



**Gladstone Primary
Academy**

Spring Newsletter

April 2017

New Leaders

I am pleased to say that we have recruited two highly capable senior leaders for Gladstone Primary Academy. They will be Assistant Heads of School. One will lead the Bourges Boulevard site and the other the Gladstone Street site. The new leaders will be in post at the start of the summer term.

Mrs Jawaid will be the Assistant Head of School for the Bourges Boulevard site and is an experienced leader who has taught across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire. She is currently the Raising Standards Leader at Thomas Deacon Academy Junior. I have had the pleasure of working with Mrs Jawaid before and I know she has the skills and commitment to continue the rapid improvements at Gladstone. Mrs Jawaid has been working closely with the Year 6 team over the last few months to ensure that our Year 6 children are ready for the end of Key Stage 2 tests in May.



"It gives me great pleasure to introduce myself as one of the new Assistant Heads of School from April 2017. I feel very privileged to have been appointed and look forward to taking up my role. I have been teaching for over 14 years across Cambridgeshire and have been part of TDET since September 2016. I am looking forward to working with the whole community in developing Gladstone Primary Academy as a happy and successful school. I believe that Gladstone has many great strengths and the relationship we have between parents, staff and pupils is crucial to the success of the school. By working together we can ensure that children enjoy their time here, make good progress and leave us with the necessary skills and attitudes to be successful in the future. Please do come up and introduce yourselves - I look forward to meeting you in the coming months." Mrs Jawaid.

Mrs Ludman will be the Assistant Head of School for Gladstone Street. She has been a senior leader at Hampton Vale Primary and has been seconded at Gladstone Primary Academy as learning and teaching leader since November last year. She knows the Academy well and has already had a significant impact on improving the quality of teaching. She will be able to continue this in her permanent role and am really pleased she has chosen to join the Academy and the Trust.

"I am currently seconded to Gladstone Primary Academy from a local primary school. I have been leading on learning and teaching at Gladstone since November 2016 and have been

teaching for nearly 14 years now. I was inspired to become a teacher after growing up with my mum, who is also a teacher. I wanted to help and guide pupils to be the best that they can be. I have taught in Bedfordshire and Suffolk and I have taught in Peterborough for the last 6 years. I am committed to constantly finding ways to improve education; in the schools I work in, but also as part of a wider team across Peterborough. I am very much looking forward to becoming an official part of the Gladstone Primary Academy team of people who are dedicated to enabling the children here to thrive. I am very keen that we work in partnership with families to make sure the children are able to realise and meet their potential as learners.” Mrs Ludman.



I will remain as head teacher and Mr Paul Fountain will move to an Assistant Head role in charge of Pastoral and Wellbeing. This is a very strong leadership team who I believe will be able to continue the improvements at Gladstone on its journey to becoming an outstanding school.

This is now the leadership structure for the Academy:

Simon Martin
Head teacher

Amy Ludmann
Assistant Head of School (GSS)
Learning and Teaching Lead

Ifrat Jawaid
Assistant Head of School (BBS)
Assessment and Data Lead

Paul Fountain
Assistant Head
Pastoral and Well-being Lead

Reception Leader, Laura Wales
Year 1 Leader, Helen Turner
Year 2 Leader, Allister Thomas

Year 3 Leader, Vacancy
Year 4 Leader, Alex Oldaker
Year 5 Leader, Kevin Dobbs
Year 6 Leader, Libby Porter

We have also appointed the final year group leader role and they will join the school in September.

New staff

I am also pleased to welcome Mr Tim Pearson, who will be full time member of Gladstone staff having worked at Gladstone through a supply agency for a number of months.

We also welcome Mr Harding, all the way from Australia! He will be working across Year 4 and 5 over the summer term before taking a class full time in September.

Welcome to Mrs Daniels, our new admin officer, who is currently working on attendance and admissions.

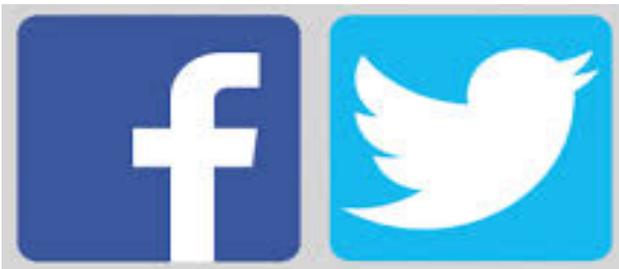
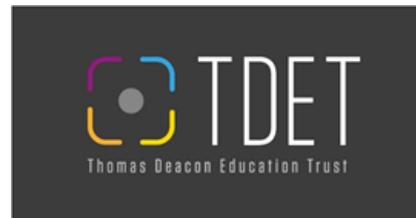
RSC Visit

Gladstone Primary Academy had a visit from Mike Phipps, (Her Majesty's Inspector) on behalf of the Regional School Commissioner last week. The Regional School Commissioner is responsible for monitoring and supporting academies. In the feedback Mr Phipps identified that Gladstone is improving rapidly; there is strong new leadership, who know the academy well and have taken decisive action. The academy has clear priorities for further improvements and any weaknesses in teaching are being robustly addressed.

We will receive a letter early in the new term and I look forward to sharing this with you.

Thomas Deacon Education Trust

The high quality of support the Academy receives from the Trust was recognised in the visit from the RSC. The Trust has undergone a slight name change from Thomas Deacon Academy Education Trust, to Thomas Deacon Education Trust. You may have seen that The Voyager Academy has also joined the Trust, along with TDA and there are other primary and secondary schools due to join in the coming months. I know that Gladstone benefits greatly from the business and education services the Trust offers, as well as Gladstone contributing to the network of schools in the trust.



Social Media

Not only do we have a great new website (www.gpa.education), but we are now on Twitter and Facebook. Our Twitter account and Facebook page will keep you up to date with events at Gladstone. Please follow us:

Twitter - @gpapeterborough

Facebook - Gladstone Primary Academy

Parents Evenings

Thank you to everyone who attended parents evenings last week. These are really important opportunities to share your child's progress and discuss how we can work together to ensure the best possible outcomes for your child. If you have not been able to meet your child's class teacher then please make an appointment with them early in the summer term. Teachers' email addresses can be found on the Academy website (www.gpa.education) under 'Information' and then 'Staff'.

Trips, Visits and Events

It has been a busy term and there have been lots of visits and events, including:



Year 2 Visited Religious Buildings locally....and.... went to town on a bus to look at bridges

- Year 5 Health & Wellbeing visit to Jack Hunt School
- Iqra Academy visit to Gladstone, with girls football practice and reading buddy training
- Red Nose Day activities were great fun
- Visitors from Great Northern / Thames Link to talk to the children about rail safety
- Year 1 went on a local walk discovering green spaces

Attendance

Well done to class 4L who won this term's class attendance awards with **96.76%** !

However, I am disappointed to say that our whole school attendance figure for this year is currently 94.79%, which is below the national average We will be introducing class Attendance Stars for each class whose attendance is over 95% each week in our achievement assemblies each Friday. Keep an eye out for these awards on your child's classroom door. Here are the attendance figures for each class so far this year:

R4	95.25%	3S	94.97%
RN	94.60%	3T	96.29%
RS	92.13%	3W	96.11%
RW	90.60%	4L	96.76%
1G	92.19%	4O	95.59%
1O	94.65%	4W	95.99%
1R	91.52%	5C	95.00%
2N	94.91%	5G	96.26%
2P	94.95%	5R	95.57%
2T	94.81%	6D	95.95%
2W	92.35%	6P	95.62%

Please ensure your child is in school, and on time, unless they are unwell. If your child is unwell please contact our office before 9am in the morning.

Topics for Next Half Term

Each half term your child's learning is carefully planned around a thematic topic. Here are the topics for next half term:

- Reception - 'Super-healthy' and 'Super-helpful'
- Year 1 - 'Memory Box' and 'Paws, Claws & Whiskers'
- Year 2 - 'Land Ahoy!' and 'Wriggle and Crawl'
- Year 3 - 'Mighty Metals' and 'Tremors'
- Year 4 - 'The Blue Abyss' and 'Playlist'
- Year 5 - 'Time Traveller' and 'Beast Creator'
- Year 6 - 'Darwin's Delights' and 'Hola! Mexico'



More detail about each topic can be found on our website in the welcome to each year group pages under the Learning tab.

Year 4 Are Off to Finborough!

35 children from Year 4 are off to Finborough Activity Centre in Suffolk, with 35 Year 4 children from TDA, from 8th to 10th May 2017. This is an excellent opportunity for the children to try new activities, overcome new challenges, work together and, this year, build friendships between the two schools. Keep up to date with how they are getting on and see the photos on our Twitter and Facebook pages.

Red Nose Day - How Much We Raised and Some Nice Pictures!

Thank you for supporting comic relief at Gladstone Primary Academy. Everyone had a great time and we raised a fantastic **£587.12**. Thank you to all the teachers who spent time in the stocks. Here are some of the photos from the day...



Rail Safety

All the children have taken part in assemblies this week lead by Great Northern & Thames Link to learn how to be safe on the railway. The children have received a pack and please spend time talking to your child about the rail safety rules, so they understand the dangers of railway tracks. This is really important given how close our school is to the main East Coast Railway line. Great Northern have offered every class a ride on the train and we are looking forward to doing these rail trips in the summer term.

Changes to Catering on Gladstone Street Site

We been trying to recruit a new cook for the Gladstone Street Site since the start of the year, but have been unable to find a suitable person. The rest of the catering team have done an excellent job covering the role, but this is not a long term solution. From the start of next term the hot food on GSS will be cooked at Thomas Deacon Academy and be brought across to Gladstone.

Summer Term

The Academy opens again on Tuesday 25th April 2017. Teachers are back the day before for training on our new approach to teaching phonics called 'Read Write Inc'.

Key dates for the summer term:

25th April 2017:	School opens for children
1st May 2017:	Bank Holiday Monday - school is closed
8th - 11th May 2017:	SATs week (year 6 undergo statutory testing)
29th May - 2nd June 2017:	Half Term - school is closed
12th - 16th June 2017:	Phonics Screening Check
7th July 2017:	Reports Sent Home
18th July 2017:	School Sports Day
19th July 2017:	Y6 Leavers Assembly
19th July 2017:	Y6 Prom
20th July 2017:	Whole School Assembly & Last Day of Term

Uniform

I have been really pleased to see the children in their new uniform - they all look so smart in the Gladstone Primary Academy jumpers. From the summer term children can officially wear the summer uniform. This is a blue gingham (checked) dress for girls and school shorts for boys. Children can still wear the regular black skirt or trousers if they wish. Just a reminder, shoes must be black school shoes and open toed sandals, trainers or canvas shoes are not allowed. We are now selling items of uniform, with the Academy logo, on each site. These are:

Jumpers and cardigans. - £10 each

Dispatch style book bags - £9 each

Regular book bags - £4 each

Easter Holidays / Easter School

Even though it is the Easter holidays some of the teachers will be in school with groups of Year 6 children as they prepare for the end of Key Stage 2 tests early in May. Thank you to

the teachers for their dedication in giving up their own time with their families to come in during the holidays to ensure our children get the levels they deserve in this year's tests.

School Update

Last month was the anniversary of the Ofsted inspection that put the school into special measures. Since then the school has become an academy (on 1st February), with Thomas Deacon Education Trust, and has a new head teacher. The school has made rapid improvements in behaviour, safeguarding, leadership and and in the quality of teaching.

I am pleased to say that these improvements were recognised by Ofsted in their return visit in September 2016 and by the Regional School Commissioner in their visit last month. We expect these improvements to be reflected in increased results at the end of KS2 this year.

I thank the staff for their hard work and commitment to move the school forward. However, this is only part of the journey and I believe that Gladstone Primary Academy has the potential to be an outstanding school. The Academy now has the right leadership to make this happen. It will not be easy and will need a concerted effort by all involved with the school, including parents, governors and pupils. I look forward to the summer term, and continuing to drive our progress.

Thank you to all of our families for their continued support and faith in the school. Have a good break, we will see you back on **Tuesday 25th April 2017**.



Mr Martin
Headteacher