



Great Gaddesden Parish News : February 2020

Great Gaddesden Church of England (VA) School for children aged 3-11

Our Christmas term ended with the usual festivities. We had special services in Church; Christmas Jumper Day; FOGGS Christmas Bazaar; school trip to the pantomime; special Christmas lunch. However, in all the excitement the children did not forget that Christmas is not just about parties and presents.

Christmas Jumper Day was good fun and raised £70 for Save the Children charity: an excellent result for such a small school. Our families responded magnificently to the Rotary Shoe Box Appeal for less fortunate families in Romania. Our Eco monitors organised a recycling Christmas challenge to raise funds to help with the transport costs of the boxes.

The older children visited St Paul's Care Home and sang carols and gave Christmas cards to the residents. The children were a credit to the school. They sang beautifully. Both singers and listeners enjoyed the occasion.

FOGGS Christmas Bazaar

Many thanks to those who supported this special event. There was a great community atmosphere with all the families enjoying themselves. May thanks to FOGGS and all the helpers.

Monthly Value

This month's value is Thankfulness, especially relevant after our Christmas holiday with family, friends, and presents. The children will be discussing what it means to them, looking forward to the challenges of a new term.

Early Years were thankful and excited by a visit from firemen and their fire engine, followed by Mr Doe in his police uniform with his police van. They were even keen to try out the "travelling cell" in the back of the van.

Hellos and goodbyes

At the end of term we said goodbye to Mrs Jessop and Donut. Many thanks to Mrs Jessop for her dedication and hard work during the five years she has been



with us. Best wishes to her for the future. Donut, our school dog, will be much missed. The library will feel very empty without him. We also wished Mrs Todiresei all the best as she starts her maternity leave.

New staff to be welcomed are Mrs De Rouffignac who will be teaching Year 3 &4, Mrs Canham, our new INCO and Mr McIlroy who will be supporting Year 1&2 for the first half of term as he completes his teacher training course.

Sharing Assemblies

These assemblies give the children the chance to share and showcase the wide variety of work they have been doing with parents and other pupils. Year 1&2 did a great action song around the events of the Great Fire of London. Year 5&6 shared their writing on Carries War. Year 3&4 shared their Roman topic and their knowledge of electrical circuits. The children use song, art and writing to add depth to their understanding.

History comes alive

We had a special visitor to the School in January who was able to add a new dimension to the children's study of World War 2. Mr Richard Alan Fear visited us as part of his 80th birthday celebrations. He had come to Great Gaddesden School as a 5 year old in 1945 and left in 1951. He was able to describe what the school was like all those years ago. There were only two classes, one in the Library and one in the Hall. Year 5&6 have been studying the school and local environment using documents selected by Mrs Lilley. To their amazement Mr Fear featured on the first page of the 1950's Behaviour Log. He had been punished for carelessness while crossing the Leighton Buzzard Road with his friends. He was very emphatic that he had, in fact, been very careful! He still felt the injustice.