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Could I please ask that, if you are planning to have your child's ears pierced, that this is arranged at the beginning of the school holidays. As you know, the children have to keep their earrings in for a number of weeks when new and, as they are not allowed to complete any Games or Physical Education lessons wearing them (even if covered with a plaster) it can cause problems during lessons for many weeks. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

A MASSIVE THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who has come along to support the children over the past month or so during the run up to the end of term. It has been wonderful to see the hall packed for Year Group assemblies, our Spring Fayre and, more recently, our Key Stage 2 production. Similarly, the children really appreciated the hundreds of you who came along to cheer them on for our 3 Sports Days. Your support is very much appreciated by all of us.

Advanced Dates for the Diary

Please see our school web site for full, up to date details!

August

Tuesday, 1st Gladstone finally becomes an academy. YEAH!
Monday, 14th Schoolmoney (cashless system) goes live

September

Tuesday, 12th Year 4 to the National Space Centre
Friday, 22nd Musicians to the Penkull Music Festival
Wednesday, 27th Year 6 to Gladstone Pottery Museum
Friday, 29th Year 6 to Gladstone Pottery Museum

October

Tuesday, 3rd The Societas Trust Games at Northwood Stadium
Friday, 20th School closes for the Half term break
Monday, 30th School re-opens after Half term
w/b Monday 30th Year 6 pupils go to Standon Bowers Centre

School closes for pupils on Friday, 21st July.

We reopen for pupils on Wednesday, 6th September.

Good luck to all of our Year 6 pupils and any other pupils / staff who have left us this term when they start their new school!

GLADSTONE PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER JULY 2017



Dear Parents / Carers,

It is with great pleasure that I am able to end the school year by sharing the good news that Gladstone has, once again, been awarded a national award 'The Marjorie Boxall Quality Mark Award' for its nurture provision. The awards website notes that *'The award recognises the work of nurture groups that have been running for two years or longer, and excellence in nurture. The Quality Mark is a real honour for the schools that have won it, reflecting not only the hard work of the pupils, but also the dedication of the staff.'*

Over the last 12 months Mrs Clowes, our Nurture Teacher and her team have undergone a challenging assessment process, which culminated last Thursday with a day long assessment from an external assessor. We are thrilled to achieve this award, as Nurture is very much at the heart of what we are all 'about' at Gladstone. In fact, the assessor suggested that we should now aim for the Whole School Nurture Award, a new award that no other school in the City is yet to achieve, as we were already well on the way to achieving that standard too.

My thanks go to all staff who work with our Nurture provision, The Den, and to those staff and supportive parents who work with the other 15 nurture groups across the school.

It is good to end the school year on a good note and, as we noted in our Key Stage 2 production last week, we hope that you all have a great, sunny and safe Summer holiday.

Best wishes,

Elaine Preston

The nurture
group network 
helping children and young people to succeed

>>>> CLASS CHANGES FOR SEPTEMBER >>>>

I am aware that several of you have some concerns about how we have organised / made changes to our classes for the coming academic year. I want to take this opportunity to let you know that any changes to the class organisations have been made for valid educational reasons. Along with the overwhelming majority of two-form entry schools in this city, and indeed nationally, using staff professional knowledge and expertise to 'mix' classes for a new school year is common practice. This year, unusually, it had become apparent that, for one reason or another, most cohorts needed some reorganisation - hence the changes.

The priority for children when they come to Gladstone Primary Academy is to give them the best chance to reach their learning potential. Whilst we completely agree that forging friendship groups is also important, when we make very carefully considered decisions about which class your child will be in for the following year we primarily look at where your child will have the chance to maximise their learning opportunities. Class teachers have spent a great deal of time discussing **every** pupil involved and I want to assure you that they will do everything possible to help your child to succeed during this transition period and into next year. In real terms your child is still with half the class they were with last year and will have lots of chances to socialise with both new friends in their new classes and old friends from their previous classes at break times, lunchtimes and the many other joint activities that our school provides. I am sure that they will all settle in to their new classes well in September.

A number of you have asked if we could have consulted with parents before any class moves, but as you can imagine any educational decisions need to be ours to make and it would not have been appropriate, or indeed manageable, to seek the approval of the parents of nearly 500 children regarding the 'make up' of new classes.

In the past we have normally sent our class changes with the reports. On this occasion, as the transition day was before the date for reports to go out, we thought that we would send out letters first. Sadly, this seems to have caused upset this time and I can assure you that for future class changes we will ensure that the letters arrive with the reports and after more discussion with the children.



We are an Academy at Last ... well almost!

You will be as pleased as we are to know that representatives of all relevant agencies and departments have now met; all paperwork has been signed and as of the **1st of August we will finally become an official academy!** As you know, we have been given numerous dates over the last 3 years - hence the

fact that we rebranded the signs and uniform last year .

In real terms you should not notice any difference regarding the way that the school operates on a day to day basis as all staff and governors will remain the same. Staff and children will continue to work closely with other schools in the Societas Trust : Ash Green Primary, Ellison Primary Academy, Goldenhill Primary Academy, Summerbank Primary and Sutherland Academy.

The C.E.O. of the Trust is Mr Jon Lovatt, a former governor at Gladstone for over 20 years, and Mrs Mary Hughes will be our Education Director. The Trust website is: www.societatrust.org.uk

GLADSTONE AWARDED THE SCHOOL GAMES GOLD AWARD AGAIN!

We are thrilled that we have been awarded the Sainsbury's School Games Gold Award for the second year in a row. The award scheme rewards schools for the quality of their school sport provision during an academic year and we are pleased that we have once again hit this standard - having been one of only 5 schools to be awarded gold in the City last year. Thanks go to all of the staff who give of their time so freely to train our talented children.



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