



Gladstone Primary
Academy

Newsletter

February 2017

The school has finally become an academy with Thomas Deacon Academy Education Trust (TDAET). This means that Gladstone is no longer a local authority school. We are anew school. As academy we have more flexibility to access the support and staffing the school needs. TDAET is able to provide support with the business parts of school, so we can focus on the core business of the academy - teaching and learning.

Governors

As an academy we now have Local Governing Body, this replaces the Interim Executive Board. This is a small governing body focusing on the standards and the quality of teaching. The members are:

Rukhsar Shabir	<p>Rukhsar has three children, at various stages of their education. He has over 16 years' experience in the science and pharmaceutical industry, the majority of which have been in managerial positions. Currently, he is a project manager, requiring him to organise, manage and direct pre-clinical studies and projects for reputable clientele whilst complying with strict regulations and guidelines.</p> <p>"As Chair of the Local Governing Body, I bring an open mind, fresh ideas and a personal perspective to the success and future improvements of the school. With my experience of being in leadership roles and managing people, it could help drive through positive change and initiatives as well as process improvements. I believe this experience along with a serious professional attitude and enthusiasm will be beneficial and bring some value or meaningful difference, at least towards fulfilling the ambition for seeing Gladstone Primary as an outstanding, thriving and competing school of Peterborough."</p>
Alan Sadler	<p>Alan is the Chair of Governors at Jack Hunt. He was a member of the IEB. He is able to bring these experiences and those from a range of public sectors.</p>
John Turner	<p>John Turner is Impact & Improvement Officer at Carers Trust Cambridgeshire. He has volunteered and worked within the charity sector for over 10 years in a variety of roles, which has included involvement in an area based curriculum, supporting young carers and</p>

	their families. John is also a trustee of the Deacon's School Trust and a former student of Gladstone Primary School.
Reta Suali	Reta is an experienced governor, having before been a governor at The King's School and a member of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education.
Geoff Walls	Geoff is the Principal of Thomas Deacon Academy and has experience of the private, primary and secondary sectors of education. Geoff has also been an Ofsted inspector and brings a wealth of educational experience.
Lloyd Thompson	Lloyd jokes that he has done nearly every job available in a primary school. He is currently a primary teacher at TDA Juniors. He brings up to date knowledge and experience of the best classroom practice.

This small, experienced and highly skilled local governing body will help Gladstone to continue the rapid improvement seen over the last few months. Responsibility for aspects such as finance and personnel are covered by the TDAET Board.

You are able to contact the governors through the academy. We will be arranging for an opportunity for parents to meet the governing body over the coming months.

New Staff

I am excited to announce that we have recruited two Assistant Heads of School. These are key posts for the academy and will play a major role in improving Gladstone. Our new staff will take up their posts at the start of the summer term. I will be able to introduce them properly in the next few weeks.

School Leadership

Mr Fountain has moved into a new role, as Assistant Head for Pastoral and Well-being. This includes responsibility for safeguarding, attendance and pupil premium.

This means we have now finalised the new leadership of the school:

Simon Martin
Head teacher

New appointment
Assistant Head of School (GSS)
Learning and Teaching

New appointment
Assistant Head of School (BBS)
Assessment and Data

Paul Fountain
Assistant Head
Pastoral and Well-being

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

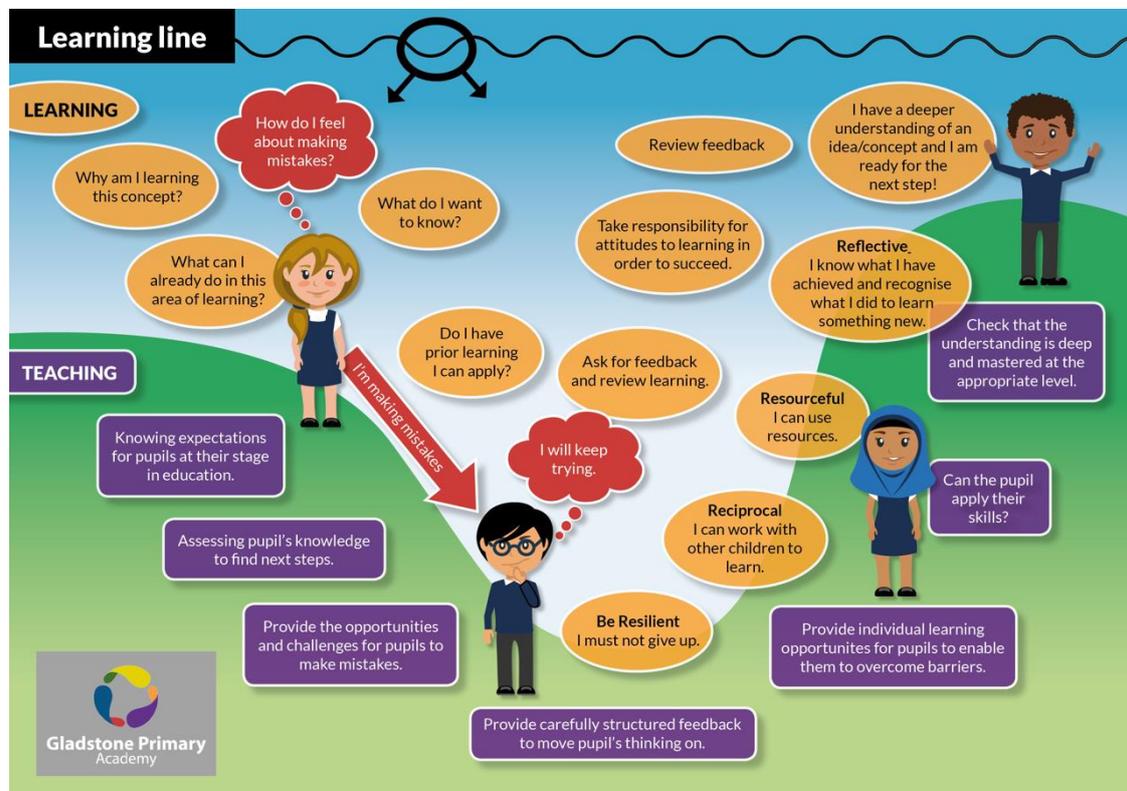
Year 3 Leader, vacancy
Year 4 Leader, Alex Oldaker
Year 5 Leader, Kevin Dobbs
Year 6 Leader, Libby Porter

What do we want for Gladstone?

We have been working with staff to decide the vision for Gladstone Primary Academy. This sets out the aims and ambition we have for the school. It will be key in setting the direction for the school and as a basis for the decisions we make.



We have also been working with staff on a new learning and teaching policy for Gladstone Primary Academy. We are using the idea of a learning line for this. Central to this is the idea that learning should not be easy. Pupils should be challenged and, in fact, need to get stuck in order to learn something new. If the work is too easy then children are not learning. We are using this language in the classroom with children and are talking about being 'in the dip,' when learning something new. We want our pupils to become resilient learners who can rise to any challenge with a 'can do' attitude. Your child will be familiar with the idea of the learning line and will be able to explain the idea to you.



Building work

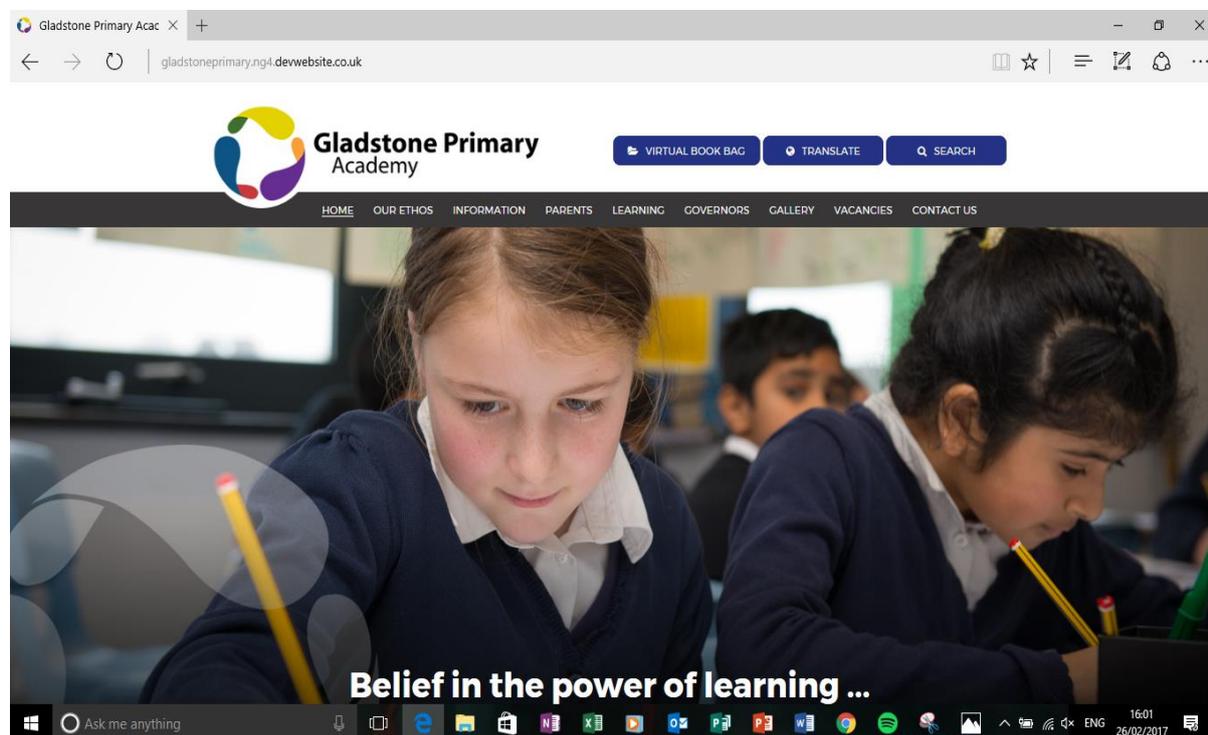
Over the half term holiday there has been some building work in school. On the Gladstone Street site there are changes to the gates to make the school safer. However, we are aware that the contractor has fitted a single gate rather than a double gate. While we are waiting for the single gate to be replaced we will be using the gate from the Games Area as an exit.

Events last half term

Over last half term our children participated in several different events and trips. Year 2 have been visiting places of worship as part of their topic. They have visited the Ghousa Mosque and St Mark's Church. Year 5 have visited Stibbington Education Centre to learn about evacuees during World War 2. They experienced what it was like to be an evacuee and it really brought their topic alive for them. All our children are taking part in multi-skills activities alongside Jack Hunt School, and they are learning to develop their physical skills and their teamwork whilst meeting peers from nearby schools.

New website

We have a new website for Gladstone Primary Academy. This will provide key information for parents/carers. The web address is www.gpa.education. We will also have a twitter feed so please look out for us and follow the school. The website will be available as an App for you to download to your own devices.



Uniform

All children were given a new jumper or cardigan with the new logo for Gladstone Primary Academy on the last day of last half term. This is part of our uniform. We are not making any major changes to the uniform this year. Please can you name your child's uniform, as every jumper looks very similar.

Girls	Boys
Navy jumper or cardigan with academy logo	Navy jumper or cardigan with academy logo
White blouse or shirt, or white polo shirt.	White shirt, or white polo shirt
Navy or black skirt, trousers or salwar kameez.	Navy or black trousers
Black or navy headscarf (optional)	

We expect all children to wear sensible, black school shoes. Black trainers or canvas shoes are not part of the uniform.

Every child will also receive a free book bag with the new GPA logo this half term.

We look forward to a productive half term.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by 'M' and a horizontal flourish.

Simon Martin
HEADTEACHER