



Great Hollands
Primary School

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Newsletter... Newsletter... Newsletter... Newsletter... Newsletter... Newsletter... Newsletter... Newsletter... Newsletter...
5th May 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

Summer term at school is well underway – even if the weather is not quite there yet!

Academisation

Thank you for your feedback and questions on our academy conversion process. It is still early days, but the school and academy trust are working well together in preparation for the official joining later in the term. I will be writing to you soon with an update, which I hope will answer some of the questions you may have about the process and what that means for your child.

Our School Improvement Journey

We are a school on a journey back to excellence and I would like you to know how hard all members of staff are working to ensure we make good progress on our journey upwards.

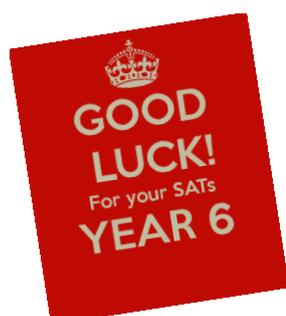


I am fortunate to be able to regularly visit classes across the school to monitor the learning opportunities happening throughout the school. My evaluations show that our school is on a rapid journey of improvement and we are really seeing some big changes in all areas of the school. I am pleased to see that pupils' levels of attainment have risen in all areas across the school, notably in our focus area of maths. One important area we have recently developed in is relation to the way we assess children against the new curriculum objectives. Assessment was an area we needed to address quickly as previously we had not been prepared enough for the new curriculum and assessment changes that had been introduced in 2014 and 2015. I am pleased to say that now we are in a much stronger position; staff have had additional training and support to ensure they are confident with the challenges of these changes. I am confident that our Year 6 SATs results at the end of this year will increase significantly as a result of our work since the Autumn.



Our new buildings in the centre of the school are nearing completion and are looking very impressive. We hope to open that part of the building after the summer half-term. Over this half-term you will see some new temporary fencing appearing around the building and playgrounds at the Year 5/6 end of the school. This is to allow the construction team to start work on Phase 3 developments as we move ahead.

It is good to hear your views about our improvements when I am out in the playground before and after school, I will be there as much as my diary allows, please do come over and have a chat, catching up with you and your families is a great way for me to start the day.



Year 6 SATs Week

Next week all Year 6 children in England will be taking their SATs in Reading, Mathematics and Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar. For our children, we treat this as their chance to shine, an opportunity to show how well they can apply all the amazing new things they have learnt.

I would like to thank the families of our Year 6 children for all their hard work in the months leading up to the tests. The children tell me they appreciate the support they get at both school and home. Remember...

*Please do not get stressed,
Just do your best!
Remember you have been blessed,
With many gifts that SATs can't test.*

Year 2 SATs



Year 2 SATs will take place over the coming weeks and they should all be completed by Friday 19th May. All teachers endeavour to make this a stress-free time for the children. We have been undertaking similar assessments for a while now and the tests are delivered to feel like part of the normal school day. If you have any questions then please see your child's class teacher.

First and foremost, support and reassure your child that there is nothing to worry about and that they should always just try their best. Praise and encourage is our motto!

The children are required to sit end of Key Stage tests in Year 2 to inform our assessments. Teacher assessment is based upon performance over a period of time. They are given the opportunity to become familiar with these assessment materials and procedures and this has been on going over the year. At times, the teaching day and the children may be organised differently to accommodate how assessments are carried out. As a school, we do this in a calm and positive way to ensure that all children feel comfortable and are able to do their best.

During this important time, please make sure your child has a good sleep and healthy breakfast every morning!



Nursery (FS1)

The children in FS1 have started their topic on growing. They have been reading stories about how plants grow and have been planting flowers and seeds in the garden. They have also been learning about the conditions a plant needs to grow and have been doing a fantastic job of watering and caring for the plants in our garden. We will be planting beans soon for the children to bring home and watch grow with their families.

Reception (FS2)

In Reception, we are learning all about farms and how things grow. We will be reading 'The Little Red Hen', 'The Enormous Turnip' and 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. The children will also be looking at how sunflowers grow, growing their own and looking at Van Gogh's 'Sunflowers' painting. On Friday 16th June, FS1 (Nursery) and FS2 (Reception) will be holding a family fun day where we will share with parents all the learning we have been doing and taking part in exciting activities.



Year 1

This term in English, we are looking at contemporary fiction and our story is 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers, which is a story about friendship between a boy and a penguin. We are looking forward to learning the story and then changing and rewriting parts of it. In Maths, we are learning about place value. We will be using all kinds of different equipment to solve problems such as bundles of ten straws and place value cards.



Year 1 & 2

The children have started to focus on their new topic 'What makes the ocean so amazing?' and they had a super start with their Pirate and Mermaid Day on Friday 21st April. The children enjoyed a day filled with themed activities. In Year 1, they wrote Wanted posters and made mermaid tails.



The Year 2 children wrote a character description of Captain Hook and did some sewing with a fishy theme. In the afternoon, we enjoyed a treasure hunt and some of the children even walked the plank! Thank you for helping to create such fabulous costumes and helping the day to give us a real WOW start to our topic work!

Year 3

The children in Year 3 have an exciting term ahead of them! They have started to study their local community in Bracknell. They will be working closely with our chair of governors, Mary Temperton, and will be learning about the history of the borough. The children will also have the opportunity to visit the new shopping centre, the Lexicon, and to have a tour of South Hill Park. The year group will also be participating in the John Lewis 'Picture Someone Special' art competition, celebrating people in our community; teachers, doctors, local shop owners, parents and more. The children will use their English skills to write letters to local community members and sketch their portraits as a thank you for all their help in the community and improving where we live.



Year 4

We are all looking forward to a very busy term in Year 4. Mr Woods' class have already started their swimming lessons and Miss Birkhead's class will be doing theirs later in the term. The children have started a new topic and are learning all about earthquakes and volcanoes. They will be looking at how the earth was formed, what it is made up of and why volcanoes and earthquakes happen where they do. During English, we will be travelling back in time to Pompeii with Dr Who.



Year 5

Year 5 have already made a start on their Spanish topic work. The children have been learning about Picasso and are currently having a go at creating their own 'blue' portrait. For food technology, we will be looking at Spanish food, which the children are really getting excited about. Our fab finish for the topic will be to invite our pupil's adults to a Spanish themed Art Gallery and café on Friday 14th July – we hope to see you there!



Year 6

We are very proud at the way our Year 6 children have come back from the Easter break with a positive attitude towards their learning and SATs revision. In addition to revising SATs, the children have been discovering their 'shine' and finding out about what makes them special.



During the SATs week, there will be a SATs café in Gold Hall at 8.30am (Monday 8th May - Thursday 11th May). The café is free and the children will all be offered a drink and snack. It is an opportunity for the children to chat with their friends and prepare them for the SATs so they are able to do their best.

PE Department News

Last term seemed filled with tournaments and events for the PE team and we have returned to a relatively quiet time in our calendar. We are using the time during lessons to improve our skills and practise for upcoming fixtures. Year 5&6 have started playing Kwik-Cricket while Year 1&2 are focusing on their Benchball skills. We have a new set of after school clubs starting this half-term. Everyone who applied for a place in one of them should have received a letter telling them if they are in the club or on the waiting list.



University of Reading Healthier Lives Study

The University of Reading has teamed up with Netmums to develop two online programmes to help parents and kids get more healthy and active. One is focused on kids' wellbeing and the other on healthy eating. Now we are looking for parents to help us see if they work. Not only will you get free access to a three-week course – packed with tips and ideas – you will also be entered into a prize draw to win one of two £250 prizes.

What happens if I sign up to test the programme?

Anyone can take part, as long as you have a child between the ages of 1 and 16 years old living with you some of the time.

If you sign up, you will be allocated one of the two programmes. After that, you will...

1. Complete an online questionnaire, which takes about 15 minutes to fill in
2. Receive nine emails over three weeks. These are packed with tips for healthy living
3. Be asked to complete another questionnaire
4. Finally, you'll be asked to complete one or more questionnaire six months later. After this, you'll be entered into a prize draw to win one of two £250 prizes

To find out more and take part, please go to <http://www.uoropen.org/LabGroups/Snuggs/>



Bikes and Scooters
 Please ensure all children walk their bikes and scooters while they are on school property. This is to avoid accidents and help keep everyone safe.

Keep it up!
 The children are all looking great in their school uniforms. However, could you please remember that only stud earrings are acceptable and we ask all children to wear sensible black shoes.



Cars on Site
 Please remember there is no parking on our school site at **any time**. Even if you are just dropping a child off, there is no space on site to do so and it creates a danger for children walking to school if there is unnecessary traffic entering the site. The two large public car parks nearby can be used by parents collecting and dropping off.



Highest Attendance in April: 4CB 99.2%



FROGS News
 We had an eggcellent Easter Egg Hunt and 165 children took part. They had clues to find, games to play and the chance to win a giant rabbit. Thankfully, the weather was very kind to us and we managed to raise a total of £260. We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who came along and supported us on Good Friday.

Our next event is the Film Night on Friday 5th May for children in Reception, Year 1 & 2 when we will be showing Trolls – 3.15pm-5.45pm in Gold Hall.



We desperately need volunteers to join the committee and help to share the tasks around. We cannot keep putting on events with the small number of volunteers that we have and ultimately we will have to start cancelling events due to lack of volunteers. This will mean no more film nights, discos, Christmas or Summer Fairs.

Our next committee meeting is Monday 8th May at 6.30pm at the school, children are welcome to come along as we know childcare is often an issue. Please come and meet us and get involved for your children. If you would like to volunteer to help at any of our events, it would be greatly appreciated! If you would like to know more about the FROGS in general, please leave your name at the office or email us at frogspta@gmail.com

May Newsletter Dates



Monday 1st May

Friday 5th May

Monday 8th - Friday 12th May

Tuesday 16th May

Thursday 25th May

Monday 29th May

Tuesday 30th May - Friday 2nd June

Friday 9th June

Tuesday 13th June

Thursday 15th June

Friday 16th June

Friday 23rd June

Wednesday 28th June

Thursday 29th June

Thursday 6th July

Friday 7th July

Thursday 13th July

Friday 21st July

May Day Bank Holiday

FROGS Film Night – Reception, Year 1 & 2 – 3.15pm-5.45pm

YEAR 6 SATS - ALL WEEK

Year 1 Stay and Learn – 9.00am-10.00am

FROGS Summer Disco – Reception, Year 1 & 2 from 4.30pm-5.30pm,

Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 from 6.00pm-7.30pm

Spring Bank Holiday

HALF TERM

Year 6 to Easthampstead Park School for music transition

Year 5 & 6 Outdoor Athletics Tournaments

Year 2 Stay and Learn – 9.00am-10.00am

Early Years Family Fun Day (Reception and Nursery) – more information to follow

Year 3 Exhibition on Bracknell – 2.00pm-6.00pm

Year 6 Show at Easthampstead Park School with children from Wooden Hill and Jennetts Park – 4.30pm-6.00pm – more information to follow

Year 3 Trip to Bosham near Chichester

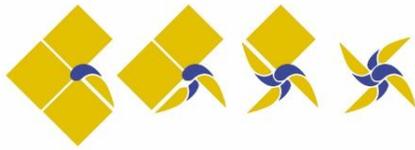
Year 1 Mini Gallery – Under the Sea 2.00pm

Year 2 Mini Gallery – Under the Sea 2.00pm

Year 3 DT Exhibition – 2.00pm-6.00pm

End of Summer Term - school finishes at 2.15pm

Please note that because of the building works in school, we are not able to plan some school events as far in advance as we would like. We will continue to keep you updated and give you as much notice about upcoming events as possible.



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Feedback Form

Please let us know your thoughts on school life... You can tell us anything, for example:

Well done, I really like...

Please pass on my thanks to...

My child says it is really good when...

I would like more information on...

Can I have some help with...

I am unhappy about...

Please try to improve by...

I can help in the school with...



My child is in Year _____

Name: _____ (optional)