

Great Heath Academy Newsletter



Issue 5 | 21st January 2016 | <http://www.greathath.suffolk.sch.uk/> | Tel: 01638 713430

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Snow!**
- **Academy Improvement**
- **Car Park**
- **Web Site**

Recent Events

Goodbye Mr Lewis: At the end of term we said goodbye to our caretaker of 10 years Mr Lewis – we wish him well for the future. Now we are looking for a replacement – there is an advert on Suffolk Jobs Direct should any of you be interested!

Lunchtime Fun: Mr Barker who of course runs our very popular after school sports clubs has now set up free lunchtime sports sessions for the children. There is no need to book as the children can just turn up and join in when they want to. We hope your children will enjoy their lunchtime play even more and of course get fit at the same time!

Whole School Assemblies: We have been considering if anyone or anything is perfect and looking at our individual talents. One child thought Jesus was perfect – what do you think?

COMING SOON

- **Cinderella – Oh No It Isn't!**
- **More class assemblies**
- **Lower KS2 (Y3/4) Plays**
- **FOGHS Disco**
- **Parent / Teacher Meetings**



Snow!

With it having been so cold recently I thought this would be a good time to remind you all about what would happen if the academy had to close. 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 currently <http://www.greathath.suffolk.sch.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/>

Academy Improvement

As you know we aim to be an outstanding academy and one of the criteria is to ensure pupils attain exceptionally well from their various starting points. This is mainly judged when children are in Y6 and do SATs tests. In view of this we are currently working very closely with the children and parents in this year to support and challenge as much as possible doing lots of practice tests. We also test or assess all of our other children regularly and set targets for their improvement – these will be discussed with you at the next parent/teacher meeting evening but in the meantime please do not hesitate to ask the class teacher if you require any more information about how you can help your child with their learning. One thing we have noticed is that a large number of children do appear tired and a little disengaged from lessons in the morning especially on Mondays and can quickly forget what they have learned in class – therefore if you could all insist on early bedtimes and regularly ask your children about the things they have been learning (and ideally even check how much they can remember!) that would be very helpful – thank you. At our recent INSET or training day we were learning how to use resources such as cubes and diene's (rods of 10 and squares of 100) to help children learn more effectively. We hope to run a mathematics workshop for parents again soon where we can show you these developments but in the meantime please ask us if your child tells you we do it differently to you and we can probably explain how and why!

Car Park

I know how incredibly difficult getting children to and from the academy through the car park is and although there is a light on the horizon with the new staff car park being built the problem is big and potentially very dangerous. I know of at least 2 occasions where a child has nearly been hit by a car and am aware that some parents have been so frustrated with each other they have resorted to bad language. For the children's sake could I please ask again that you try to be as courteous to each other and the local residents as possible whilst we work on the parking expansion and look to other ways to ease the crush. There are other things we can try such as offering more before school clubs to reduce the numbers arriving at the same time and we are working on these now and will let you know what we have planned soon. Thank You.

Web Site

Since converting to an academy we have been busy working with our sponsor ATT to develop a new web site. Whilst this is not quite finished it is nearly there and I can tell you that it will be 'live' on the Internet from Monday 1st February. Nearer this time we will give you the new web address but in the meantime please continue to use our old school web address (see top of page) where you will find the majority of information you may need including the link to the uniform order site.

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.

2016

Thursday 11th February ~ Last day for pupils before the half term holiday

Friday 12th February ~ INSET day for staff – school closed to pupils

Monday 22nd February ~ School reopens to pupils after the half term holiday

Thursday 25th February ~ Planned Date for FOGHS school disco – further details and confirmation to follow

Thursday 10th March ~ Y6 Pupils to Crucial Crew event

Wednesday 16th March ~ Specific SEN Parent/Teacher Meetings

Tuesday 22nd March ~ Parent / Teacher Meetings – 15:30 – 18:30

Wednesday 23rd March ~ Parent / Teacher Meetings – 15:30 – 18:30

Thursday 24th March ~ Last day for pupils before the Easter holiday

Monday 11th April ~ School reopens for pupils after the Easter holiday

Monday 2nd May ~ May Day – school closed

Monday 9th May ~ Y6 Statutory Test week (Y6 pupils **MUST** attend school all week – **VERY IMPORTANT**)

Friday 27th May ~ Last day for pupils before the half term holiday

Monday 6th June ~ INSET day for staff – school closed to pupils

Tuesday 7th June ~ School reopens for pupils after the half term holiday

Monday 13th June ~ Y1 and some Y2 Statutory Phonics screening week – all Y1 and Y2 pupils in school this week please
- **IMPORTANT**

Thursday 21st July ~ Last day for pupils before the summer holiday

New Academic Year

Thursday 1st September ~ INSET day for staff – School closed to pupils

Friday 2nd September ~ INSET day for staff – School closed to pupils

Monday 5th September ~ School reopens for pupils after the summer holiday

Friday 21st October ~ School closes for 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 ~ School closes for 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 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
