



NEWHALL

PRIMARY ACADEMY

C/O REAch2 Academy Trust | Scientia Academy | Mona Road | Burton on Trent | Staffordshire | DE13 OUF

Tel: 01283 246433 | Email: info@reach2.org

Website: www.newhallacademy.org | Twitter: @newhallacademy

Headteacher: Mrs Debbie Gayler BA (Hons) QTS, NPQH

Newsletter 1 6th February 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you are aware, Newhall Primary Academy is opening in September 2018 and I started as the Headteacher designate at the beginning of January. I thought that it would be useful to produce a half-termly newsletter, in order to update you on the progress we are making and inform you of some of the things that are going on behind the scenes.

It has been very strange moving from being the Headteacher of a busy two-form entry school to not having any children or staff, but REAch2 have made me feel very welcome, particularly the children and staff at Pemberley Academy in central Harlow where I am currently based.

In my first couple of weeks in post, I spent some time meeting future families at the final consultation event and marketing the Academy in the lead up to the deadline for Reception admissions. I am gradually updating the website and social media. For anyone who has not yet found us online, our website can be found at: newhallacademy.org, Twitter: [@newhallacademy](https://twitter.com/newhallacademy) and Facebook: [/NewhallPrimaryAcademy](https://www.facebook.com/NewhallPrimaryAcademy).

General Update

An Education Brief and a Pre-opening School Development Plan have been completed and I am gradually working my way through this. I have attended various meetings relating to the build of the Academy and chosen internal doors (beech), wall colouring (off-white) and floor colouring (various shades of grey) and work tops/cupboards (beech). I have tried to keep everything neutral so that we can add in colour with the furnishings and displays of the children's fantastic learning. I have met with uniform suppliers and will be finalising the uniform soon. I can confirm that it will have a red, black and white theme though. I am currently exploring how we will provide catering in September and have already met with a possible supplier.

Before and After School Care

Once I have the final questionnaires back about Before and After School Care, I will analyse them and then put together a package for you to have a look at. I have already met with a couple of providers to get an idea of costings and the minimum number of children needed in order to make this viable. I will ensure that you have this information before April 16th, so

that you can make an informed decision about whether to accept a place at Newhall, because I know that some of you said during the consultation events that this was a deciding factor.

Governance

REAch2 have now appointed a Chair of Governors for Newhall and I met with him a couple of weeks ago. He will set up a transition board in the lead up to the opening of the Academy, until a Local Governing Board, including parents and staff, can be elected. A transition board has to be in place in order to approve policies and development plans before we open.

Staffing

Advertisements have been posted for key members of staff. There is currently an advert out for an EYFS Lead, who will be one of our Reception teachers, and a School Business Manager. Both of these appointments will work with me as part of the Senior Leadership Team. Several people have already expressed an interest for each position and we will be interviewing in March.

Curriculum

A lot of draft policies have now been written and will be approved at the first Transition Board meeting in May. I have met with several education suppliers who produce reading books and Maths and Science schemes. Once the EYFS Lead has been appointed, we will make some decisions on this.

Last week I met with the REAch2 ICT Team to discuss the different technologies that I would like at Newhall. I have requested a combination of Ipads and touchscreen laptops because I think it is important that the children learn to use both. There will also be Interactive Whiteboards and Visualisers in each classroom.

Finally, I would like to thank you again for applying for a place for your child at Newhall Primary Academy. Over the coming months, I will try to keep you as fully informed as possible in the lead up to the opening of the Academy. I hope that you all have a lovely February half-term and I look forward to working with you and your family in the years to come.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Gayler', with a horizontal line underneath.

Mrs Debbie Gayler