

Great Heath Academy Newsletter



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Recent Events

Y3 Play: Very well done to the year 3 pupils and staff who recently performed 'Porridge' which was a very funny and brilliantly put together play. Everyone did a fantastic job!

Pantomime Fun: We invited our visiting pantomime company in again this year and yet again they did not disappoint putting on a fantastic show. In fact they are so good we have already booked them for next year! Continuing with the Pantomime theme you may also have come to watch the Bunbury players who put on a very fine show in our hall over the half term.

Safer Internet Day: We have been working with the children so that they know how to keep safe online. This included us taking part in Safer Internet day which we supported under the umbrella term – Be Kind Online. I know that Mrs Brown would now like to run some sessions with you as parents so that you can also be confident your child is using the Internet safely.

COMING SOON

- **Parent/Teacher Evenings**
- **Y4 Play**
- **Book Fair/World Book Day**



Stranger Danger

As you may have heard yesterday there was a police reported incident at a local school whereby someone seems to have attempted to ask a pupil to go home with him saying he knew the parents and they had told him to collect her. Fortunately the girl in question had very good stranger danger knowledge and refused immediately informing a member of staff. As you know we are very thorough when handing over our pupils but for all and especially those older ones who do walk home alone we will be reminding them of stranger danger here in school and would suggest that you do so at home also.

Academy Improvement

As we have entered the 2nd half of the term we are in a good position to consider how well our children are achieving and where they are likely to be on their learning journeys by the end of the year. As always we encourage your participation with helping your child meet milestone goals as they move through the school so do please keep hearing your child read, asking them questions about what they have read and encouraging them to learn their times tables and spellings. Children who are challenged and supported in this way at home as well as being well taught at school definitely make more progress so please keep it up! Later this term we will also be inviting you to the second parent/teacher meeting evenings of the year where we can update you on the progress your child is making and what the key areas of learning for them are in the coming weeks and months. In the meantime if you have any questions or queries at all about the development of your child both academically and socially/emotionally please do not hesitate to ask – we are here to help and want the very best for all our pupils and families.

Staffing Update

Did you know more than 65% of our teachers have been with us less than 3 years! It is surprising how quickly the school has grown in pupil numbers and staff – in fact there were only 154 pupils when I joined it in 2009 and now there are 500! As we head into the second half of the academic year we need even more staff to help our pupils with their learning. I would like then to extend a very warm welcome to new TA's Emma Lambert, Demi O'Shea, Gergana Grigayatis and Rob Paterson who is returning to be the TA in year 4 after a brief period of absence. As well as saying hello we also say goodbye as Mr Hall leaves for challenges new at Easter for a school in Cambridgeshire. Mr Hall has been with us since 2011 and will be missed by us all – I know you will join me in wishing him all the best in his new school. We have already begun the process of recruiting a suitable replacement for Mr Hall and are still seeking to appoint a new site manager after the retirement at Christmas of David Lewis. Both Miss Saunders and I are getting rather fed up with doing all the locking and unlocking each day so if you do know anyone who may like to be site manager please encourage them to apply!

Web Site

There is still work for us to do with some pages - not least the classes where we can share with you what the children have been learning at school - but our new ATT web site is up and ready for use! At the moment search engines are still linking to our old site (this is in the process of being removed at which point google etc. will link to our new one) but in the meantime please drop in to see what it looks like and what information is there. The direct web address is:

www.greatheathacademy.atrust.org.uk

Snow Reminder

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.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/>

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.attrust.org.uk for further information about us.

2016

Thursday 10th March ~ Y6 Pupils to Crucial Crew event

Wednesday 16th March ~ Specific SEN Parent/Teacher Meetings

Thursday 17th March ~ Evening Easter Bingo – more details to follow soon

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 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
