

Great Heath Academy Newsletter



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Recent Events

Pupil Photographs: We hope that you are happy with the quality of photographs that were taken and make a purchase. We have booked the company again for next year and for class photo's in the summer term. We were also visited from a photographer working for the East Anglian Daily Times who took a picture of our reception children as part of the 'First Class' series – I believe our children will be in the next edition.

Football: Very well done to our football team who have played the first 3 matches in their league winning them all. Fingers crossed they do well in the second set of matches and make it through to the finals against schools in Newmarket.

Assemblies: We welcomed back the 'Open The Book' Bible story group last week and watched them act out a lovely assembly. I know the children always look forward to them coming. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for giving up their time in school. Thank you also to Miss Brett and Miss Clough who have started up a signing assembly this year in school. It is so lovely to hear the children sing together and with so many of them, we can generate significant volume!

COMING SOON

- **School Disco**
- **Class Assemblies – look out for invitations**
- **Christmas!**



Academy Staffing

I am pleased to report that there has been very little change to the staffing team since my last newsletter. The only update is that we have welcomed Mrs. John and Mrs. Macdonald to our office team as Mrs. Ansell has sadly left to work closer to her own children in Cambridge. Mrs. John will be taking over most of our HR work such as contracts and safer recruitment checks etc. whereas Mrs. Macdonald will be responsible for our day-to-day accounting. You may not see much of them in their office but please do say hi if you do.

Academy Improvement

As you will know the majority of our autumn term parent/teacher meetings are set to take place next week on Monday and Tuesday evenings with the remainder in the week after half term. I do hope that you have been able to make an appointment and that the times offered were suitable for you to work around any other commitments you may have. Ahead of these meetings we have been carrying out a number of assessments or tests in some year groups so that we can get a very good measure of what skills the children are already secure at so that we can plan learning that builds on these so that all pupils make the very best progress they can. Later in the year, pupils in Y1 (for phonics), Y2 (For Reading and Maths SATs) and Y6 (for reading and maths SATs) will be tested quite formally as part of a national data gathering exercise. We will be hosting information sessions for you ahead of then (most probably in the Spring Term) to give you as much information as we can about the processes and how you can help and support your child. In the meantime and for parents of pupils in other years, please do ask the class teacher in your meeting time about how you can get involved with the learning of your child now. As you will know from other newsletters and information sent to you, we really do encourage your involvement in the learning process as it is proven to lead to higher outcomes for children. May I remind you that Monday 30th October the school is closed to pupils. This is because we have allocated that day as one of the 5 yearly training days for staff. As well as ongoing professional development these days in particular are very effective to gather all the teachers together for important updates and focus on an area of school improvement. For part of the day we will be making sure we have everything ready for when we next have a visit from Ofsted which could be very soon and most likely this academic year. We feel that we are well placed for this visit and that it will lead to a positive outcome but value your opinion too of course. To this end may I suggest that you visit the web link shown below which is hosted by Ofsted and called Parent View. From this link you can register as a parent of a child or children at Great Heath and then access an online questionnaire to give Ofsted feedback about us as a school from your perspective as parents. It will be very helpful to them and us if you could complete these questionnaires with any views you may have particularly positive ones! Thank you in advance of doing so – the link is:

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Academy Premises

Finally, it looks like the builders have left! There are still a few minor snags that need attending to - but overall the work is done and everything is already in use or ready to be used. The school looks fantastic and I am so pleased with the end results. Please do use the parent /teacher evenings next week to have a look round to see what has changed - without disturbing anyone having a meeting in class of course!

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

Monday 16th October ~ Parent/Teacher Meetings
Tuesday 17th October ~ Parent/Teacher Meetings
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