

Great Heath Academy Newsletter



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Recent Events

Tour of Britain – As you may know we walked our year 5 and 6 children into town to watch the race as it passed through Mildenhall. Despite the rain I think the children enjoyed the experience and maybe even one of them may be inspired to become a professional cyclist of the future? On a personal note I had saved the whole live version of the race at home and watched with interest and mounting excitement as the riders got closer and closer to Mildenhall in the hope of seeing familiar landmarks and maybe even our pupils and just as the riders neared the Riverside Hotel there was an ad break. By the time the adverts had finished the riders were on the road to Brandon and Mildenhall didn't feature at all!

Assemblies: We have had a couple of whole school assemblies in school since we started the new school year and will be inviting parents of writing certificate winners today to the assembly next week and continuing on from then as we did last year. It really is lovely to see you all in school sharing the success of your child.

COMING SOON

- **Individual Photos – details to follow**
- **Class Assemblies – look out for invitations**
- **Christmas!**



Academy Staffing – As you may know we said goodbye at the end of July to several members of staff. Mr. Jeffery and Miss Palmer who have moved on to new challenges in other schools. Mrs. Mendez who left to have her baby and Mrs. Ward and Mrs. Bentley who both retired. We wish them all well. We also sadly had to say goodbye to Mrs. Ruttle who had to retire earlier than she had expected. Many of you will know Mrs. Ruttle and have benefitted from her wealth of knowledge and experience and I know you will all join us in wishing her well for the future. As people leave of course so others join and I am very pleased to formally welcome the following staff to our team:

Mr. Smith – Assistant Principal, Mrs. Kim – Year 6 Teacher, Miss Clark – Year 3 Teacher, Mrs Jardine – Year 1 Teacher, Miss Walshe – Reception Teacher, Mrs Kirkham – Reception Teacher, Miss Kinnair – Year 6 Assistant, Miss O' Shea – Year 4 Assistant, Mrs Slack – Year 3 Assistant, Mrs Addison – Year 2 Assistant, Miss Edgeworth – Year 1 Assistant and Miss Wing – Reception Assistant. Welcome to all of you!

In view of the changes and our new link to Beck Row primary school you may also remember that we have restructured our leadership team and as a consequence who you should contact in the first instance should you have any concerns, questions or comments:

Head of Early Years (YN and YR) – Miss Cresswell

Head of KS1 (Y1 and Y2) – Miss Saunders

Head of Lower KS2 (Y3 and Y4) – Mrs Flack

Head of Upper KS2 (Y5 and Y6) – Miss Oakley

Assistant Principal Lower School (Primarily YN to Y2) – Mrs. Mitchinson

Assistant Principal Upper School (Primarily Y3 to Y6) – Mr. Smith

Head of School – Mrs. Brown

Executive Principal – Mr. Vincent

Academy Improvement – As you know, we actively encourage your participation in learning for your child and see the partnership between home and school as a crucial element of pupil well-being, personal development and academic success. To this end we would encourage you to take an active interest in what your child has been doing at school each day and support where you can – especially with encouraging your child to read and do any homework. Teachers will be sending out information about the various learning taking place in each class and year but in the meantime do not hesitate to ask if there is anything you would like to know. We have changed PPA time for teachers mainly to a Friday afternoon (Y1 to Y6) so that it all takes place in one session and so we can offer a wide range of enrichment activities for the last part of the week. I hope that your child will have been motivated enough to tell you what activity they hope to be doing for the first half term! One change we have had to make to accommodate this is to Friday lunchtimes. Basically we have had to start lunches a little bit earlier and get the children through quite a lot faster. To do this we have made every Friday a 'Grab Bag' day for hot lunches. Essentially the food is the same as on the menu (fish fingers and chips, hot dog and chips etc.) but in a bag rather than on a plate. The only real difference is the hot vegetable offering will be replaced with salad.

Academy Premises – As you can see, with the exception of the walkway between the old building and the new and a few other odds and ends our building work is almost complete and the new classrooms in use. I am very pleased overall with this work and think the new rooms are an excellent place in which to learn. I hope you have now worked out the new access routes into school and discovered the 'new' bike shelters and scooter pods which now mean you no longer need to leave bikes etc. leaning against the fence in the playground.

Thank you – please do not hesitate to contact the school with any questions or comments.
Steven Vincent (Executive Principal) and Naomi Brown (Head of School)

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!

2017

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

New Academic Year – Please note an additional 3 INSET days have yet to be confirmed

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

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

Friday 19th October ~ Last day for pupils before the half term holiday

Monday 29th October ~ School reopens to pupils after the half term holiday

Wednesday 19th December ~ Last day for pupils before the Christmas holiday

2019

Wednesday 2nd January ~ INSET day for staff – **School closed to pupils**

Thursday 3rd January ~ School reopens for pupils after the Christmas holiday

Friday 15th February ~ Last day for pupils before the half term holiday

Monday 25th February ~ School reopens to pupils after the half term holiday

Friday 5th April ~ Last day for pupils before the Easter holiday

Tuesday 23rd April ~ School reopens for pupils after the Easter holiday

Friday 24th May ~ Last day for pupils before the half term holiday

Monday 3rd June ~ School reopens for pupils after the half term holiday

Wednesday 24th July ~ Last day for pupils before the summer holiday