



Great Gaddesden C of E (Voluntary Aided) Primary School

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Autumn Newsletter: 7

Friday 17th November 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

Values: Our value for November is **Tolerance**. This week, Jack W. was nominated by Fallon and Abigail for showing this value in class and Fallon was nominated by Fenella for being tolerant outside of school at her dance class.

House-Points: Over the last two weeks, even more children have been awarded their first certificate for achieving ten house-points. Fionan, James P., Luke, Mollie, Mylo, Olivia W., Jack W., Grace D., Harrison F., Jack R., Simeon and Sonny have all earned ten house-points for their hard work and effort across the curriculum. Congratulations must also go to Eleanor, who has earned twenty house-points so far this term. Keep up the super work!

Inter-house football: The winners of the Year 3 - 6 inter-house football tournament were Oak – congratulations to all children in Oak! For Years 1 & 2 it was Ash – well done to all of those in Ash. The winners of the sportsmanship awards, chosen by our House-captains, are as follows:

Years 1 & 2: **Ash** – Lottie; **Beech** – Layla; **Oak** – Samuel; **Sycamore** – Reece
Years 3 – 6: **Ash** – Harrison O.; **Beech** – Robyn; **Oak** – Harvey; **Sycamore** – Hollie

Well done for displaying super sportsmanship! Finally, congratulations to our House-captains for leading their teams so admirably.

Forest Schools: Please could we ask parents to ensure that children keep suitable footwear (Wellington boots or old trainers) in school for Forest School sessions. FOGGS have kindly bought enough waterproof dungarees for all the children to wear over their school uniform so only a coat and suitable footwear are needed. Unfortunately, if the children don't have appropriate footwear and a coat, they will not be able to take part in the sessions. The children are all really enjoying their Forest Schools sessions and we do not want anyone to miss out.

Shoebboxes: I am delighted to share that we collected 57 boxes for the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Appeal. We know that your thoughtful gifts will make such a difference this Christmas – thank you for your generosity.

Christmas Tree Festival: Between Friday 1st December and Sunday 3rd December, the church are hosting a Christmas Tree Festival. The governing body are sponsoring a Christmas Tree,

which will be decorated by children across the school. On Friday 1st December, in the afternoon, children will have an opportunity to visit the church and see the Christmas Trees on display.

Uniform: A number of parents have been in touch with us regarding concerns about the quality of school uniform from our current supplier. In response to this feedback, we have looked at other possible options and will be in touch next week to detail the arrangements for purchasing school uniform in the future.

Clubs for Spring Term: In the next couple of weeks, we will be writing to parents to share the plans for after school clubs in the Spring Term. Please be reminded that after school clubs *this* term finish on **Friday 1st December**.

Attendance: The Governing Body recently reviewed the school's attendance policy, which can be found on the school's website. Please be aware that we will continue to celebrate 100% attendance at the end of each half-term (with a certificate) as well as at the end of the academic year (with a trophy). We request that any children who have suffered from sickness/diarrhoea do not return to school within 48-hours from their last bout.

Choir Performance: At the end of this half-term there will be a choir and drumming performance for parents/carers of children in either choir and/or Years 3 – 6 to attend. The performance will be in the school hall on Monday 4th December at 2:45pm.

Reception applications: Across the course of this term, our Year 6 children are hosting tours for prospective parents of children who will be in Nursery or Reception in 2018. If you, or someone you know, is looking for a school place for September 2018, please contact the school office. *If your child is in Nursery, you will still need to apply online for a Reception place as well as complete a supplementary information form.* If your child is in Nursery and you are yet to receive a supplementary information form, please contact the school office. For more information regarding the admissions process, please visit: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions. Please note that the deadline for on time applications is **15th January 2018**.

Parent Governor: We have had two parents nominate themselves for the role of Parent Governor. Next week, we will conduct a ballot. Please look out for the paper-work in your child's book-bag.

Office Reminders: If you need to pop into the office to see Mrs Sutherland, please be aware that she will only be available **before 12:15pm**. Mrs Sutherland is not working in the afternoons. Mrs Stevenson is in the office on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons up until 3:00pm.

A quick reminder to return reply slips and any contributions for the whole school panto trip to the school office, if you have not already done so.

Dates: Please see below for important dates for this term. Should there be any changes, we will communicate them in future newsletters as well as on our website.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs N. Comer
Headteacher



Dates for this term:

As you will see below, there is much to look forward to in the term ahead! Please make a note of all dates that are relevant to your child/ren. Any edits or additions will be in future newsletters. Please see below for term dates for this academic year.

Monday 20th November – Friday 24th November – Writing Week (see previous letters for information)

Monday 20th November – Year 5 & 6 Trip to Sky Studios (see previous letter for information)

Tuesday 28th November – Years 5 & 6 Class Assembly (Parents/Carers welcome)

Wednesday 29th November – Years 1 & 2 Class Assembly (Parents/Carers welcome)

Friday 1st December – After school clubs finish.

Friday 1st December – FOGGS Film Night/Disco (more information to follow)

NEW! **Friday 1st December – Sunday 3rd December** – Christmas Tree Festival at the church

NEW! **Monday 4th December** – Choir/Drumming Performance, 2:45pm (For Parents/Carers of children in Years 3–6 and/or choir)

Wednesday 6th December – Years 7 – 9 Afternoon Tea, 4:45pm – 6:15pm

Thursday 7th December – Nursery/Reception Nativity, 9:15am (Parents/Carers welcome)

NEW! **Friday 8th December** – Christmas Jumper Day (Please bring a donation for FOGGS' Christmas Hampers)

Monday 11th December – Science Day (more information to follow)

Wednesday 13th December – Years 3 & 4 Class Assembly (Parents/Carers welcome)

Wednesday 13th December – Years 3 – 6 carol singing in the village, 3:30pm – 5:30pm

Thursday 14th December – Herts Catering Christmas Lunch

Thursday 14th December – Carol Service, 2pm and 7pm (Years 1 – 6 required at both services)

Friday 15th December – FOGGS Family Christmas Event (more information to follow)

Monday 18th December – Whole School Trip to Panto at Watford Theatre (see additional letter for information)

Monday 18th December – FOGGS Santa Sleigh event with Berkhamsted Lions

Tuesday 19th December – Christingle Service, 9:00am

Tuesday 19th December – End of Term, 1:30pm

*Children to return to school on **Thursday 4th January 2018***

Term Dates for academic year (2017/18):

AUTUMN TERM: Wednesday 30th August – Tuesday 19th December

Children to return on Monday 4th September

HALF-TERM: Monday 23rd October – Friday 27th October

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

Please make a note of the following INSET days and Occasional Days when children will *not* be at school:

Wednesday 3rd January – INSET DAY

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