



Dates for Your

DIARY



Tuesday 10th October 2023

World Mental Health Day—wear yellow for Hello Yellow

Monday 16th October 2023

Parent/teacher meetings tonight and Wednesday

Friday 20th October 2023

School closed—PD day

Monday 30th October

Back to School

Friday 10th November

PTA Disco

Wednesday 15th November

Open morning for prospective parents

Friday 17th November

Children in Need

NEWSLETTER

A message from the

PRINCIPAL



Dear Parents/Carers,

The start of the school year has gone extremely well. The children have settled into their new classes and have enjoyed the new challenges in their learning. You will have received your child's year group newsletter which will tell you about the learning this term. We have been revisiting our rules and expectations in school as well. Below you will see our rules and expectations.

Well done to everyone for getting their PE kits into school -- the changing arrangements are working well. Please can you check your child has the correct uniform each day and their PE kit (including trainers) is in school.

Our first parents' evenings are taking place the week before half term and these will be face-to-face for the first time since 2019.

We are holding an Open Morning for parents who are applying for a Reception place for next September. This is taking place on Wednesday 15th November. Please pass this information on to anyone with a child who will be 5 from 1st September 2024.

Our Year 6 pupils are starting off our trips for this year with a visit to the Tower of London. We are also into football season with our first tournament taking place this week. We are looking forward to many more exciting events this year.

Naomi Brown

Principal



Be Ready

Be Respectful

Be Safe



Quick reminders

Uniform

A huge well done to those who are wearing the full and correct uniform. Our main uniform is:

Academy uniform

- Jumper or cardigan in the academy colours of green with the academy logo. V-neck (not round neck sweater)
- White shirt (Polo shirt for **Reception only**)
- **Academy tie for Years 1 – 6**
- Grey trousers (shorts in the summer term)
- Grey skirt/pinafore dress/green checked summer dress in the summer term with white socks
- **Black sensible shoes**



Safeguarding



Mental Health

One part of our work related to Safeguarding is support for Mental Health.

We aim to promote positive mental health and wellbeing for our whole school community and recognise how important mental health and emotional wellbeing is to our lives in just the same way as physical health.

We know that everyone experiences life challenges that can make us vulnerable and, at times, anyone may need additional emotional support. We promote mental health within our PSHE curriculum (Jigsaw) and also through mental health days.

A great guide to use to support your child is shown below:

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/>

Next week is World Mental Health Day on Tuesday 10th October. We are inviting children to wear yellow (or another bright colour). Children will be undertaking work around Mental Health during the week.



Attendance

Attending school every day is vital in ensuring children get the best education. Our current attendance rate for the school is **95.9%**. We have an amazing 9 classes who are at or above our target of 97%. Well done to Nursery, Apricot, Strawberry, Loganberry, Lightning, Eagle, Osprey, Spitfire and Typhoon.

Being on time is also very important. Being late can mean children miss vital learning and the chance to start the day with their peers. **School starts at 8.45am and children need to be in class at that time.** Please allow sufficient time to walk to the classroom when arriving. **Please drop children in the main school before Nursery.** A huge thank you to those who are making it in on time.

We have a new attendance policy which is accessible on our website. Any requests for time off in term time must be made in advance and will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances—please check the policy carefully and don't assume things will be authorised.

If you need support with attendance or punctuality please contact the school to speak to a member of our Safeguarding and Pastoral team.

Please note the gate opposite the office will be the last to be locked so please use this if you are caught up on site talking to a member of staff.



Updates

Staffing

Over the summer we said goodbye to Miss Bon who moved to Bristol and we wish her well in her move. Mr Barker has left Academy Transformation Trust to pursue other opportunities. We thank him for his contributions to Great Heath Academy and wish him all the best for his future endeavours.

In September Miss Pyke joined our team as a Teaching Assistant in Reception and Mr Buckle joined our teaching team in Year 3.

PTA

Our PTA had an amazing year last year, taking £10,930.14 and we are incredibly grateful for the support they have given the school. As well as our canopies and trees they made a substantial donation to the outdoor project led by Year 4. They have also created our rainy day boxes for each class which have transformed indoor playtimes. In addition, they paid for the Y6 leavers' party and provided treats of popcorn to each year group.

The PTA is always looking for volunteers. You don't have to give up time regularly but we do need more volunteers to help at events such as discos and fairs as well as to help run the successful tuck shop on a Friday. If you can spare even an hour or two please let a member of the PTA or SLT know.

We have many more events planned for the year and more exciting things that the PTA are helping to fund.

Join the PTA!



SEND

We will be having our first **SEN coffee morning** on **Tuesday 10th October at 9am**. Please sign in at the main office where a member of our SEN team will greet you. This is an opportunity for you to come and see how pupils with SEN are supported in school. The SEN team will also share the latest SEN information report. We look forward to seeing you there.

The SEND **Local Offer** details the services available for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Suffolk's SEND Local Offer can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

Suffolk **SENDIASS** (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Service) is a confidential and impartial service that provides support with issues relating to Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND). It is free and easy to access. They help children, parents and young people take part in decisions that affect their lives. Their website can be found [here](#).

Suffolk **SENDIASS** have a great **youtube channel**, which has a range of great webinars for parents. Recently, Suffolk had a 'Supporting your child with the transition to high school' session which can be viewed [here](#).

Morning Meetings

As well as our regular assemblies the children from Y1-6 are meeting in their phases for a weekly morning meeting. These are sessions to revisit and revise prior learning as a large group. For the first three weeks we revised our rules and expectations across the school.

We are now focusing on revising spellings or phonics from the phase below. The children have really risen to this expectation and are enjoying the opportunity to work alongside other peers in their phase.

Morning Meeting Spelling



Great Heath Newsletter

Oct 2023 | 4



Gre-officeadmin@attrust.org.uk



01638 713430



greateathacademy.attrust.org.uk



@GreatHeathAcad



Girton Close, Mildenhall, Suffolk, IP28 7PT