

July 2019

Great Gaddesden Church of England (VA) School

For Children Aged 3-11

As the end of the school year approaches, and the children (and teachers) look forward to a well earned break, there has been no slowdown at Great Gaddesden Primary School.

The school organised an Eco week, including a visit from an Environmental Officer who came to talk to the children. They have since been picking up litter and prepared and shared a sustainable meal, as a whole school. A delicious pea and leek soup, a variety of dips, roast summer vegetables all followed by a scrumptious fruit sponge were served up. It put my cheese sandwich to shame.

The home corner in Early Years became a recycling corner, Years 1 and 2 gave presentations on endangered animals, Years 3 and 4 made a giant jelly fish and used it to hang key facts about the environment, and Years 5 and 6 researched information about bees in preparation for creating a 'bee friendly' area in the school garden. A whole school badge made of recycled paper is now proudly on display in the hall.

The older children (Year 5 and 6) took off to Dorset for an outward bound trip. All the children had a fabulous time. They worked very well as a team and challenged themselves to 'have a go' at new activities. These included the high ropes, street surfing, the giant swing and archery. All returned full of exciting tales and exhausted.

By the time you read this, our Year 3 pupils will have taken part in a Sports Festival at Ashlyn's School, Berkhamsted. This is an excellent opportunity for our pupils to compete with children from other local schools and be able to experience a range of sporting activities.

Our KS1 children attended a Mini Olympics at Hemel Sports Space, where they competed against other schools from the local area. The children had the opportunity to participate in a relay race, a dribbling obstacle course, a penalty shoot-out, javelin, curling, bowling, long jump and even bouncing on a space hopper! The children put so much effort and enthusiasm into all of the activities and we were delighted that they were awarded FIRST PLACE! Another fantastic result for our small village school. Well done, children!

With the hope of our sporting success continuing, the 2019 Inter Village Sports event is due to take place on Tuesday 9th July. This year, the school are joining with Gaddesden Row JMI School to jointly host this and will be competed in by all the year 3 to year 6 children from the schools. The Gaddesden Estate have kindly offered the use of their cricket field at Bridens Camp to run event. I'm sure it will be a great success. We are still looking for car park attendance help, so if you'd like to help please email admin@greatgaddesden.herts.sch.uk

Away from the sporting arena, Leo Scarborough, a Parent Governor, organised a school working party, where parents undertook maintenance tasks around the school. It was a great success. About 15 or so people attended, with a number of families donating materials and tools. There was a real community spirit and a huge thank you goes out to all involved!

Jobs undertaken included hedge trimming, shed re-roofing, jet hosing outside areas, sweeping leaves and help with general maintenance. A well deserved lunch (and the odd beer!) was served outside to give everyone energy to continue on one of the hottest days of the year so far. Some parents were even running in ice-creams to cool off.

The result? The school grounds now look wonderful, with the wild hedge apparently touted as a worthy entry into the Chelsea Flower show.

We are looking forward to organising an internal works party in the Autumn term with both events becoming an annual event.

We are also looking forward to the Annual Great Gaddesden Village Summer Fair, on 7th July 1-4pm, which we hold jointly with the church. We have something for all the family, from traditional tombolas and games, to inflatable Quasar, ride on animal toys, kids cresta run and live music from local artists. A BBQ, Pimms, homemade cakes, ice lollies and sweeties take care of your food and drink needs, while the silent auction gives you the chance to bid on some brilliant prizes!

With the end of each school year, it is time to say goodbye to the children who have now reached the end of their time at our school. While we will miss them, we hope their time here has set them up to enjoy their new schools and the next stage of their journeys through life. The Leaver's service will be held at the church on Thursday 11th July, at 2pm.

Mike Tonge

Foundation Governor