



# Great Gaddesden C of E Primary School

## Final Newsletter from Mrs Wickens - Summer '24



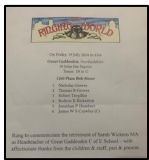
### With heartfelt thanks

Dear Parents and Children,

A final Newsletter! I would like to say a huge heartfelt thank you for the amazing send off that you gave me at the end of term. What a lovely leaving service it was! I was very touched by the fact that so many of our school community gathered together to share my last morning. The words that were shared in the readings, reflections and prayers will remain with me; as will the content of Mrs Ansell's bag of 'Mrs Wickens reminders'!

During my time at Great Gaddesden, the school has been on a journey and it leaves me with such delight knowing that I am handing over the school in such a great place, with an ethos of respect and kindness well embedded in all. There have been challenges along the way, (Covid restrictions, parent consultations by candlelight, toilets flooding at midnight and interesting neighbours...to name but a few!) However, it is these are elements that have contributed to making the school what it is today. The driver for me has always been to pursue what is best for the children of our school. It is fitting that I now have a lovely picture of a tree made up of all their fingerprints to remind me of each and every child in Great Gaddesden.

Finally, a huge thank you for all the support that you have all given me during my time at Great Gaddesden. I take with me many happy memories and I wish you all a safe and healthy summer holiday. I will be thinking of all the Great Gaddesden families when the Autumn term begins and I pray that the school continues to go from strength to strength.



### Special Quarter Peal bell ringing of the Great Gaddesden bells

To come out of our church to a Quarter Peal of the bells was fantastic! Many thanks to Mr Humbert for arranging this to commemorate my retirement from Headship (and his 5 fellow bell ringers for all their effort in ringing the bells weighing up to half a ton!) To then watch the children enjoying their Country Dancing in the playground, was very reflective of our unique village school and what it makes it so different to any other.

### Gifts and good wishes

I feel very humbled by the generosity and kindness that has been shown me through your words, cards, letters and gifts. This is so very much appreciated and I feel overwhelmed by all the personal messages written to me. Thank you so much for the very generous garden gift voucher. I will use it to buy a bird bath, which will have the pride of place in my garden and I will make sure I timetable in some leisure time to observe it in use!



### My gift to the children and staff

With all the emotion of the last day, I forgot to share with the children, the gift that I have given the school! I have had a glass picture created for the Garden of Reflection, for the children and staff to enjoy. Our handyman has now put this in its permanent place on the wall in the garden, with a presentation plaque, for all to enjoy when school reopens in September.



### Letters from the children

This book is particularly special to me as it has a personal letter from each and every pupil in the school written to me; all beautifully presented in their very best handwriting! What is especially meaningful is that so many of the letters refer to feeling safe in school and enjoying being part of Great Gaddesden. I have smiled wryly at the comments that refer to my 'loud voice', my 'fabulous' piano playing and the occasions when I have laughed 'when things have gone disastrously wrong'! I have been delighted to read how so many of the children refer to always trying to treat others as they would like to be treated and how they feel that I have 'made learning fun'. Each and every child in our school is unique and clearly feels they are a valued part of our community. This is one of the special memories that I will take from our school.

### Good luck

Finally, I would like to wish all the families that are leaving Great Gaddesden, the very best as they move on to pastures new, taking with them the ethos, values and friendships from our school. I wish all the children the very best when they start their new schools in September. Any school that enrolls a former Great Gaddesden pupil, is indeed a lucky school.