

## DATES FOR TESTS

Pupils' attendance is vitally important and the Government is now classing ANY child with attendance below 90% as a Persistent Absentee. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you all that we do not authorise any holidays in school time, other than in an exceptional circumstances. At the moment we are updating our Attendance Policy and all parents / carers will receive a copy once it has been ratified by the Governing Body.

## Dates for the Diary

### February

12th School closes for Half Term  
22nd School re-opens after the Half Term break  
w/b 29th: Mock SATS Week for Year 6

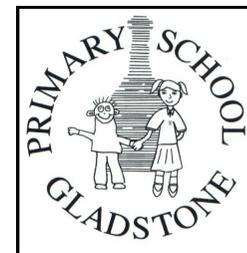
### March

4th March: 9.45am Mother's Day Service at St Mary and St Chad's for Nursery and Reception. (Provisional date)  
1.45pm Mother's Day Service at St Mary and St Chad's for Key Stage 1. (Provisional date).  
w/b 7th: Year 6 Parent Consultations  
8th March: 'I can Animate' Family Learning Key Stage 1 —please contact Miss Corbett for details  
w/b 14th: National Science Week  
w/b 14th: Parent Consultations during the school day  
16th March: Parents' Evening from 3.30pm to 7pm  
22nd March: Year 4 to R.A.F. Cosford as part of their W.W.2 Topic  
23rd March: Year 3 Feargal Fly Day  
24th March: Key Strings in to perform for Key Stage 1 and 2. No charge  
24th March: Non—Uniform Day



School closes for Easter on Thursday,  
24th March and re-opens for the  
Summer Term on Monday, April 11th.

# GLADSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2016



Dear Parents / Carers,

First of all I have to inform you that sadly one of our teachers, Mrs Margaret Lovatt, has decided to retire. As many of you know Mrs Lovatt has worked at Gladstone for a number of years, teaching in Year 1 and Reception. Similarly, Miss Kate Lockett, one of our Reception Early Years Practitioners left us at the end of January. I am sure that you will join us in wishing both Mrs Lovatt and Miss Lockett all the very best for the future.

As you now know, Gladstone is due to become an academy towards the beginning of April. This is an exciting time for the school and I plan to keep you up to date with developments in each newsletter. If you have any questions or concerns please get in touch as we are finding that there are some inaccurate rumours spreading at the moment regarding the school's future and do not want parents worrying unnecessarily. Our e-mail address is [office@gladstoneprimary.org.uk](mailto:office@gladstoneprimary.org.uk).

Finally, I thought I would mention that, as promised, we have now reviewed our Homework Policy and a leaflet will be coming out to all of you in the coming week. Please check the bottom of those bags if it does not appear and if there are any problems at all with the homework set please do not be afraid to talk to your child's class teacher.

Best wishes for a good Half Term break,

*Elaine Preston*



## Healthy Eating

We continue to monitor what the children eat during the school day and Mrs Annese and I were able to give out a lot of stickers to the children who had eaten all of their dinner last week (including all of their fruit and vegetables) or those children who had

fruit / vegetables in their packed lunch. If your child comes home with a 'I ate all of my dinner', 'I cleaned my plate' or any other sticker referring to healthy eating please put these on your child's diary as we count them up at the end of each term, with the child with the most receiving a prize. Well done to one of our Nursery children who won last term's prize!

## Annual Copper Trail

The annual Copper Trail has now started ! We are asking the children to bring in any spare 1p and 2p coins they have and at the end of the Easter Term the class that has managed to raise the most money per child will win a visit to the Play Barn or Dimensions Pool in Burslem.



## YOUR NEW PARENT GOVERNOR

As you know we had a vacancy for a new Parent Governor. As we received a nomination form for just one parent there has been no need for a vote and I can now inform you that your new Parent Representative on the school's Governing Body is Mr Bowen. Mr Bowen will join us having had experience in Key Stage 3, serving on the Governing Body of a local High School. He has 2 children in Year 3 and one in our Nursery and will join us for his first meeting when the Governors meet on the 10th of March. Thanks go to him for volunteering for what is an incredibly important role.

## NON UNIFORM DAY

Our Non Uniform Day on Friday is in aid of the charity SENSE which support blind and deaf adults and children. This charity was chosen by the School Council. Any donations will be gratefully received.

## WORTHY WINNERS

A massive "WELL DONE!" to our Year 5 / 6 Football Team who won their latest tournament at Port Vale F.C. last week. According to their Manager, Mr Glen Rammell, it was a nail biting tournament, played in true British style - i.e. the boys beat Ash Green in the semi finals and St Nathaniel's in the final on penalties. The boys were understandably thrilled with their victory and came back to us rather excited, showing off their trophies with great pride. According to Mr Rammell it was a great team performance and the boys are now looking forward to representing Port Vale at Coventry in March. As a Port Vale supporter I have to say that it makes me smile to think that the boys, who are mostly Stoke City Fans, are more than happy to represent their City in a black, white and gold kit. :-)

## ACADEMY NEWS

You will be pleased to note that The Societas Trust has now been registered as an official company and we are now in the final stages of our move to becoming an academy alongside Ash Green Primary, Trentham; Sutherland Academy, Blurton; Ellison Primary, Wolstanton; and Goldenhill and Summerbank Primaries - both in Tunstall.

To date parents have contacted me to check on our Nursery provision and I can confirm that there are no plans to reduce our Nursery from full time provision as it is at the moment. Similarly, there will be NO change to the school name, other than replacing 'school' with 'academy' - we will become Gladstone Primary Academy.

I would also like to reassure you that we are not planning to make any major changes to the school uniform. Governors have agreed to keep the purple sweatshirts, polo shirts and dresses, but we will be holding a competition for the children to design a new school badge. This means that any changes to the uniform can be introduced gradually as you buy new uniform, rather than you all having to pay out for new uniform half way through the school year.

On a similar note, there will be no changes to staff at all and Gladstone will continue to retain its own Governing Body as at present.

Finally, please remember to get in touch if you have any questions or hear anything that causes you concern.

