



Great Gaddesden Cof E (VA) Primary School

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Spring Newsletter: 9
2018

Monday 22st January,

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am delighted to be writing this first newsletter to you as your Headteacher of Great Gaddesden School. I would like to thank everyone for welcoming me and making me feel part of your community. My start to life as part of the Great Gaddesden school community began a few days before the children returned; on arriving at school, I was greeted by numerous birdwatchers, all with long lenses focussed on the rare hawfinches that had been spotted in the yew tree in the church yard! Our Great Gaddesden hawfinches even got a mention in the 'Hawfinches UK' twitter account !

Values: Our value for January is **Unity**. Our times of Collective Worship during this month will focus on this value. The children will consider how this Christian value can be used to support themselves and others. This morning, when considering the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, (January 18th- 25th) the children discussed ways in which their Christian values are reflected in their behaviour. I have been delighted to lead the Celebration Assemblies on a Thursday, in which pupils nominated each other for displaying good examples of living out our value of the month. So far this month, we have added Alexander Hemley-Thackery and Years 5/6 as a whole class to our 'values tree'. Well done, children.

IALAC:

Harriet Ivory and Olivia Rudd confidently introduced me to the Great Gaddesden School IALAC presentation. This is a marvellous opportunity to celebrate the unique qualities of each other. This was followed by Grace Hurrell and Rebecca Hollick last Friday.

House-Points:

Since the beginning of term Jack Green and Aaron have been awarded their special badge for achieving 30 house points. Well done, boys. What a great example to set !

The following children are to be congratulated for achieving their twenty house-points certificate:- Jack Watson, Immy Wilkinson, Hope Thackeray, Matthew Green, Harri Oliver, Fallon Makepeace, Rebecca Hollick, Samuel Carter and Ryan Williamson. An excellent start to the term !

Congratulations also goes to the following children for achieving their 10 house point certificate:- Ollie Doe, Layla Williams, Blue Kempster, Jak Bayliss, Jayden Willoughby and Jack Well done, children.

Attendance:

Last week, we were able to celebrate excellent attendance for the 2nd half of the Autumn 2017 term. Over 30 children achieved 100% attendance, which is a fantastic achievement. We are hoping for more of the same over the course of this half term!

Finer Diner Award:

This is a new award that we have introduced this term. As we are having a whole school focus on table manners, we are having a specific area of focus each week. The staff will note the children who are making a concerted effort to improve in this area and their names will go into the 'Good Manners Box'. At our Celebration Assembly, we will select 2 names of children from the box and they will receive the Finer Diner Award. This week, the children are concentrating on keeping their mouths closed whilst eating.

Dog safety:

Last Friday, Mrs Karen Tonge, a qualified dog trainer with a background in childcare, visited our school to lead workshops with all the children. These were designed to help the children to read a dog's body language and to show them how to act safely around dogs. The interactive workshops are a great way for the children to learn the serious messages of dog handling. Please encourage your children to discuss the key points of their learning from the workshop with you. All children were given a participation certificate to take home, which will serve as a reminder to them of all they learnt with Mrs Tonge.

From the oldest to our youngest !



Donut update:

With the success of Donut, our school dog, we are looking at the possibility of extending his school timetable. Hopefully, he will agree! I will give an update in the next Newsletter.

Parentpay online payment system:

Parentpay login details have been issued to all parents/carers of junior children and many of you have activated your accounts – thank you! If you have yet to activate your account, please can you do so at your earliest convenience? If you require a reminder of your login, please contact the school office. A number of parents have welcomed Parentpay as an easier and more convenient method of payment. We are hoping to roll Parentpay out for the infant children in the next week or so. If it is necessary to send money into school, the office staff would be grateful if it could be put in a sealed envelope with your child's name on along with the relevant payment slip.

Forest Schools:

I would like to remind all parents that every child needs a pair of wellies in order to participate in Forest Schools. This is a fantastic opportunity for the children to make use of our outside learning environment. If anyone has any spare wellies which are too small for your children, all donations to school would be most welcome.

Writing Week:

This curriculum area will continue to be an area of focus throughout the school. To build on the work achieved last term, Miss Ayres will be leading a writing assembly for all the children on Tuesday 19th January. We look forward to seeing some more high quality writing throughout the school this term.

Nursery Open Morning:

The deadline has now passed for Reception applications, but we are still accepting Nursery applications for the school year 2018-2019. The deadline for applying for a Nursery place for your child is **16th March, 2018**.

You are warmly invited to attend our **Nursery Open Morning on Thursday 22nd February, 9.15-10.45am**. During this time you will have a chance to take a tour of the school hosted by our students and to meet the Early Years staff. You and your child will also be very welcome to stay for a play session in our Early Years environment. Refreshments will be available. Please inform friends to whom this may be of interest as all are welcome to attend

Please contact the school office to confirm your attendance at the Nursery Open Morning/and or if you require an application form on 01442 255 734 or via email at admin@greatgaddesden.herts.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S Wickens
Headteacher



Dates for this term: Please note that all of these are new

Thursday, 25 th January:	Y2 to attend Sports Fair at Hemel Sportspace
Thursday, 1 st February:	Reception class, health screening
Sunday, 4 th February:	7:00p.m. Talk by Friends of Great Gaddesden church on 800 years of John the Baptist Church, Great Gaddesden
Wednesday 7 th February:	EYFS class assembly, 9am
Friday, 9 th February:	FOGGS Mufti Day and cake sale from 3.15pm (further information to follow)
Thursday 22 nd February:	Yr1 sports competition at Sportspace, Berkhamsted
Monday 26 th February:	Yr6 Football match against Markyate School (details to follow)
Thursday 1 st March:	World Book Day
Friday 9 th March:	Children singing in playground for Mothers Day (details to follow)

HALF TERM (w/beg 12/02/18)

Monday 19 th -Friday 23 rd Feb.	Early Years Maths Week (further details to follow)
Thursday, 22 nd February:	Open morning for prospective Nursery parents 9.15-10.45am (see newsletter for further details)
Tuesday, 27 th February:	Yr3/4 to attend BBC 10 piece Orchestra concert – Watford Colosseum
Monday 5 th March:	Uniform order deadline (reminder will be sent nearer the time)
Sunday, 11 th March:	KS2 choir to participate in Royal Albert Hall Royal Gala performance
March 12 th –16 th March:	National Science Week
Monday, 12 th March:	Super Science Day, whole school (details to follow)
Monday, 19 th March:	Abbots Hill Maths Challenge for selected Year 6 children Football match against Flamstead School (details to follow)
Tuesday 20 th March:	Parents evening (details to follow)
Wednesday 21 st March:	Parents evening (details to follow)
Friday 23 rd March:	Great Gaddesden's Got Talent! (details to follow)
Thursday, 29 th March:	9:00 a.m. Easter Service at church Great Gaddesden egg rolling and egg hunt. 1.30 p.m. term ends

Please make a note of all dates that are relevant to your child/ren.
Further details will follow nearer to each event.

Term Dates for academic year (2017/18):

SPRING TERM: Wednesday 3rd January – Friday 30th March

Children to return on Thursday 4th January and break up on Thursday 29th March

HALF-TERM: Monday 12th February – Friday 16th February

SUMMER TERM: Monday 16th April – Friday 27th July

Children to return on Tuesday 17th April and break up on Friday 20th July

HALF-TERM: Monday 28th May – Friday 1st June

A reminder of the following INSET days and Occasional Days when children will *not* be at school:

Monday 16th April – INSET DAY
Friday 15th June – INSET DAY
Monday 23rd July – Occasional Day

Tuesday 24th July - Occasional Day
Wednesday 25th July – Occasional Day
Thursday 26th July – Occasional Day
Friday 27th July – Occasional Day