

BEHAVIOUR ON THE SCHOOL PREMISES

Our school grounds should be a place where children, parents and staff all feel safe and where good behaviour is modelled by everyone. Over recent weeks we have had a number of parents contact us regarding the behaviour of a very small minority of parents who continue to behave in an aggressive way towards one another, or use bad language in the school grounds. PLEASE NOTE that behaviour of this kind with NOT be tolerated and, if necessary, the Police will be informed and Governors WILL take the unusual step of banning those parents involved from the school grounds with immediate effect. Thank you for your understanding and in anticipation of your support with this matter.

Advanced Dates for the Diary

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

October

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| 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 |
| Tuesday, 31st | 3GA to Bearstone Farm |
| Tuesday, 31st | Year 4 Space Day |

November

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| Wednesday, 1st | Road Safety Officer in to see Nursery / Reception |
| w/c Monday, 6th | Nursery / Reception Nursery Rhyme Day |
| Monday, 6th | School Photographs Day |
| Tuesday, 7th | School Photographs Day |
| w/b Monday 6th | Parental Consultations begin |
| Wednesday, 8th | Parents' Evening |
| Thursday, 9th | Year 5 to Hanley Museum |
| Thursday, 9th | Year 1 to Stafford Castle |
| Thursday, 16th | Award Ceremony for the Boxall Nurture Award |
| Wednesday, 22nd | Year 3 Roman Day and Banquet |
| Tuesday, 28th | 3GA to Bearstone Farm |
| Wednesday, 29th | 3IR to Bearstone Farm |

December

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| 5th,6th and 7th | Nursery, Reception and Key Stage 1 Nativity 9.30 |
| Friday, 13th | Christmas Dinner Day |
| w/c 11th | Christmas Parties Week |
| Monday, 11th | Nursery to Amerton Farm to see Santa |
| Friday, 15th | Nursery, Reception Christingles in school |
| Monday, 18th | 9.45 a.m. Key Stage 1 Christingles at the church |
| Monday, 18th | 2 p.m. Key Stage 2 Christingles at the church |
| Tuesday, 19th | Christmas Jumper Day |
| Tuesday, 19th | School closes for the Christmas Break |

GLADSTONE PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2017



Dear Parents / Carers,

This year you will find that we are having a special focus on reading across the school. As part of this review I have had the pleasure of checking all of the Home/ School Diaries once more and I have to say a massive thank you once again to the 93% of you who read at least 5 times a week with your child at home — many of you often reading 7 times a week.

Recent checks have shown that, though many of the children are working so hard with their reading, many are still finding it difficult to understand the difficult words and the 'hidden messages' in a story. As a result, when faced with challenging questions about their books the children are unable to give accurate answers. To help with this we will be issuing all children with an age appropriate book mark. The new bookmarks have lots of tips on them which will help parents and carers to know the types of questions to ask the children when reading at home. This will help to make sure that the children really have understood what they have read. Staff in school and reading volunteers will also be making use of these bookmarks, so please keep them safe inside your child's book.

On a similar note, at the moment the children in Key Stage 1 and 2 have guided reading sessions for half an hour a day and are heard to read in a group each week. Many also read to an adult at least twice a week. This is going to change and you will find that your children will be heard read at least 3 times a week. Staff will also be recording all reading in school in their home / school diaries to ensure that you are kept fully informed. They may also note of the types of questions that they need to focus on at home and school and words that the children are finding difficult if it is appropriate.

I hope that, with these changes, we can all work together to develop a real love of reading for our children. Thank you for your on-going support.

Elaine Preston



>>> KEEPING YOUR CHILDREN SAFE ON LINE >>>

We are becoming increasingly alarmed by the number of children who tell us that they post quite regularly on sites such as Youtube and Facebook, sometimes giving their names, school name and names for their friends. As you can imagine, giving out this information can be extremely dangerous and the consequences of these actions can be catastrophic if not monitored very closely by parents / carers. It is often the case that children are often quite naïve and do not understand that other members of sites they 'chat' with are not necessarily who they say they are. Hence the age restrictions on many sites. Last term our whole staff and governors received E-Safety training and as professionals we found it quite shocking and thought provoking. We are planning to open this up to parents and carers. I would urge all of you to make use of this opportunity to come along and learn about the ways that you can keep your child safe on line. We need your support to reinforce the lessons we lead about E-Safety in school at home.

In the meantime we have enclosed a brochure for parents of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils called 'Digital Parenting' which gives out invaluable information for parents about the ways that they can keep their children safe.



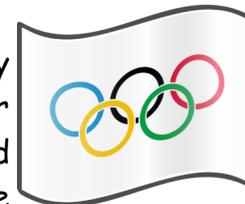
HARVEST APPEAL : SAVING LIVES

We are really excited to have been chosen to take part in the 'Kids Saves Lives Campaign' where our Key Stage 2 children will all learn about hands on CPR. This will contribute to the World Record attempt of training as many children as possible on the same day. This also links with our chosen fundraising opportunity for this year which is to raise as much money as possible to purchase a

defibrillator which will be kept in school. Classes are organising their own fundraising activities this week. to help raise as much money as possible. Thank you to the volunteers from the hospital and the First Responders who gave up their valuable time to support us with this project.

SOCIETAS OLYMPICS

Well done to all of those children in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 who took part in our second Societas Olympics at Northwood Stadium at the beginning of October. You are all a credit to Gladstone, behaving and performing remarkably well despite the cool October weather.



CLAY SCHOOL PROJECT

As a very proud 'Potter' I am pleased to tell you that Gladstone will be supporting the Clay School Project. The CLAY School project has been launched in Stoke-on-Trent, aiming to bring clay back into the classroom and creativity onto the curriculum.

The CLAY School, which was launched by the British Ceramics Biennial at the World of Wedgwood, has an ambition to get every school child in Stoke-on-Trent to engage with clay by 2021 - the year when the city hopes to be U.K. City of Culture. It is designed to support and connect all elements of the curriculum using ceramics, showing young people how the arts relate to industry and can lead to employment opportunities that go beyond the creative industries.

ROCK STAR MATHS <https://ttrackstars.com/>

As mentioned in my last newsletter, we no longer use the on line MyMaths on-line program. We have now replaced this with a tried and tested fun program called Times Tables Rock Stars. This is a carefully sequenced programme of daily times table practice and each week concentrates on a different times table, with a recommended consolidation week for rehearsing the tables that have recently been practiced every third week or so.



This format has very successfully boosted times tables recall speed for hundreds of thousands of pupils over the last 7 years in over 4500 schools - both primary and secondary. The children use the same log on details as we use for Accelerated Reading and we are finding that they are already finding it very motivational ! Log on to the link above and check it out with your child.

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