

Great Heath Academy Newsletter



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Recent Events

Sport and Health: Congratulations to all the children who took part in the local area swimming gala and basketball tournaments. Everyone gave of their best and competed well against tough opposition. Thank you to Mr. Barker and Mr. Langford for organising, preparing for and running these events. Staying with the sporty theme, our Y4 children have been learning about keeping active and eating well as part of a healthy living project they have been doing with Suffolk One Life. I am sure they will be telling family members not to eat unhealthy snacks and treats any time soon!

Assemblies: Thank you to the children and staff of Loganberry, Peach and Pineapple classes for their super recent class assemblies.

FOGHS Disco: Thank you to the FOGHS and anyone else who helped plan and/or run the disco. The children love these events and they raise money to top up the FOGHS fund which is earmarked for improving our outdoor areas.

NSPCC: Thank you once again for your extremely generous contributions. We hope those who attended their 'E' Safety session found it useful.

COMING SOON

- Parent / Teacher Consultations
- Easter Bingo!



Spring! – At the risk of jinxing the weather, after storm Doris it has been lovely to see the sun shining and the early signs of spring with daffodils appearing. Roll on summer!

Academy Improvement – As we head towards the summer term we begin to track very closely the progress of the children from their starting points at the end of last year to their target at the end of this. You will be able to discuss this in detail with the class teacher at the planned meetings before Easter but in the meantime please may I repeat the request that you support your child as much as you can with their learning at home. Research proves that when school and home work together to support and challenge children with their learning they achieve more. Thank You.

Premises Development – Thanks to all of you who were affected by the recent additional building area and coping with the forced changes to entering and exiting the school. I believe that for those of you with children in YR and Y1 you actually prefer it how it is now! You will have seen that work is progressing well with the new 'block' taking shape. With so much going on to the building I will do my best to make sure you are kept up to date; but in the meantime please do not hesitate to ask if you have any queries.

Staffing Update – In a large organisation such as Great Heath with the number of employees we have (over 70!) it is inevitable that we will experience staffing change as well as pupil change - which seems to happen daily! This period has been especially active and as such I would like to keep you all updated here. Firstly, congratulations to Cara Macfarlane who after 3 years here, has successfully applied for and got, a teaching post in Cambridgeshire which gives her the valuable experience of working in more than one school with the added bonus that it is nearer to her home. Resignation periods for teachers do mean that it can be very challenging to find suitable replacements in time especially when the change of school coincides with Easter, but I am very pleased to be able to confirm that I have appointed Mrs. June Carton as her replacement. Mrs. Carton is a very experienced teacher and I know you will join me in welcoming her to our school. Secondly, congratulations to Nick Cuff who has secured a promotion to the role of deputy headteacher in another school in Cambridgeshire. Mr. Cuff has only been with us a short time and subsequent to starting here has moved house meaning his journey here and back has been taking a significant amount of time each day and as such as well as the promotion he will no doubt benefit significantly from the shorter commute. I am sure you will join me in wishing him all the best for his new post. As Mr. Cuff is our Y6 teacher and with SATs coming up in May, I have taken the decision to deploy Mr. Jeffery to Hurricane class after Easter and am currently making plans for staffing the trip to Kingswood which I will communicate to affected people soon. With a much increased teaching commitment for Mr. Jeffery, I can also report that Dr. Hawkes will be the new SENCO after Easter having been recently working towards a specific qualification in SEN. Finally, I would like to congratulate Ben Jeffery himself as he has been successfully interviewed for the post of headteacher at a primary school in Suffolk which once again is closer to his home (there does seem to be a theme here!). Mr. Jeffery will be taking up his post at the very end of the summer term and again I know you will join me in wishing him every success in his new position. He has made a significant positive impact here and will no doubt be an excellent head. We shall of course be very sorry to see them all leave but in addition to Mrs. Carton I have also appointed Mrs. Hannah Firek to our teaching team after Easter and I am already looking to strengthen the school leadership for when Mr. Jeffery departs and as such we are looking forward to the future. I will of course keep you fully updated as and when things may change again.

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.greathathacademy.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!

2017

Tuesday 7th March ~ Y6 Pupils to the 'Crucial Crew' event

Monday 13th March ~ Book Fair in school dining hall after school each day all week

Wednesday 15th March ~ Under 10's local area football tournament on our field PM

Friday 17th March ~ Book Character Dress Up day as part of our World Book Day and book fair celebrations

Tuesday 28th March ~ Parent/Teacher Evening Part 1 – 3:30 to 6:30

Wednesday 29th March ~ Parent/Teacher Evening Part 2 – 3:30 to 6:30

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 that all 5 INSET days have now been allocated – the main change to earlier newsletters is that we have set one for the 5th September so pupils will now return on the 6th and not the 5th as originally published. This gives us additional time to prepare the school for pupils in the new parts of the building should we need it i.e. if there is any delay to the project. The other new day is Monday the 4th June. Thank You.

Monday 4th September ~ INSET day for staff – **School closed to pupils**

Tuesday 5th September ~ INSET day for staff – **School closed to pupils**

Wednesday 6th September ~ School reopens for pupils after the summer holiday

Friday 20th October ~ Last day for pupils before the half term holiday

Monday 30th October ~ INSET day for staff – **School closed to pupils**

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 ~ INSET day for staff – **School closed to pupils**

Tuesday 5th 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