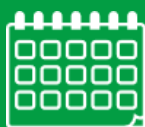




Dates for Your

**DIARY**



**Friday 7th February 2025**

Number Day— Celebrating Times Tables  
Rock Stars (TTRS)

**Tuesday 11th February**

Safer Internet Day

**Half Term holiday —School Closed**

Monday 17th February to  
Friday 21st February

**Thursday 6th March 2025**

World Book Day—more info to follow

**Friday 21st March 2025**

Red Nose Day—Come to school with a  
'funny' hair style/hat & something red.

**Year 3 and 4 present their show,  
'Singing at the Movies'**

Tuesday 11th March at 9.15am and 2.30pm  
Wednesday 12th March at 9.15am

**Friday 28th March 2025**

School closed —PD day

**Parents Evening**

Monday 31st March 2025 and  
Wednesday 2nd April 2025

**Easter Holiday—School Closed**

Monday 7th April to Monday 21st April.  
School will be closed on Monday 21st April  
as it is a bank holiday.

**Term Calendar** can be found [here](#).

The new 2025 / 2026 calendar is being  
agreed and will be uploaded to the website  
soon.

# NEWSLETTER

## A message from Mrs Mitchinson

The Spring term is now in full swing and I'm pleased to say it has been a wonderful start for everyone. We have lots to look forward to over the next few weeks; we're showing off our times tables on Number Day, highlighting online safety on Safer Internet Day and celebrating the joy of reading on World Book Day —take a look at the dates on the left and pop them in your diary.

Class newsletters have been shared with families. These detail the learning that will be taking place, as well as important reminders; PE days, homework, spellings and times tables. We have also added more information to your child's class page on our [website](#). Please take some time to look at the 'Knowledge Organisers' —can your child recall what they have learnt in the Autumn term?

We are continuing to recognise good attendance, from 100% to most improved. I am pleased to report that the number of holiday requests during term time has reduced—thank you for your support with this and for remembering that we are not able to authorise holidays during term time. We have published our term dates for 2025/2026 to ensure everyone is able to plan well needed family time when the school is closed.

Miss Daniels started her Maternity leave last Friday—we wish her all the very best and hope she can now have a little rest before baby arrives. We have welcomed Mrs Farrow to our teaching team and she will be our new Kiwi Class teacher. Miss Riches and Mrs Farrow are excited to start work on developing the Reception garden.

The PTA continue to support the school and we are extremely grateful for all their hard work. Their fundraising has purchased our new 'Opal' shed. Thank you for all the kind donations for Opal. Staff are having their next round of training this week as we get closer to the full launch after half term.

*Mrs Emily Mitchinson*

**Head of Academy**



This year, Comic Relief are asking children to,

do something funny for money.

On Friday 21st March, children can support Red Nose Day by choosing to either;

- come to school wearing something red with their uniform or
- wear a silly hairstyle or silly hat

Some children may want to do both!



Here are some examples from other schools...



er



...and there are many more ideas online.



## Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day will take place on Tuesday 11th February. Children will be exploring a range of activities in the classroom that focus on how to stay safe when online. Each year an online issue or theme is covered that speaks about the things young people are seeing and experiencing online.

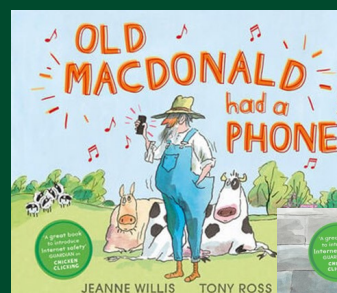
The theme this year is:

Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online.

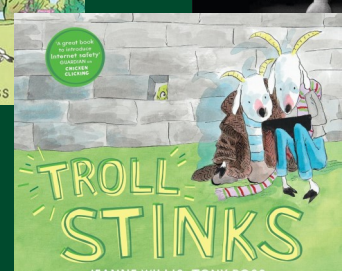
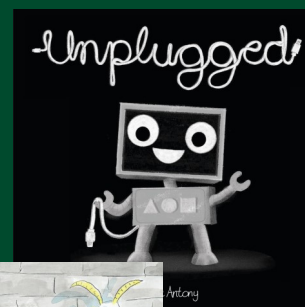
This is an important theme that is growing and becoming a real problem to children and adults alike. The activities that the children will work on will be age related and cover areas that the children may have already experienced but the aim is to teach children strategies in how to spot a possible scam and how to deal with it.

At Great Heath we will be using the whole week to discuss this important theme. We will start by holding a whole school assembly followed by class activities.

Some books you might like to share with your children around Online Safety can be accessed on youtube -



Mr Hicks



# Opal



Our OPAL (Outdoor Play And Learning) journey ...

First of all, a HUGE thank you to every one who contributed towards our OPAL Bingo and

donated pre-loved toys, games, and other bits. We have been overwhelmed with the generosity shown and cannot wait to get all the wonderful items in circulation for each child to enjoy.

Hopefully by now you have seen the massive shed on the playground.



We are so grateful to our PTA who fully funded the purchase of this building, purpose built for us by [Betts of Brandon](#). The PTA have also been shopping in the Boxing Day sales and purchased lots of strong boxes. This will encourage the children to be respectful when tidying away their toys and ensure our Opal resources continue to be well looked after.

Since the last newsletter, we have made significant progress. Our lunchtime has been extended to one hour, all children have access to the whole field and the dining hall routines have improved.

The next phase is the most exciting - rolling out our toys to enable creative play. We hope to launch after the February half-term!

Once again, a huge thank you for your continued support.

We will be having a Community Build Day in March—weather permitting. Families are invited to join us on Saturday 29th March. We hope to build a beach area, mud pit and storage stations. More information to follow, closer to the time.

Please do let us know if you have any ideas, suggestions or think you can help in any way.

Mrs Ashford

OPAL Curriculum  
Lead



Children recognise the fun they're having when exercising and the positive impact play is having on their mental health. Our School Council will be exploring how we can link this success with eating healthily.

Healthy Eating is something we are going to look at in the Summer term. The PTA are also thinking about how they can support these plans.

We know there is a strong link between physical health and mental health.

We want all of our children to understand that eating healthy and moving more are the building blocks to better health.

We are committed to working together to form healthy habits and promote good health for all of our children.



# Attendance

The attendance for each class for January (up to 17th) is listed below.

Congratulations Osprey and Galaxy—a great start to the New Year!

Kiwi	88.0%
Mango	93.7%
Apricot	92.4%
Peach	93.1%
Pineapple	94.4%
Blueberry	95.0%
Strawberry	94.8%
Hercules	88.1%
Lightning	95.8%
Vulcan	96.0%
Eagle	95.8%
Galaxy	97.4%
Meteor	94.8%
Osprey	97.7%
Tornado	94.4%
Hurricane	95.4%
Spitfire	96.9%

Can we please remind parents/carers that arriving after the registers close [09:15] means that your child will receive an **unauthorised** late mark which will affect their percentage attendance at school.

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school when they're unwell.

There are government guidelines for schools about health protection and managing specific infectious diseases at GOV.UK. These say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't.

A link to this information can be found [here](#).

If you would like to talk about your child's attendance, please contact the school office.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Hicks and Mrs Martin



# National Day of Education



We celebrated 'National Day of Education' last week. Teachers shared the story of Malala Yousafzai through her book, 'Malala's Magic Pencil'.

The book describes how Malala loved going to school but her right to attend was threatened just because she was a girl. Children made posters and talked about what they would wish for with their magic pencil.

## Edurio Parent Survey

Thank you to those that have been able to complete our Edurio survey. Your feedback will help us to plan how we can make our school even better.

Please use this [link](#), if you haven't yet shared your feedback.

# SEND

We have some new exciting interventions that are happening in school;

## Memory Fix

This intervention is designed to enhance children's memory skills through focused activities. Within each section of Memory Fix the games and activities get gradually more challenging.

## MABLE

This is a really successful, online speech and language therapy course that Mrs. Parsons is championing. The children that we have identified are receiving weekly online sessions with a real person; their targets are then being used in the class to support their communication and language.

## Essex Maths

This intervention is being used in Year 1 by Mrs. Walston to support children that are finding Maths a bit tricky.

## Talk Boost

Talk Boost helps children with their talking and understanding of words, enabling many to catch up with their peers. Mrs. Murphy and Miss Harvey will be doing this across Early Years, KS1 and Mrs. Parsons will introduce it into KS2.

## Self-Regulated Strategy Development

SRSD is a writing intervention, hosted by Mrs. Scott, for year 6 children that works on boosting writing skills and academic confidence.

*Miss Ramsell*

# Boosters

## **The Importance of Booster Sessions**

In our mission to provide an enriching and supportive learning environment, we want to highlight the significance of our before-school and after-school booster sessions. These sessions are more than just an extension of the school day; they are a crucial part of helping our pupils reach their full potential.

## **Enhanced Learning Opportunities**

Booster sessions offer pupils the chance to delve deeper into subjects they find challenging. With smaller group sizes and more personalised attention from our dedicated teachers, pupils can ask questions and work through problems at their own pace. This tailored approach helps reinforce classroom learning and addresses individual needs.

## **Building Confidence and Skills**

For some children, mastering difficult topics can be a source of anxiety. Booster sessions provide a supportive environment where children can build their confidence. As they grasp new concepts and improve their skills, their self-belief grows, leading to better performance not only in these sessions but also during regular class time as well.

## **Fostering a Love for Learning**

These sessions are not just about improving test scores; they're about fostering a genuine love for learning. By taking advantage of these opportunities, pupils can achieve their best and develop skills that will benefit them throughout their whole educational journey.

*Mr Smith*



[Gre-officeadmin@attrust.org.uk](mailto:Gre-officeadmin@attrust.org.uk)



01638 713430



[greateathacademy.attrust.org.uk](http://greateathacademy.attrust.org.uk)



@GreatHeathAcad



Girton Close, Mildenhall, Suffolk, IP28 7PT