



GREAT HEATH ACADEMY AND NURSERY



SUMMARY OF THE YEAR 2015

Key Events by Month

January

The first month of the year began with Mrs Barber returning to us after working elsewhere for 2 years and the children from reception to Year 4 having their teeth checked as part of a national dental screen – I hope that they had not eaten too many Christmas sweets! In another back to Earth with a bump moment after the excitement of Christmas our year 6 children began after school booster clubs – basically extra work to help them prepare for their end of year tests – poor things! This month also saw the start of the art club run by Mr Hughes, the visiting Pantomime company which the children all thoroughly enjoyed (and some staff too I think!) as well as the visit from the mobile library van and a very interesting assembly led by one of the optometrists at Boots in the town.

February

The shortest month of the year included the half term holiday as well as the first assembly led by the local 'Open the Book' bible group and the final touches being added to our new library/media room.

March

This month the children all went owl crazy after the owl people came to showcase their birds to the children. Each class saw a flying display in the hall and many even had their picture taken with the owls. This proved to be such a popular day I think the whole school was doing owl themed writing for weeks after! In what was a very busy month our Year 4 pupils went to MCA to watch their dress rehearsal of 'Bugsy' and our year 6 children went to the speedway track for the annual 'Crucial Crew' event where they learned first-hand about the work of the emergency services. We also helped with the preparations for Easter by hosting a Simnel cake baking demo in our kitchens as well as presenting our year 3 and 4 performances. With your generosity we also helped raise money for Comic Relief and celebrated World Book Day by dressing up as a favourite story character. It was also this month we said goodbye to Miss Chapman as she moved home and schools to Cambridge.

April

With most of the month being taken up by the Easter holiday there was not much time in school this month but we still found time for an Easter Disco and to welcome Mr Lee who took over from Miss Chapman.

May

In a very important month for year 6 pupils the end of year tests were taken and sent away for marking whilst we began the official consultation process to convert to an academy. Our year 5 pupils went on a trip to Wicken Fen and we got all excited about the Bug Man coming back until he had car trouble on the way here and never actually made it!

June

In the month with the longest day a lot happened here in school. First, the year 1 pupils visited Lackford Lakes and then the year 5 pupils went to MCA for a history themed day about Medieval Sieges! Secondly the year 3 and 4 children had a super day out in Cambridge, the FOGHS planned and ran another great disco and the Bug Man fixed his car and came back here again with a whole new set of fascinating creepy crawlies! Finally some of our older children went to visit the science museum in London whilst the year 1 children were tested on how well they can use phonics and the junior children had the chance to learn to ride their bikes safely through Bikeability. We were all very pleased to welcome back Mrs Brown too after her nearly year long absence following the birth of her second child last summer.

July

In what is often the hottest month of the year we decided to cram all the year 5 and 6 pupils along with their parents into the VERY hot hall for our end of year upper junior performance which this year was themed around Robin Hood! Despite the extreme heat everyone had a good time and the children put on a really good show. We then saw sense and moved outside for our sports days which I know were extremely well organised and thoroughly enjoyed by all as well as hosting our summer fayre on the field. Thanks once again for the FOGHS for organising this event. Our year 2 children had a super day out at the seaside when they visited Hunstanton and everyone enjoyed the relaxed feel of the last few days of the school year not least the year 6 pupils who had a great time at their leaving treat – a Bar B Q on the school field complete with bouncy castle! Finally as we broke up for the lovely long summer holiday we said goodbye to Miss Parish temporarily as she started her maternity leave and to Mr Clay as he embarked on a new challenge at a school in a different part of the county. We also said farewell to a number of support staff as they moved on to pastures new as well.

August

Whilst many of us were enjoying our well deserved summer holidays the builders were busy working on replacing our whole school roof and installing 2 temporary class bases on the field. This month also saw the legal conversion from school to academy and my hair get thinner and greyer when I discovered the roof would not be ready for the start of the term and the school had been flooded by unseasonal rain!

September

As you know we had a delayed start this month after we experienced issues (AGAIN!) with our roof and saturated tiles were strewn all over much of the newly installed carpet! When we did finally manage to open it was really lovely to see the children in their new uniforms they looked incredibly smart and a credit to the new academy. As the month progressed the builders and their scaffolding gradually disappeared and business returned to normal with the children settling into their new classes. We welcomed to the school several new support staff and teachers as our numbers had grown but sadly

witnessed the long term absences of Mrs Barber and Mrs Ruttle due to illness. On a much more positive note our year 3 pupils worked with Mrs Hughes from Mildenhall museum, the year 6 pupils had an excellent business awareness day and the cluster football tournaments began.

October

In a predictably wet, cold and windy week our year 6 pupils along with Mr Hall, Miss Oakley and Mrs Hambling went to the Kingswood activity centre in North Norfolk for their annual residential trip. Despite the weather they all had a fantastic time and came back tired but full of exciting tales about abseiling, quad bikes and leaps of death! In another blow to staffing this was also the month that Mr Jeffery was sadly taken ill and forced to spend a long period in hospital.

November

As we returned from the half term break this turned out to be a very busy month indeed. The FOGHS once again organised and ran a school Halloween themed disco which was a great success with the children and Mr Jeffery returned to school as did Mrs Barber albeit on a reduced timetable. It is always at this time of year we remember those who have fought and given their lives in war and as such many of our children proudly wore a Poppy on their uniforms. We laid a wreath at the Cenotaph in the town (albeit late – my fault!) and our year 4 pupils walked there on the 11th to take part in the ceremony and minute silence. Meanwhile the rest of the school were silent in their classes as a mark of respect after a special remembrance themed assembly. Anti-bullying week also falls in this month and the children all spent some time in class discussing and working on how to try and eliminate this horrible problem. Our year 5 pupils began work on a special space themed project which I believe may include helping the National Space Agency with some research and Miss MacFarlane in conjunction with Mr Busuttill one of our governors began thinking how to make contact with the primary school in the Mildenhall twin town of Luc Sur Mer! Finally for November we had our pupil photo day which is always a bit of a logistical nightmare trying to arrange but ends in some super pictures!

December

The final month of the year as usual is filled with festive events! Firstly Mr Barker in keeping with recent tradition went to fetch our school tree which is decorated and sitting proudly in the entrance hall. The theme continued with the turning on of the lights in town to mark the start of late night Christmas shopping and then our Christmas Fair – another event organised and run by our super FOGHS group. We donated and decorated a tree for St Mary’s church and the younger children have even been to see it and of course we had some lovely nativity stories performed by children in nursery, reception and key stage 1. Our year 4 pupils had another treat when they went to the Sea Life centre in Hunstanton and everyone (except perhaps the staff!!) enjoyed the Christmas parties.

What a busy year – roll on 2016!

Academic Performance



STILL!

As you may know our performance as a school is measured in the main by how well our children do in tests and assessments. This is done in two ways – how many achieve the level nationally expected of them for their age and how many make nationally expected progress from where they start. You may also know that the children are assessed and the data sent to the Department for Education, Ofsted and the Local Authority at the end of reception, year 1 (for phonics) and years 2 and 6 for reading, writing and maths.

Overall we are making progress towards good outcomes in reception, year 1 and year 2 but for 3 years in a row we have fallen short in year 6. We are very unhappy with our current position in terms of results in tests and are determined to make significant improvements. We have a very detailed action plan in place but we know that if you can join us in tackling this we will be more successful. We know that when home and school work together to help children with their learning the results can be amazing so **please help your child as much as you can** – we need your help!

If you would like any advice on how to get more involved with the learning of your child please talk to your child’s class teacher in the first instance. Thank You.

Data Presentation

Reception

At the end of the reception year pupils are assessed as having attained a ‘Good Level of Development (GLD)’ if they score a level 2 (expected) or level 3 (exceeding) in all 12 out of the 17 Primary Goals - basically communication, physical development, personal and social development, literacy and numeracy. The average total points score (ATPS) is the average score for all 17 goals added together and divided by the number in the year group .

	Number of children	% Achieving GLD	ATP
All Pupils at Great Heath	80	68%	33.0
National Data 2015	Not Known	66%	34.3

Year 1 - Phonics

	Percentage 'passing' the Y1 phonics screening check
All Pupils at Great Heath	74%
National Data 2015	77%

Year 2 ~ Highlighted red shows areas of most concern – green areas of strength

Percentage of pupils attaining different levels compared to nationally. Level 2 or above represents average attainment for the end of year 2 – however Level 2b or above is considered secure average attainment for the end of year 2.

	No. Pupils	Reading			Writing			Maths		
		L2+	L2b+	L3+	L2+	L2b+	L3+	L2+	L2b+	L3+
All Pupils	49	96%	88%	33%	90%	71%	20%	96%	84%	24%
National Data 2015	Not Known	90%	82%	32%	88%	72%	18%	93%	82%	26%

Year 6 ~ Highlighted red shows areas of most concern – green areas of strength

Percentage of pupils attaining different levels compared to nationally. Level 4 or above represents average attainment for the end of year 6.

	No. Pupils	Reading		Writing		Maths		
		L4+	L5+	L4+	L5+	L4+	L5+	L6
All Pupils	39	69%	21%	85%	15%	72%	26%	3%
National Data 2014	Not Known	89%	48%	87%	36%	87%	42%	9%

Percentage of pupils making expected progress compared to nationally. 2 Levels of progress from Year 2 to year 6 represents national expected progress. 3 Levels of progress from Year 2 to year 6 represents more than national expected progress

	No. Pupils	Reading		Writing		Maths	
		2 L Progress	3 L Progress	2 L Progress	3 L progress	2 L Progress	3 L Progress
All Pupils	36	71%	14%	89%	31%	81%	19%
National Data 2014	Not Known	91%	33%	94%	36%	90%	34%

Thank you all for your ongoing help and support may I wish you all a 聖誕快樂 / Prejeme Vam Vesele Vanoce / Linksmų Kalėdų / Wesolych Świąt / Feliz Natal / Vrolijk Kerstfeest / 메리 크리스마르/ or Merry Christmas!

Finally we would like to remind you all of the motto and strap line staff developed to try and encapsulate what we are all about which is:

- ✓ Great Fun...
 - ✓ Great Confidence...
 - ✓ Great Future...
 - ✓ Great Heath!
- Great
Hopes
Achieved