

DATES FOR TESTS & HOLIDAYS

Pupils' attendance is vitally important and the Government classes 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 circumstance.

Please remember that our Year 2 and Year 6 children will be completing SATS tests in the Summer Term, so it is vitally important that you **do not book a holiday during May and June** as they are not able to take the tests at another time. **Even after SATS week in May Year 6 children will still be completing writing tasks which go towards their final grades.** Year 1 children will complete their Phonics Check w/b 11th June.

Dates for the Diary

March

2nd March	Reception to Longton Library
7th March	9 a.m. PACT Meeting in the Community Room
9th March	Nursery / Reception Mother's Day Service at St Mary's and St Chad's Church at 9.45am
9th March	Key Stage 1 Mother's Day Service at St Mary's and St Chad's Church at 2 pm
13th March	Societas Trust Shakespeare Festival at the New Victoria Theatre
14th March	5RE to Little Moreton Hall
14th March	9.15 a.m. Year 1 Year Group Assembly
16th March	5HA to Little Moreton Hall
w/b 19th	Parent Consultations begin
21st March	Parents' Evening
27th March	Year 3 Police Day
29th March	NON UNIFORM DAY
29th March	Easter Bonnett competition for Nursery, Reception and Key Stage 1
29th March	Easter Egg competition for Key Stage 2



School closes for Easter on Thursday, 29th March and re-opens for the Summer Term on Monday, April 16th.

GLADSTONE PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2018



Dear Parents / Carers,

As you are all aware it is vitally important that we continue to remind the children of the ways that they can stay safe when using the internet. As you know, in school we have a special 'fire wall' that prevents any unwanted sites being used and all classes display our E-Safety Rules.

Sadly, over the past few months we have discovered that an increasing number of our children seem to be posting clips of themselves on sites such as Youtube. Worryingly, the children are sometimes wearing their school uniform and sharing their own names and those of their friends. In school we are stressing continually — as do our local PCSOs - that the children should not really be using these sites as many of them have an age limit of 13. If they do then however they **must**:

- Make sure that parents / carers know what they are doing
- NEVER use their names as channel names or share their names - keeping personal information safe
- NEVER wear their school uniforms, particularly with the badge on show, as this can help people to locate them

This week all classes have been talking to the children about keeping safe using resources available on <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/> and <https://www.bbc.com/education>.

Please help us to keep our children safe by reinforcing at home the messages we are giving in school. Thank you in anticipation of your support in this matter.

Elaine Preston

STAFFING CHANGES

As many of you know one of Early Years Practitioners, Miss Dionne Dyas has been on maternity leave since last June. You will be pleased to know that Miss Dyas will return to work in February and will join our Nurture Team in the Den. Mrs Kirsty Heath will now continue to work in RDL for the rest of the year to ensure that there is continuity for the children.



SHAKESPEARE

TIME FOR SHAKESPEARE

Towards the end of term some of our children will be involved in a special Societas Trust event called 'The Societas Trust Shakespeare festival'. The children have been working hard for a number of weeks and will be performing a section of the play 'Hamlet' alongside other children from the other Societas academies at the New Victoria Theatre in Newcastle. This promises to be a very special occasion and it will be wonderful to see the children perform.

CLAY SCHOOLS

Coming soon - The Clay Foundation will be working with our Year 4 children on a special project 'The British Ceramic Clay Schools Project' to celebrate the history of our City.

NEW PARENT GOVERNOR

We now have a vacancy for a Parent Governor. Governors met recently and have drawn up a job description for the post and a list of skills that the Governing Board would like any new governor to bring to the Board. The rules relating to the appointment of a parent governor have changed slightly over the last few years and governors are now appointed based on the skills they can bring to our Board.

If you wish to become our new parent representative please make sure that you read carefully all of the information that will be provided. A text will be sent out shortly to let you know that the information is available and where it can be found on the website.

Thank you

Mrs Christine Bartley, Chair of Governors

READING



Over the last term and a half we have been evaluating the way that we teach reading across the school and, as a result, have made a number of changes, particularly in Key Stage 2.

We have introduced a specific 'Reading Time' each day from 12 o'clock until 12.30pm when all classes from Years 3—6 work specifically on a given text, looking at new words used and the different types of questions that they may be asked. During these sessions the teacher will be more able to target specific reading skills and it will mean that all of the children are exposed to more challenging texts.

We have also reviewed the way that we are using the Accelerated Reading Program. Originally, this program was purchased to check that the children understood the books they had read, with the children quizzing on-line when they had read their book. As a result, in order for the children to get as much benefit from the program as possible they need to quiz more frequently — at least once a week. This means that we have made some changes to the texts used in some Year Groups as part of the Accelerated Reading scheme. E.g. we found that children were reading some books that were taking a long time to read and therefore, they were unable to quiz frequently. As a result staff have been asked to ask these children to choose shorter books at their own level.

We will be reviewing this new approach towards the end of this term when things have settled more and I will be asking for parents to give some feedback at Parent Consultations in March. Your views will be very much appreciated.

We have also been reviewing the prizes we give to the children when they have read a number of books. In the past we have given certificates, but having asked the School Council it appears that the children would prefer something more special as a treat! E.g. they would like a special table (with table service from staff) at lunchtimes. Once these arrangements have been finalised with the children we will let you know the new arrangements!

Finally, I would like to apologise if these changes have caused any confusion and I will ensure that you are all kept up to date with any developments in future newsletters.

