

**Great Gaddesden Cof E (VA) Primary School**

 Headteacher: Mrs S. Wickens

 Church Meadow

Great Gaddesden

 Hemel Hempstead

 Herts

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Dear Parents/Carers,

As the children returned for the beginning of the summer term, they were delighted to see the new playground markings which FOGGS had organised during the holiday. The school council had the responsibility of gathering the most popular options among the classes and these were fed back to FOGGS. The children are most excited with the result, particularly, the game of ‘Twister’. Many thanks to you all for supporting the fundraising activities and to the members of FOGGS, who work tirelessly to provide extra opportunities for our children.

 This week, we were able to celebrate May Day in true traditional style, with the children all entertaining us with their May dancing. We were blessed with sunshine as the children put on a fine display of a range of dances, including complicated May pole dances. It was such a lovely afternoon and I would like to thank all friends and family members for coming to support our children.

**Values:**

During April, the children reflected on the gospel value of ‘Humility’. Matthew Green was nominated as a good example of reflecting this value in his behaviour. This week, we have started to think about ‘Co-operation’, as our new value. This week, Hollie G was recognised as living our value in the way in which she worked co-operatively to help Mrs Waites, setting up our May Pole. Well done, Matthew and Hollie.

**IALAC:**

Robyn (Y4) and Ryan (Y2) were the first children this term to share the reasons why they are ‘Likeable and Capable’. This week we heard from Ollie A and Poppy. There were numerous pupils and staff keen to add their examples of these childrens’ qualities and abilities.

**House Points:**

As the year progresses, it is great to see a large number of children receiving their 10 and 20 house point certificates. Well done to all these children.

When these certificates have been achieved, the children then work towards their first house point badge. This term, the following children achieved their 30 house point badge:-

Ethan, James P, Mylo, Fionan, Hope, Matthew G, Harry B, Olivia W, Harry O, Lilly G and Robyn.

50 house point badge:-

Fallon is our first pupil this year to receive her 50 house point badge. Well done, Fallon. A great achievement.

**Dancing Success:**

On Thursday, Fenella and Fallon Makepeace shared details of their recent experience of performing with their dance school, (Life and Soul Academy), on a West End stage. Fenella and Fallon performed in a unique production called ‘The Stars in Our Eyes’, at Her Majesty’s Theatre. They showed great commitment and had worked exceptionally hard. Congratulations to you both.

**Dacorum Young Artists:**

*Announcement from Mrs Lilley:*

A number of pieces of artwork done by our pupils were recently entered into a local Art competition. We are delighted to announce that *Taylor Allsopp* in Year 4 has won ‘Best in School’ for his wonderful painting of bluebells. His artwork has now been entered into the ‘Best Overall’ competition where he will compete against 21 other schools from Dacorum.

Well done Taylor!

**Religious Art in our environment:**

We recently had a ‘wow’ day, which focused on creating artwork with a religious theme. A visiting environment teacher led workshops for all our children, in the church grounds on the sunniest day we have had this year. They created decorative crosses using natural materials, photographed natural crosses within nature and made beautiful crosses using the Japanese art of Hapa Zome. This is the traditional art of beating leaves with mallets, pounding the natural pigment into cloth. The sessions were concluded with all children sitting in a circle on buckets, evaluating the workshop.

 Among the comments were the following:-

‘I am ***grateful*** for having the chance to spend my afternoon like this’.

‘I am ***thankful*** that we have our church grounds so near our school’.

‘The ***worst***part is that our session has now finished.’

**Healthy Eating Week:**

Recently, we had a whole school focus on healthy eating. The children’s learning was linked to this theme and some great work was produced. This included Maths links as they used statistics to produce frequency and bar charts for favourite foods, Science investigations into food groups, food tasting and Literacy links with fiction books.

On the Wednesday of Healthy Eating Week, we shared a meal that had been planned and prepared by the children. There was a great sense of school community sharing as everyone sampled the dips, salsa, savoury rice and fruit kebabs with a fruit smoothie to finish.

We are encouraging the children to include healthy choices in their packed lunches in the future.

**Police car visit**

Last week, Mr Doe brought a police car to visit the school. This was a great opportunity for the children to learn about how the Police service support our community. All year groups were able to have time to ask questions and look inside the car. Our EYFS children were focusing on how the police service helps us, while our older children were most excited to be able to get into the car and dress up. Many thanks to Mr Doe. The children had a great time and used this to support their writing.

 **FOGGS**

FOGGS have been successful in winning a bid with the Waitrose ‘Community Matters’ scheme, in Berkhamsted. This scheme supports raising funds for local good causes. Each customer who shops at the store is given a token at the till and these are placed in a box near the exit. At the end of the month, Waitrose will donate a sum of money that reflects the number of tokens received. Therefore, if anyone is shopping here, please support the school by depositing your token in the box for our school.

Please make a note of the new dates below, including dates for the next academic year.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S Wickens

Headteacher

 

**Dates for this term:**

Tuesday, 1st May: May Day dancing

 7:30 pm FOGGS meeting (The Red Lion)

Wednesday,2nd May: Y3/4 trip to Roald Dahl museum

Monday,7th May: School closed – Bank Holiday

Monday, 14th May: Y1/2 - trip to Windsor Castle

Mond.14th – Thurs.17th May: KS2 SATS

Monday, 21st May: Y4/5 Woofyt workshop, St John’s church (details to follow)

Wednesday 23rd May: 1:30 pm - Sports Day

Thursday, 24th May: Y5/6 -visit to Monastery (details to follow)

 Friday, 25th May: 9:00 Y1/2 Olympic Event at Sports Space (details to follow)

**28th May- 1st June HALF TERM**

Saturday**,** 2nd June FOGGS Sausage Sizzle outside Bunnings, Apsley.

(see a member of FOGGS for details)

Thursday, 14th June: Y2 Singing Festival, St John’s Church, Boxmoor (details to follow)

**Friday, 15th June INSET DAY – School Closed**

Mon.25th - Frid. 29th June: Small Schools Week (details to follow)

Wednesday,4th July: KS2 Rounders tournament at Beechwood Park School

Thursday, 5th July Wow Forest School Day

Tuesday, 10th July: Y5/6 Sports festival at Cavendish School

Wednesday, 11th July: EYFS Bucks Railway Centre trip (details to follow)

Friday, 13th July: 5:00pm Inter Village Sports

Monday, 16th July: Nursery Pre visit (also ‘Moving Up’ morning for the whole school)

Tuesday, 17th July: KS2 Production – 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm

**SUMMER TERM: Monday 16thApril – Friday 27th July**

***Children break up on Friday 20th July***

**HALF-TERM: Monday 28th May – Friday 1st June**

A reminder of the following INSET days and Occasional Days when children will *not* be at school:

**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**

**Term dates for academic year (2018/19)**

**AUTUMN TERM:**

**Monday 3rd September – Friday, 21st December**

***Children return on TUESDAY 4TH September***

***HALF TERM:*** *Monday, 29th October - Friday, 2nd November*

**SPRING TERM:**

**Monday 7TH January - Friday, 5TH April**

***Children return on TUESDAY 8th January***

***HALF TERM:*** *Monday, 18th February - Friday, 22nd February*

**SUMMER TERM:**

**Tuesday, 23rd April – Wednesday 24th July**

***Children return on the first day of term - TUESDAY 23rd April***

***HALF TERM:*** *Monday, 27th May - Friday, 31st May*

*Please note:*

**Monday, 22nd July – INSET DAY**

**Tuesday, 23rd July – INSET DAY**

 **Wednesday, 24th July – Occasional Day**