

Great Heath Academy Newsletter



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Recent Events

Parent/Teacher Evenings: Thanks to all of you who were able to attend. We hope you were able to get a good grasp of the work your child is doing, how well they are progressing with their learning and generally how they are at school.

Assemblies: Thank you to the classes who have presented the next batch of class assemblies they have all been super!

Competitive Sport: Well done to the girls who played well in the recent cluster football tournament that we hosted. I would also like to say well done to the hockey team but at their event the heavens opened and the matches were rained off!

FOGHS Disco: A big thank you to all the FOGHS members and their associates for organising and running this event. From what I could see the children all had a great time.

Anti-Bullying Week: Thank you for your support of this themed week. I do hope your children now know clearly what bullying is, how best to tackle it and enjoyed dressing up!

COMING SOON

- **Christmas Tree Service at the Church**
- **School Christmas Dinner**
- **More things for Christmas!**



Winter – Whilst it is fairly mild as I am writing this it won't be long I am sure before winter sets in and we look forward to icy mornings and even snow! Therefore, I thought this would be a good time to remind you all about what would happen if the academy had to close and to ask please that you send your children with appropriate warm outdoor wear. We would only close if absolutely necessary, for example if we were short staffed and could not maintain adequate staff/pupil ratios or the grounds were particularly unsafe due to ice etc. but if we did have to make the decision to close for snow or indeed any other reason beyond our control (broken heating etc.) we would inform the local authority who would pass on the details to local radio and the county council website - see below. It can take some time for the local authority and radio stations to update their systems and therefore the first place you will find information would be our own school home page which is <http://www.greatheathacademy.atrust.org.uk>
Radio Stations - Heart FM ~ 97.1 or 96.4 FM / Radio Suffolk ~ 95.5, 95.9, 103.9 or 104.6 FM
County Council Website - <http://schoolclosures.suffolk.gov.uk/>

Photographing Pupils – As you know we currently allow you as parents and legal guardians to take photographs at school events. In a world with an explosion in social media, a general culture of distrust and because for some children being caught on camera could actually be a security risk we would like to review our current stance. Therefore, I would be very grateful if you could read carefully the attached information sheet and complete and return the questionnaire form so that any decision we do make is in line with the wishes of the majority of you as parents.

Academy Improvement – Being a teacher is an amazing job and a great privilege. We get to spend our working day with your children and have the pleasure of seeing them grow both literally and in terms of their personal and educational development. For them and us going through school is a journey and as such there will be ups and there will be downs. We know that when you join us on this journey and involve yourself as fully as your time will allow in every aspect of your child's time with us, the better it is for us all, especially the children. To that end you should hopefully also receive today an information booklet about the learning that we do in school and how you can help. I would urge you therefore to read this information and do whatever you can to continue the learning journey at home, to continue to support us in school and communicate with us should you have any queries, comments or concerns. Thank You.

Premises Development – You will hopefully have noticed that at long last the contractors have left the site, the new bike shelters are available to be used and the path we would like you to use to get there has an open gate! Therefore, please do use these new facilities. If you bring a bike and know you may have to leave before the end of the day (nursery children for example) please use the shelter right next to the car park as other new one cannot be accessed other than at 09:00 and 3:15 due to the gates leading to it being locked the rest of the time to keep the site secure.

Staffing Update – We continue to experience growth in pupil numbers with many new pupils enrolling with us since the start of term in September. As a consequence, we have had to recruit additional teaching assistants and I would like to offer a warm welcome to Miss Rebecca Macrow who is mainly working in year 4, Miss Karlynn Edgeller who is working in reception and year 3, Miss Natalie Hamilton who works in year 2 and Miss Gemma Stagg who will be working across KS2. The more eagle eyed of you may also have noticed that two of our teaching staff members are pregnant! Congratulations to Mrs. Cole and Miss Smith who are both expecting their first child and will begin their period of maternity leave in the Spring. Whilst we will miss them greatly I am pleased to be able to confirm that I have already recruited 2 very experienced teachers to cover them. Therefore I would also like to offer a warm welcome to Mr. David Hicks and Mrs. Natalie Davenport who will actually be working with us from January as additional support before they take up cover for Mrs. Cole and Miss Smith.

Thank You – Steven Vincent - Principal

Dates For Your Diary

Please find general dates for the coming year/s below and details of events that have already been finalised. **We will send out additional diary dates for other events during the year once they have been confirmed.**

Also please check our web site www.greatheathacademy.atrust.org.uk for further information about us. You will also find useful links to such sites as our uniform supplier and of course our Twitter Feed!

2016

There are numerous Christmas related activities planned for which we will send out separate information

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