

Great Heath Academy Newsletter



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IN THIS ISSUE

- Apologies
- Academy Improvement
- Premises Developments
- Staffing Update

Recent Events

Disco: Thank you to everyone who helped organise or run this event and also to those who came along – I am sure another disco will be taking place sometime soon!

Assemblies: Thank you to all classes who have recently treated us to their class assembly and to the Open the Book group of volunteers who come and tell the children stories from the Bible with lots of props and pupil participation!

Trips and Visits: We believe that opportunities to learn outside the classroom are extremely valuable and look to provide as many relevant and varied experiences as possible. We also recognise the financial burden some of these events place on you and thank you sincerely for your contributions – without them we could not take the children out as we do. We also try to ensure children in each year get at least one trip (details of trips later this term should by now have come to you) and now we have a settled intake of pupils should be able to plan a trip for each year that takes place at a set time of year thus making it easier for us to plan and you to finance.

COMING SOON

- Tests and checks for Y1 and Y2
- Preparation for the end of the year



Apologies - Apologies for the late sending of this newsletter. We have been sending newsletters fortnightly with myself sending monthly and Mrs. Brown/Mr. Jeffery doing the same but it has been something of a very busy start to the term with a lot of things happening here in school...

Academy Improvement - As you may know, in addition to Ofsted reports, test data plays a very significant part in how our school is judged. You may also know that this is mainly driven by how well the Y6 pupils do in their tests in SATs week (now) but also Y2 who also have formal tests later this month and indeed all the other year groups who do in-school tests too. We understand that these tests place a huge amount of pressure on our children and each year they do appear to get harder – you might have heard even this week a lot of information about this in the news. For example see below questions from a Y6 grammar and math test:

30 Tick to show which sentence uses the past progressive.

Tick one.

After Ali finished his homework, he went out to play.

Gamma was doing her science homework.

Jamie learnt his spellings every night.

Anna found her history homework difficult.

1 mark

18 Here are the ingredients for chocolate ice cream.

cream	400 ml
milk	500 ml
egg yolks	4
chocolate	120 g
sugar	100 g



What Do You Think?

Stefan has only 300ml of cream to make chocolate ice cream.

How much chocolate should he use?

We have worked very hard this year as usual to try and prepare the children as best we can for these tests but they are of course only a snap shot of how a child does in one chunk of time on a specific day - therefore results do not always match how well children have been working over the year. We also firmly believe that the children should develop a wide range of other skills and attributes beyond reading, grammar and maths and appreciate that you will also expect us to ensure the children leave us as well rounded individuals ready to make a good start to secondary school. This is why we fund musical instrument tuition for all Y5 pupils and those in Y6 who wish to continue in addition to cookery lessons, swimming sessions, trips/visits and so on. If you ever have any questions about the education of your child or any other aspect of their development – please do not hesitate to ask.

Premises Development - Miss Saunders and I continue to unlock and lock up as we have run into further difficulty with recruiting a site manager. We are looking ahead at other possibilities but please bear with us if small niggles appear to be taking a longer time than usual to fix – my skills do not run to maintenance and it takes time to get someone in. On a more positive note I can confirm that all planning applications for the work on creating a new car park have gone through and contractors are scheduled to be on site as soon as we break for the summer to create the new staff car park on one of the tennis courts and therefore creating much more space in front for you to drop off and pick up. This is not coming soon enough as I know very well how hard it is for you to manage currently and there have been one or two very close calls when it comes to safety. Whilst we have the remaining weeks with the current set up may I please ask that everyone is courteous and highly vigilant about safety – thank you.

Staffing Update - At the end of the Spring Term we said a fond farewell to Mr. Hall and this term have welcomed Mr. Boardman an experienced teacher who used to work here when it was College Heath Middle to the team. I am very pleased to inform you that after a very thorough process we have appointed Mr. Nick Cuff as our new Upper Key Stage 2 Leader. Mr. Cuff will be joining us in September and currently teaches in South Wales.

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.attrust.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!

2016

Monday 23rd May ~ testing week for Year 2 pupils – all Y2 pupils in school this week please
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 ~ Last day for pupils before 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 ~ Last day for pupils before 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

New Academic Year –Please Note only 2 INSET days shown below – a further 3 will be designated and shown soon.

Monday 4th September ~ INSET day for staff – School closed to pupils
Tuesday 5th September ~ School reopens for pupils after the summer holiday
Friday 20th October ~ Last day for pupils before the half term holiday
Monday 30th October ~ School reopens for pupils after the half term holiday
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 ~ 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