

Friday 9th September 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, may I take this opportunity to welcome you all back to what I am sure will be another busy year at Great Heath and apologise for the late sending of this letter – it should have gone to you all last week but we had a serious photocopier malfunction – not a great way to start the new year! Anyway some references are now out of date and instead of the 'full' newsletter I would have sent today I am sending this instead and have put diary dates as I currently know them on the back. We are finalising 'event' dates and I will update the diary dates with these in my next newsletter.

Along with this brief letter you should find a newsletter from your child's class teacher giving you additional information about each class which we hope that you will find useful. If you do have any questions at this stage, please do approach the teacher at the start and end of the day – whilst they are busy preparing for the learning of the day at this time they are very happy to answer any quick queries or questions when they come outside to take their children into class or are sending them home.

I hope that you have had chance to notice some of the improvements we have made over the summer to the outside and inside of the building not least the car parks work which whilst not finished (I am currently leaning as heavily as my more than ample frame will allow on the contractors to get this done!) is proving to have made a significant positive difference to the outside experience. In case you were still unclear staff are now parking behind what was the caretaker's bungalow which leaves all parking 'bays' and drop off areas out the front for you as parents and the taxi drivers who bring in and take out some of our pupils:

As a rule of thumb if you are not in a hurry and like to walk your child down to school and meet them after school please park in one of the bays – if someone has pulled in behind you (see next paragraph) you should not have to wait long until they move off and you can exit your bay.

If you are coming in and letting your children out of the car and then promptly driving off again then please try to avoid the bays (as you may get trapped in briefly) and instead use the drop off areas and/or pull into the spaces behind the bays where you can see them.

If you enter the car park and there are no available bays or drop off spaces please continue round the one-way system until one becomes available – you will notice that we have rounded off the exit part of the car park to allow this to happen.

Finally, on the car park, please try to avoid using the bays marked for taxis unless they are clearly empty and you intend to only pull into them very briefly to allow pupils to get out or in. It is very important please that taxis can pull into these bays at the end of the day as they do have to come into school to collect their children.

I will send out a newsletter next week but in the meantime may I make a plea about uniform please?

I know that there have been delays with the supply of some uniform from School Trends (again I have expressed my dissatisfaction clearly to them about this) but overall I think the children are looking tremendously smart and in keeping with our and ATT's preferred uniform policy – thank you very much.

However, it is evident that not all the children are wearing footwear in line with what we have asked for. As a primary school (even as an academy) we cannot use sanctions to enforce uniform policy as is the case in secondary but we do hope that (as the vast majority of you do) you send your child to school as per the recommendations. Of course as with all things in life not everyone keeps 100% to the rules (anyone got any points on their driving licence for example!?) and currently this is true of footwear here. Therefore, all I can do is express my sincere thanks to those of you who are keeping to the policy (no doubt against protestations from some of your children!) and to ask please that the rest of you keep to it as best as you can – for example if you do want your child to wear say trainers because they always play football and wear shoes out in 5 seconds at least try to make sure they are black ones.

Thank you all very much for your support with this.

Steven Vincent
Principal

2017

Friday 21st October ~ Last day for pupils before the half term holiday
Monday 31st October ~ INSET day for staff – School closed to pupils
Tuesday 1st November ~ School reopens for pupils after the half term holiday
Tuesday 20th December ~ Last day for pupils before the Christmas holiday

2017

Wednesday 4th January ~ INSET day for staff – School closed to pupils
Thursday 5th January ~ School reopens for pupils after the Christmas holiday
Friday 6th January ~ PANTO (AM)
Friday 10th February ~ Last day for pupils before the half term holiday
Monday 20th February ~ School reopens to pupils after the half term holiday
Friday 31st March ~ Last day for pupils before the Easter holiday

Tuesday 18th April ~ School reopens for pupils after the Easter holiday
Monday 1st May ~ May Day – school closed
Monday 8th May ~ Y6 Statutory Test week (Y6 pupils MUST attend school all week – VERY IMPORTANT)
Friday 26th May ~ Last day for pupils before the half term holiday
Monday 5th June ~ INSET day for staff – School closed to pupils
Tuesday 6th June ~ School reopens for pupils after the half term holiday
Monday 12th June ~ Y1 and some Y2 Statutory Phonics screening week – all Y1 and Y2 pupils in school this week please - IMPORTANT
Friday 21st July ~ Last day for pupils before the summer holiday

New Academic Year –Please Note only 2 INSET days shown below – a further 3 will be designated and shown soon.

Monday 4th September ~ INSET day for staff – School closed to pupils
Tuesday 5th September ~ School reopens for pupils after the summer holiday
Friday 20th October ~ Last day for pupils before the half term holiday
Monday 30th October ~ School reopens for pupils after the half term holiday
Tuesday 19th December ~ Last day for pupils before the Christmas holiday

2018

Wednesday 3rd January ~ INSET day for staff – School closed to pupils
Thursday 4th January ~ School reopens for pupils after the Christmas holiday
Friday 9th February ~ Last day for pupils before the half term holiday
Monday 19th February ~ School reopens to pupils after the half term holiday
Thursday 29th March ~ Last day for pupils before the Easter holiday

Monday 16th April ~ School reopens for pupils after the Easter holiday
Monday 7th May ~ May Day – school closed
Monday 14th May ~ Y6 Statutory Test week (Y6 pupils MUST attend school all week – VERY IMPORTANT)
Friday 25th May ~ Last day for pupils before the half term holiday
Monday 4th June ~ School reopens for pupils after the half term holiday
Monday 11th June ~ Y1 and some Y2 Statutory Phonics screening week – all Y1 and Y2 pupils in school this week please - IMPORTANT
Tuesday 24th July ~ Last day for pupils before the summer holiday