

GREAT GADDESSEN C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL



Autumn 5

Thursday, 24th October 2019

Message from the Head

The first half of the Autumn term has flown by and we are already at the time of year when the evenings are drawing in. We have had a very busy start to the school year. This week, the children led an Assembly to share their learning around Black History Month. It is fabulous to hear the way in which the children are able to link their learning with our monthly value of Respect.



We recently invited our Grandparents to school for the afternoon, in celebration of National Grandparents Day. It was fantastic to welcome so many Grandparents to our school for the afternoon. They spent time working with the children on Harvest craft activities and were then enjoyed a cup of tea and cake. The end results will form a display in the hall for all to enjoy.

It has been lovely to see so many parents coming to this week's Parent Consultation evenings. I hope this has given you the opportunity to meet your child's teacher and discuss how your child has settled this term. If it has not been possible for you to attend during the allocated times, please contact the school office to arrange a mutually convenient time. I wish you all a safe and enjoyable half term and look forward to welcoming the pupils back to school on Monday, 4th November.

Reception places for September 2020

The process of applying for Reception places for September 2020 opens on Monday, 4th November. If you know of anyone who is interested in a place at our school, please ask them to ring the office so that we can arrange a visit to look around our unique village school.

Forest School

Our Forest School leader, Mrs Ansell, has joined us this week to lead all classes in a 'Cotton Wool Challenge'. Mrs Ansell has told us that this challenge involves **hot** chocolate! Please ensure that all children have their wellies in school on Friday.

Secondary School Applications

A reminder that applications for secondary schools places for September 2019, closes on **Thursday, October 31st, 2019.**

Harvest Festival



It was lovely to welcome so many of our family and friends to our Harvest Festival service. I would like to extend a huge thank you for the generous donations that were sent in to school. We were able to make a significant contribution to our local charity, Dens and The Salvation Army to help support the less fortunate in our community. For a small school, we were able to make a very large donation and this is a reflection of your generosity, for which we thank you.

Monthly Value:

Respect

During the month of October, we have been delighted that the following pupils have been recommended by their peers for always striving to use our value of 'Respect' to guide them. Congratulations to :- Jamie, Sophia, Ollie, Layla, Harrison, Euan, Ryan, Hannah, Tommy and Luke.

IALAC

In recent weeks, we have heard about the gifts and talents of Tory, Lottie, Lucy and James R. in their IALAC talk, with staff and children adding to their list.

Prayer of Respect (Y6)

Dear Lord, help us all to respect those of a different faiths, colour and nationality. We are all equal. Amen.

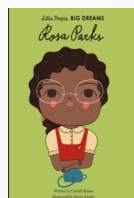
Black History Month in Years 1&2, the children have been researching the life of Mary Seacole. We have discovered who she was, why she was important and how she is remembered. The children then used their research to produce a fact file about the life of Mary Seacole.

During black history month in Year 3 and 4, we have been learning about Rosa Parks. We looked at her life and considered why she was so significant. We have been working on producing an information text, which included all the key information.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

EYFS have also been looking at Rosa Parks.

Their learning has been based around a fabulous book called 'Little People, Big Dreams, Rosa Parks'. This has given our youngest



children a sense of the importance of showing respect to all, making the link with our monthly value.

To celebrate Black History Month, Y5/6 have been looking at significant Black figures. We listened to the historic 'I have a dream' speech by Martin Luther King Jnr and discussed the relevance of it in today's society. Listening to the speech inspired the children to write their own versions, dreaming of their own ideal world.

Cross Country

Some of our classes recently joined other school to take part in Cross Country events organised by Dacorum Sports Partnership. Our Y5/6 had a very successful event at Ashlings School and Y3/4 were a great credit to our school, giving their very best at their event at Longdean. Congratulations particularly to Lottie, who was the fastest Year 3 girl ! Everyone tried their best and ran incredibly well. They all encouraged each other; all supporting their peers. Well done to all the children.



Development of outdoor area

Over the past few weeks, FOGGS and the school have been working closely together to make a plan of action to continue the development of the bark area. The beautiful London Plane tree is going to have a slight prune to allow more natural light into the area and in preparation for new seating to be built around the trunk. We are going to reposition the fence so that there will be a specific designated area for Forest Schools. The climbing structure will flow from the playground which will enable easier access for the children. These developments are all possible because of the funding raising and fabulous support of all parents and on behalf of the children and staff, I thank you for your amazing efforts.

AUTUMN 1 DATES 2019

Thursday, 24th October

- WOW Forest School
Y5/6 + Y1/2

Friday, 25th October

- WOW Forest School
EYFS + Y3/4

HALF TERM :

**Monday, 28th October to
Friday, 1st November**

Monday, 4th November

- Applications open for
Primary School Places

Tuesday, 5th November

- Y3/4 Gaddesden Singing
Festival. 2:30 –2:45 Concert
for Y3/4 parents in church
- Y6 Health questionnaire

Wednesday, 6th November

- Y2 - Sports Festival in
Berkhamsted

Thursday, 7th October

- 3:30 : Y5/6 Football
tournament at Maple Grove

Friday, 8th November

- Visitor to give Remembrance
talk to children

w/beg 11th November:

'Cool to be Kind' week

Monday, 11th November

- 11:00 Remembrance Service

Wednesday, 13th November

- World Kindness Day
- Y1 - Sports Festival
- 3:30 : Y5/6 Football
tournament at Westfield

Friday, 15th November

- Children In Need

Prayer of Respect

We pray that we will always try to behave in a respectful way to each other; to be a good listener and respectful to all.