



# Great Gaddesden C of E (VA) Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs S.M.Wickens

Great Gaddesden C of E Primary School  
Church Meadow,  
Great Gaddesden.  
Herts.

Email: [admin@greatgaddesden.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@greatgaddesden.herts.sch.uk)

Website: [www.greatgaddesden.herts.sch.uk](http://www.greatgaddesden.herts.sch.uk)

Tel: 01442 255734

## EYFS Curriculum Newsletter – Spring Term – January 2020

Welcome back after a hopefully relaxing and enjoyable Christmas holidays and that the children are eager to return to school for another successful term. We look forward to hearing all their news this week.

This half term, we will be continuing to reflect on our school rules:

- Be Kind (in particular - kind words and kind hands)
- Be safe.

Please see below details of the 7 different areas of learning in EYFS, for this term.

### Personal, Social and Emotional development

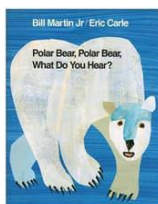
We will be developing the children's Personal, Social and Emotional skills through activities and opportunities, which focus on developing the children's turns taking skills and building their self confidence. We will support the children to negotiate and model strategies they can use to solve problems or conflicts independently.

### Communication and Language + Literacy

This term, we will continue the success of last term and will be using Talk for Writing to build upon the children's literacy and communication development. For the first half term, we will be focusing on the season of **Winter**. We will be using the stories:- 'Lost and Found' and 'Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What can you hear?' We will then move onto looking at **Castles**, which was an area of particular interest of last term.

As the term progresses, the children will become more familiar with the Talk for Writing process and we will be encouraging the children to retell the stories, using actions confidently, developing their story language. We will also be focusing on independent story mapping and the children will be encouraged to write words, captions and sentences in their 'play and learn sessions'. The children will have a wealth of opportunities to develop their reading and writing, practising their mark making and phonics.

We will continue to use high quality texts in shared reading sessions, in addition to 1:1 reading for the Reception children, to promote a love of reading. We will be modelling strategies for the children to use to help them apply the phonic knowledge.



### Physical Development

We will continue to develop the children's fine motor skills with our daily *Busy Fingers* sessions. During this time, the children have the opportunity have a go at activities such as :- use of peg boards, threading, construction toys, cutting, weaving, tweezers and continue the much loved 'Disco Dough'!

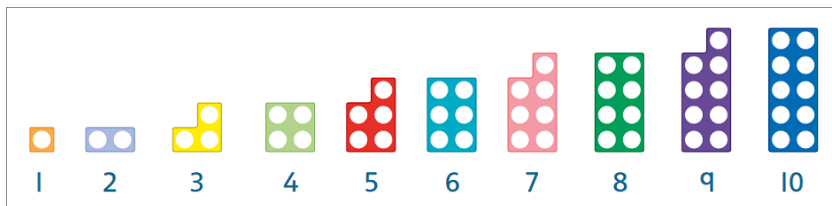
These activities will help to develop the children's pencil and scissor grip and control as well as their letter formation.

The children will have many opportunities to develop their gross motor skills during planned PE sessions and child initiated activities. These take place both inside and in the outside learning environment. Activities includes movement to different styles of music and developing ball skills, throwing, catching, kicking, patting as well as balancing, jumping and rolling.



### Maths

The children will continue to follow the Maths Mastery approach to develop their broader understanding of numbers 1- 10 this term. They will learn the number bonds using the part-part-whole strategy and the ten frame. The children will show their understanding by explaining their reasoning to others. They will have opportunities to practise their mathematical knowledge during their 'play and learn' sessions - adults will use modelling, questioning and challenges.



### Understanding the World

In this area of learning, we will be looking at ice and the similarities and differences of different polar animals and how they live. The children will also be learning about Chinese New Year and how it is celebrated. We will continue to have our Forest School sessions in the woods and the churchyard, so please ensure your child has some named wellies in school and they wear suitably warm clothes, including a waterproof coat with a hood, hat and scarf. The outdoors provide such fantastic learning opportunities looking at similarities, differences, changes over time, growth and decay to name a few. Our RE will be linked to our school monthly values. The children will look at belonging, the natural world and Hinduism.

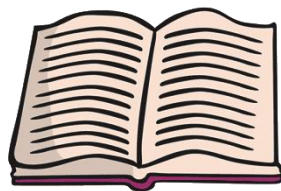


### Expressive Art and Design

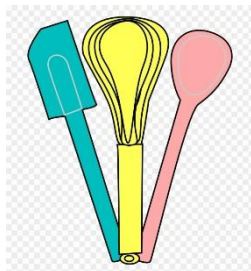
The children will continue to learn new songs and different rhymes to develop their repertoire. They will be able to experiment with different materials and learn new techniques to create imaginative art. The children will be learning new techniques to assemble and join materials together and focus on creating new textures. The children will be experience music from around the world and will be encouraged to dance and move in different ways to reflect the sounds they hear. We provide opportunities and time for the children to talk and share what they have done, encouraging others to learn from everyone's' thoughts and ideas.



We would like to launch "Secret Storyteller"! The idea is that parents, grandparents, uncles and aunties (or other special family or friends) sign up to a convenient time and are a 'surprise' story reader for EYFS. The book choice is entirely up to you - it could be a favourite story from when you were younger or your child's favourite. If you think you would like to become a 'Secret Storyteller', please sign the Secret Storyteller sheet on the notice board or have a word with Mrs Benson. Many thanks - please remember that we want the children to be surprised and excited, so shhhhhhh !



We will continue to cook regularly with the children, which the children love. The valuable learning experience that this offers the children is far and wide. We request a voluntary donation of £3 for this half term.



Reminders:-

- If your child has new items of uniform, coat, spare clothes or shoes, please remember to label each item.
- The children will all change their library books once a week on a Friday.
- We aim to hear all children read daily, so please ensure that they have their reading books in school every day. Please sign your child's reading record when you hear them read.