walking aren't limited to walking in the countryside – for those whom the journey to school include being in a car, to park away from school and walk the last 5 minutes or so (Park and Stride) is a really positive and beneficial routine to develop.

After School Reminder.

Sunset Club use the field and facilities after school. Please be reminded that families may stay on the junior playground and use the timber trail if adults are supervising them but the willow area, mounds, stage, football area and field are out of bounds. The children sometimes need reminding by parents who are supervising them – their presence can cause confusion for the Sunset Club.

Parent Questionnaire Results

The results of the questionnaire are at the end of the newsletter along with responses to suggestions. Individual responses have been provided where names were given alongside questions. If you were expecting but haven't received a response, please do contact me. In the interests of transparency, all comments are included in the version that has been added to the school's website.

Parents in School Again

Parents are interested in being inside school once more and it was truly fabulous to host family and friends of Year 4 when they performed Rock Bottom.

Parents will be welcome to visit their children's classrooms on May 19th after school – the children will have put their school books out and they can join to look through and chat about their work. We are sorry that we can't send the books home mid term – and we are announcing this now so that working parents may be able to schedule time to come.



Also, we will be hosting a PTA Jubilee Fair after school on May 26th where children and parents be able to visit classrooms across the school for jubilee themed activities (much like the format of the past Christmas Fairs) We will be having a non uniform day on Friday May 13th taking in chocolate

donations in return for the right to wear weekend wear at school – with the donations being used on the chocolate tombola at the fair.

We have 60 children ready to start at Great Wood in September. Many of the parents haven't had the opportunity to have a tour of the school so we are offering them the opportunity. If there are parents in the current reception class who also didn't get to look around the school, you are also welcome to come along between 9:30 and 11:15 on May 17th. Year 6 house captains will host the visitors and the head will be available to answer questions.

Usually in October we are able to ask parents or a family representative to join reception children for lunch to give parents a chance to see how lunches work at Great Wood. This didn't happen in October '20 or '21 and we are hoping to have a catch up before the end of term. Parents of current reception and Year 1 are asked to look out for the invite to Come Dine with Me – the children really appreciate a family member joining them in school.

Summer Festival

If you have not already booked Summer Music Festival tickets for June 25th, the deadline is Friday May 27th on Parent Pay - £4each – free for under 2s

Rock Bottom

We can all be very proud of the Year 4 children – their performance was brilliant. It was amazing to see them sustain a play of over an hour and a half – and the pantomime vibe with lots of well-rehearsed off the cuff humour was just what we needed. Some of the Sands (care home) residents were hoping to be able to see the performance but were unable to come at the last minute. I'm happy to report a group of Y4 children will be visiting the Sands next week to share some of the songs with the residents.



Punctuation Show

Thanks to PTA support, Infants and Juniors enjoyed Punctuation Shows, Monday morning – the hall was filled with songs designed to help children use punctuation effectively. Parents can download an album of songs to support their learning by visiting

<https://www.thepunctuationshow.com/parents/>

Once you arrive at the page, insert the pass code '2@2' in the box provided. You will then arrive at a web page where you can download the album "Songs from the Punctuation and Grammar Shows".



Thank you regarding to parents supporting our school uniform

It is super that very many parents support our uniform policy – thank you! As a gentle nudge to others, the things that we have to comment to children on are – school shoes/trainers that have logos or white soles, large and sparkly hair accessories and long hair that is in their faces. If



family finances are the reason for not being in uniform, we would want to support all our children to be in uniform and ask that you contact Mrs Dewhirst learningmentor@greatwood.lancs.sch.uk

Finances are getting tighter. If you think you may become eligible for Free School Meals, call 01524581207 to request that this is checked. Also be aware of Social Tariffs for broadband – If you are in

receipt of Universal Credit, there is access to cheaper deals with most providers – Most don't

advertise it but have to put you on these cheaper rates if you contact them and evidence your situation.

Weddings and Summer Camp

We have had a flurry of weddings – Miss Norman is now Mrs Clark and Miss Smith now Mrs Newton. Miss Butler is also getting married over the summer.

In Miss Butler's absence, Miss Stewart will be running the Summer Camp this year. The cost will be £100 per week – subsidy capped at 50% for Pupil Premium families. The summer camp sessions will be bookable over the weeks of - Mon 25th July to Fri 29th July and then Mon 1st Aug to Fri 5th Aug on Parent Pay- current Great Wood families only - 30 children maximum. Initially full week bookings are available by booking on Parentpay by 31st May. If not all spaces are filled we will operate an individual day booking (individual bookings not on Parentpay yet).

Latest DfE Covid Guidance

Adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be 3 days.

As there is a lot of more general sickness around, please be aware that the Public Health advice following illness is available on our website https://www.greatwood.lancs.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Guidance_on_infection_control_in-schools_poster.pdf

A message was sent with local Covid vaccination dates, specifically for children. – If you didn't see it and need the information, please call the school office.

Absences from School and Showing Medical Appointments

It is the school's responsibility to promote good attendance and the Department for Education is asking schools to do everything it can to ensure children's good attendance. If a parent has Covid and the child has no symptoms, the child should attend school. From now, if the reason for absence is the parent has Covid, the absence will be unauthorised.

If you hear of other schools having a day off for the Queen's Jubilee, the day schools were allowed to choose when to take the day as the extra day was during the school holiday; Great Wood chose July 21st so our summer holiday starts one day earlier than first expected.

Please be aware that the school is continuing with its term time absence for holiday policy – i.e only ONE period of absence of up to 5 days will be authorised for a term time holiday over a period of two school years. Please, please do not create the embarrassing situation where we are informed the child is ill but we are aware a child is on holiday (even if told not to tell it is not something they can keep secret from us or their friends who spill the beans) and don't be surprised if these are marked as unauthorised absence on the attendance report.

Finally, as the number of medical appointments taking place during school hours has increased dramatically, office staff are now asking that parents show evidence of an appointment (e.g. the text confirmation or letter) when signing a child in or out of school. Thank you for your understanding.

Be Aware of PIMS Symptoms

A parent told us of an older sibling who was hospitalised with PIMS (Paediatric Inflammatory Multisystem Syndrome) over Easter. The teenager had Covid over Christmas but only mild symptoms. The parent was told that it was challenging to diagnose but also her quick response to the symptoms had been beneficial for her son. The parent said, "I'd just like for parents to know what to look out for and not just assume it's a bug. He was on intravenous antibiotics within half an hour of arriving at hospital, and I was told if I'd left it any longer he'd have been in intensive care."

He returned home after 5 days and is now on a course of medication. PIMs appears to be a post Covid illness. The symptoms in this case were that at first it seemed like a sickness bug but then he had a blotchy rash on both feet along with tiredness.

What are the symptoms of PIMS?

- A rash.
- Tiredness and weakness.
- Tummy pain or cramps.
- Red and cracked lips.
- Swollen hands and feet.
- Peeling skin on your hands and feet.
- Headache.
- Red eyes.

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/news/234199/covid-19-complications-children-what-weve-learnt/>

Diary Dates

May		June	
03.05.2022	Year 5 Tower Wood Information meeting 3.15pm	20.06.2022	Governor's Meeting – Curriculum
04.05.2022	4F visit to Morecambe Bay Academy	21.06.2022	New Starters Sept 2022 Play morning
w/c 09.05.2022	KS2 SATS week		KS1 Sports Day 1.30 pm – 2.45pm
10.05.2022	Y2 Walk	22.06.2022	KS2 Sports Day 1.30pm – 3pm
11.05.2022	Y1V Visit to Church	25.06.2022	GREAT WOOD SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL
13.05.2022	Non Uniform – Chocolate Donation	27.06.2022	SCHOOL CLOSED
17.05.2022	Y3 Willimason's Park Walk	27.06.2022	New Starter's Sept 22 – Parent's visit
17.05.2022	New Parent's school visit 9.30 – 11.15	28.06.2022	Open morning 09.15 – 11.15
18.05.2022	Yr1L Visit to Church		KS1 Sports Day (reserve date – rain plan)
23.05.2022	Governor's Finance Meeting	29.06.2022	KS2 Sports Day (reserve date – rain plan)
24.05.2022	Y5 Visit to MBA – French visit	30.06.2022	Governor's Meeting
25.05.2022	Y5 & 6 Mapping activities		
26.05.2022	Jubilee Fair & Bake Sale		
Mon 30.05.2022 – Friday 03.06.2022	Half Term		

Local Jubilee Celebration Information

Morecambe Town Council have released details of our events on the 2nd and 5th June for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. On the 2nd June we have a beacon lighting ceremony from 6pm to 10pm on the Stone Jetty with DJ, live music, fireworks and pyrotechnics show.

6pm – 9pm Event starts with DJ.

9.09 pm – Bagpiper plays Du Regnaire.

9.12 – 9.40 – Leigh Coggins leads a last Night of the Proms Style Singalong.

9.40 – Bugle Call

9.45 – Lighting of the beacon, Leigh Coggins sings A Song for the Commonwealth, A life lived with grace.

9.50 – 10.00pm – Fireworks and pyrotechnics show.

10.00pm – Leigh Coggins leads the National Anthem. Event closes.

Sunday 5th June

1.00pm – 4pm the Queens Big Lunch. We have 300 tables for sale at £10.00 each table (Table seats up to 6) on the Promenade from the Midland Hotel to the Lothersdale Hotel.

Also

Local Queen's Platinum Jubilee Competition

Young people across the Lancaster district are being asked to channel their creativity. The Mayor-elect of Lancaster, Councillor Joyce Pritchard, is asking children aged up to 11 to design and make a crown that's fit for royalty.

Entries for the royal crown competition can be dropped off at Salt Ayre Leisure Centre or any of the mobile community hub events, details of which can be found on the council's website at [Help, advice and support - Lancaster City Council](#) The deadline to enter is 5pm on Friday May 20.

You can read the full article by clicking on this link: [Mayor-elect launches platinum jubilee competitions - Lancaster City Council](#)



Are you struggling to communicate?

Is your relationship under strain?

Wanting to work together to overcome the challenges in your relationship?

Then this course is for you.

A 6 weeks course held in a group setting to provide you with the tools to repair your relationship through positive communication.

Call **01524 581280** to book your place on the course.

Venues and Start Dates:

Westgate Children Centre
Wednesday 20th April 2022
5.30pm - 6.30pm



Lune Park Children Centre
Thursday 21st April
1pm - 2pm

	92 responses	Agree	Disagree	Unsure
1	My child is making good progress at school	94%	3%	3%
2	My child enjoys school	94%	5%	1%
3	My child is safe and well cared for at Great Wood (GW)	97%	2%	1%
4	GW promotes good behaviour	96%	2%	2%
5	I am happy with the values that the school promotes	98%	2%	-
6	GW provides an interesting curriculum that helps my child learn	95%	1%	4%
7	Home reading and homework supports my child's learning	91%	5%	4%
8	GW meets my child's individual needs (e.g. medical, learning, behavioural...)	91%	9%	-
9	GW expects my child to work hard and achieve his or her best	99%	-	1%
10	GW helps me to support my child's learning	90%	8%	2%
11	GW helps and encourages my child to have a healthy lifestyle	97%	1%	2%
12	GW encourages my child to take part in a good level of physical activity	91%	1%	8%
13	GW provides a range of 'extra' activities (clubs, visitors, trips, competitions, events etc.)	92%	3%	5%
14	GW seeks children's views/opinions	71%	2%	27%
15	Great Wood is led and managed well	94%	3%	3%
16	I understand the basic role of the governing body at school	82%	3%	15%
17	I would recommend the school to another parent	97%	3%	-
18	GW communicates well with parents	92%	8%	-
19	GW takes account of my questions, suggestions and concerns	88%	7%	5%
20	The school's environment is clean safe and well maintained	98%	1%	1%

We have responded to parent questions when a name was provided. In the interests of transparency all comments are shown below.

From the suggestions.

We are conscious that parents haven't been inside school much recently for obvious reasons. Two things have been arranged to address this. After school on May 19th, parents are invited to come into their children's classrooms where the children's books will be out and available for parents to look through and ask their children questions from. On May 26th we will hold a Jubilee Festival after school. Parents and children will have access to the school to enjoy activities arranged by the children and teachers. Like Christmas Festivals of past years, children have enjoyed visiting other classrooms, reception and Year 1 usually with their parents. We are also pleased that we are able to have invite parents in to school for plays and events such as sports day and leavers' assembly once again.

Our most recent parents' evening was remote as this was requested by the majority of parents. Looking forward we aim to offer a choice of in person or on-line parents' evenings. Regarding requests to lengthen the parents' evening sessions: Parents and teachers have the option of requesting a meeting to share information or concerns at any time or after parents' evening if further discussion is needed.

Regarding email communication - the school will endeavour to use more specific subject titles to make it easier to locate in individual emails and include GW in the title recognising some parents have emails coming from Parent Pay from multiple schools.

Regarding before and after school clubs – now we are able to mix year groups and it is less likely for clubs to be cancelled, we have increased and are looking to increase further club offers. Teachers run limited number of clubs that are offered free of charge and the school is always interested to hear of recommended providers who can offer clubs at school. We are looking to offer more non sports clubs too. We will be returning to a coordinated club offer on a single document each term by the new school year. Apart from football, clubs are not gender specific. Girls do sometimes play in the boys teams when they show interest and skill.

Regarding parents being prevented from dropping off at the bay because parents are parked – we will continue to patrol the use of the bay in the morning where there is capacity and remind parents that parking or adults getting out of the cars in the bus stop is illegal. We will once again promote Park and Stride (parking away from Beaufort Road and walking the remainder and a walking/cycling commute. |

We have restarted the 'daily mile' / regular running – and are promoting the use of outdoors and our woodland. We are process of developing the outdoor learning infrastructure, though plans have been delayed by notice of machinery on the fields to complete drainage clearance work.

The request for a sibling discount for Sunrise and Sunset club was turned down. The booking time frame for Sunrise and Sunset Club has been reviewed. With increasing but varying numbers, in order to ensure appropriate staffing (including not overstaffing which costs more and could impact costs) the 72 hours notice for bookings will be maintained. This ensures consistency, that staff are not working at weekends, and is more flexible than many other schools where bookings are made for the term. We try our best to accommodate late bookings, however they have become to frequent and therefore a late booking fee is being introduced. For those that book 72 hours before there will be no increase in fees for our fourth year of running the clubs at Great Wood.