

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021

## **NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2021**

### **Charity and fundraising events**



We were very successful with selling our poppy merchandise, so much so that we had to have more stock delivered. Today the children enjoyed their Feel Good Friday for Children in Need. Thank you for all your generous donations. Our Christmas Card purchases have also raised over £1000 for the school, which is incredible. The School Council are busy deciding how we spend this money.



### **Buddies**

For the past couple of weeks the School Council have been recruiting buddies to help with the classes in EYFS and KS1. The children in Y5 had to complete an application form and then attend an interview. It was a tough decision for the school council and they spent an hour scoring their answers and selecting the buddies. All of the children involved acted with huge maturity; the school council as they considered each response and the candidates as they went through the recruitment process. All children have learnt about the system for applying for and getting a job and everyone involved should feel very proud.

### **Drop off/collection**

Well done to all the children who continue to arrive on time for school. As you know our car park gets very congested and there is limited parking. We are working with our estates team to look at ways to improve this. However, the best thing is to park away from the school site and walk the last bit in. We are not able to provide staff to supervise the car park or road into school, please ensure you continue to be careful and courteous as you drive onto and off the site.

Please can I remind all parents that dogs, and other pets, must not be brought onto site. It has also been reported that parents are smoking near the gates by the tennis court while waiting for them to open in the morning. While we appreciate this is not directly on school property, we are asking for there not to be smoking near to where children are waiting for school.

### **Absence and attendance**

Our attendance is currently 94.9% for the whole school which is lower than previous years. There is definitely an impact from Covid absences which we appreciate will happen. However, please remember that children should not take time off in term time for holidays unless there are exceptional circumstances. If your child is not in school you must contact the school office in the morning. Please do not use the year group email or Class Dojo for absence messages as there is no guarantee these will be read before school starts.

### **Jubilee Day 2022**

The DfE have reduced the minimum number of sessions for the academic year 2021/2022 to enable all staff working in schools and settings to enjoy an additional bank holiday in term time, to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, as the bank holiday takes place in the May half term holiday. We have decided to end the summer term a day early for this. Therefore school will now finish on Wednesday 20th July 2022.

### **Christmas**

Even though it is only November we have started planning our Christmas events. Reception and KS1 have started rehearsing their Christmas nativity and singing performance. We are really hoping we can perform these to a live audience but it is too early to make that decision. Any performances will take place in the last 2 weeks of term and we will get details of these to you as soon as we know what is possible.



Kind regards

Naomi Brown  
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.atrust.org.uk](http://www.greathathacademy.atrust.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.

### **Dates for Academic Year 2021/22**

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December ~ Last day for pupils before the Christmas holiday

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January ~ **INSET day** (3 of 5) for staff – **School closed to pupils**

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January ~ School reopens for pupils after the Christmas holiday

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February ~ **INSET day** (4 of 5) for staff – **School closed to pupils**

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February ~ Last day for pupils before the Half Term holiday

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February ~ School reopens for pupils after the Half Term holiday

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April ~ Last day for pupils before the Easter holiday

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April ~ School reopens for pupils after the Easter holiday

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May ~ May Day – **School closed**

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May ~ Last day for pupils before the half term holiday

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June ~ School reopens for pupils after the half term holiday

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

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July ~ Last day for pupils before the summer holiday