

# Great Heath Academy Newsletter



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## Recent Events

**Class assemblies:** We are working our way through each class for their turn to share their learning with the rest of the school and you as parents/carers. Thank you so far this calendar year to Peach and Nimrod classes for their excellent assemblies. Next up I think is Osprey class.

**Red Ted and Read to Succeed:** As you hopefully know we started two reading reward programmes this year in an attempt to encourage the children to enjoy reading more than they do and most specifically to read at home. We believe that being a fluent and committed reader is the most important thing for our pupils to become. Extensive research proves that children who read widely and for pleasure attain significantly above their peers not just in literacy but also mathematics and indeed across the range of subjects. We are currently overhauling our approach to literacy teaching (see Academy improvement section) and aspire to be an Outstanding Reading Academy. We are very thankful for your support in hearing your child/ren read and encouraging them to do so.

**Sport:** Well done to all pupils who recently took part in both the local swimming gala and basketball competitions. Thank you to all staff and other adults who helped organise and run these events.

## COMING SOON

- **Comic Relief**
- **Spring!**



### Academy Staffing

We clearly jinxed things when we reported no changes to staffing in the last newsletter as since then we have had some movement. We would like to formally thank teaching assistants Natasha Styles and Gregana Grygantis for all their hard work on behalf of the pupils, families and teaching staff at Great Heath and wish them well in their new positions

### Academy Improvement

As stated in the recent events column we are currently changing our approach to the planning and teaching of literacy and want to become an Outstanding Reading Academy. As you will expect we reflect on our provision and performance continually and in terms of outcomes when measured by tests our weaker area is currently reading. We really do want to foster a love of reading here at Great Heath and have lots of other plans to try and achieve this in addition to Red Ted and Read to Succeed. Your help as always will be invaluable in this so please do keep hearing your child/ren read and encouraging them to do so when they most probably will be wanting to do other things (most likely electronic and web based!) We are also basing our literacy lessons on a wide range of quality authors and texts which we also hope will ensure our pupils have a broad 'diet' of reading material and hope later in the term to hold an open morning for you to see some literacy lessons first hand.

### Academy Premises

Having been involved in the following over the past 7 years....

- Lock, Stock and Barrel relocation from our original school building over in St John's Close to our current home here in Girton Close in October 2012
- The installation of our adventure play equipment on the field in March 2013
- The temporary repairs to the roof over what is now the Y3 area which virtually all came off after a very windy Saturday night in February 2014!
- The creation of our lovely library from an old unused DT room in October 2014
- The replacement of the entire school roof in the summer holiday of 2015 which some of you may remember was the wettest summer ever and meant we had all sorts of problems and even had to open the school late in September!
- The creation of the staff car park and cycle/scooter areas in November 2015
- The start of the very long process to create the new 6 class upper key stage 2 block and the two extra KS1 classes in January 2017

.....we are very pleased to report that currently other than the replacement of some internal doors we have very little improvement work ongoing! We are scheduled to have some minor internal adaptations to a changing room to create additional storage and are planning to refresh some classrooms and corridors with a new coat of paint. You may also have noticed the old caretakers bungalow looking much smarter and with a new perimeter fence. This is because our site supervisor Paul Myhill will be moving in over Easter which will bring many benefits not least to enhanced security.

Thank you for your ongoing help and support – we very much appreciate it. 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.attrust.org.uk](http://www.greatheathacademy.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 as well as have access to our calendar.

### Important Update to Previous Lists:

Our Academy Trust ATT are seeking to align the term dates and INSET days of all their 22 academies across the country. This work is currently taking place and the final decision made soon. In the meantime please refer to the term dates and INSET days shown below but be aware that they may change slightly after ATT have finalized their decision. Once this has happened we will of course update this list and the web site calendar.

#### 2019

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April ~ Spring Term Parent/Teacher Evening 1

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April ~ Spring Term Parent/Teacher Evening 2

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April ~ Last day for pupils before the Easter holiday

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April ~ School reopens for pupils after the Easter holiday

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May ~ May Day – **School closed**

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May ~ Y6 Statutory Test week (Y6 pupils **MUST** attend school all week – **VERY IMPORTANT**)

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May ~ Last day for pupils before the half term holiday

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June ~ **INSET day** (5 of 5) for staff – **School closed to pupils**

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June ~ School reopens for pupils after the half term holiday

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June ~ Y1 and some Y2 Statutory Phonics screening week – all Y1 and Y2 pupils in school this week please - **IMPORTANT**

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July ~ Last day for pupils before the summer holiday

#### New Academic Year (See Important Update Above)

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September ~ **INSET day** (1 of 5) for staff – **School closed to pupils**

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September ~ **INSET day** (2 of 5) for staff – **School closed to pupils**

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September ~ School reopens to pupils after the half term holiday

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October ~ Last day for pupils before the half term holiday

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October ~ **INSET day** (3 of 5) for staff – **School closed to pupils**

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October ~ School reopens to pupils after the half term holiday

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December ~ Last day for pupils before the Christmas holiday

#### 2020

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January ~ **INSET day** (4 of 5) for staff – **School closed to pupils**

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January ~ School reopens for pupils after the Christmas holiday

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February ~ Last day for pupils before the half term holiday

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February ~ School reopens to pupils after the half term holiday

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April ~ Last day for pupils before the Easter holiday

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April ~ School reopens for pupils after the Easter holiday

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May ~ May Day – **School closed**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May ~ Y6 Statutory Test week (Y6 pupils **MUST** attend school all week – **VERY IMPORTANT**)

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Last day for pupils before the half term holiday

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June ~ **INSET day** (5 of 5) for staff – **School closed to pupils**

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June ~ School reopens for pupils after the half term holiday

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June ~ Y1 plus some Y2 Phonics screening (All Y1 and Y2 pupils in school this week please - **IMPORTANT**)

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July ~ Last day for pupils before the summer holiday

Term dates for 2020/2021 will be shared as soon as we receive confirmation from ATT.