



Great Gaddesden C of E (Voluntary Aided) Primary School

Telephone 01442 255734

Email head@greatgaddesden.herts.sch.uk
admin@greatgaddesden.herts.sch.uk

Website www.greatgaddesden.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs N. Comer
Great Gaddesden
Hemel Hempstead
Herts
HP13BT

Dear Parents/Carers,

A very warm welcome to Great Gaddesden Church of England School.

At our school, we have a very clear vision, which every member of our school community is committed to:

*“Working together, we develop the **self-belief** to conquer new challenges and **achieve excellence** in a happy, safe and caring environment.*

*We inspire one another to be the best that we can be, providing the children of Great Gaddesden School with the Christian values to be **confident, respectful and successful** citizens of the future.”*

We are a values driven school and we spend time each day discussing and learning about the value that we are focussing on for the month, which supports us in ‘*achieving excellence*’ in our learning.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you would like any further information.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs N. Comer
Headteacher

Respect Perseverance Forgiveness Humility Courage Responsibility Honesty
Peace Quality Sharing Patience Trust Friendship Co-operation Reflection
Ambition Caring Self-Control Joy Unity Hope Tolerance



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Safeguarding

At Great Gaddesden CofE School (VA), we are committed to ensuring that all children feel secure, are encouraged to talk and are listened to when they have a worry or concern. We aim to ensure that all children know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried.

The Curriculum

The school provides a rich and varied curriculum, developing high standards of English and Mathematics as well as providing depth across the curriculum, including high interest activities to support quality learning in ICT, Science, RE, History, Geography, Art, D&T, Music and PSHE.

Our Classes

Great Gaddesden Church of England School has four classes. Our youngest pupils join the school **from 3 years old** into our Early Years class where Nursery and Reception are taught. The remaining three classes are Years 1 & 2, Years 3 & 4 and Years 5 & 6. Our pupil admission number is currently 14, which means we have smaller than average class sizes and excellent adult:pupil ratios. This allows for us to personalise the learning to suit the needs of the individual, ensuring that **every** child is suitably stretched and challenged.

Our School Day

The school day begins at 8:50am, however the playground is supervised from 8:30am. We have daily Collective Worship (assembly) at 9:00am (9:00am on a Friday at the church) in which we discuss our school values. The school day ends at 12:00 for our Nursery children and 3:15pm for the rest of the school, unless they are attending an after-school club (all after school clubs finish at 4:15pm). We also run a daily Breakfast Club from 8:00am each day. This currently costs £1.00 per child per day and children can have toast, cereal or both.

School Uniform

School uniform is available to order from Tescos.

Girls: Either a red checked dress *or* a white school polo-shirt and a grey skirt or trousers as well as maroon cardigan or v-neck sweatshirt (with the school logo on). Hair-bands should be either red, black or white.

Boys: Grey trousers or shorts and a white school polo-shirt with a maroon sweatshirt (with the school logo on.)

We request that children wear black school shoes, not trainers. Nail varnish is not permitted at school. Jewellery is not permitted with the exception of watches and stud ear-rings.

P.E. Kit

Our school P.E. kit consists of black shorts, a maroon t-shirt and a grey sweat-shirt (both with the school's logo on). Children require a pair of trainers for P.E. and may have jogging bottoms for the winter months (preferably black). All items are available to order from Tesco's.

School Lunch/Snacks/Milk

Each day, children may either have a school lunch or a packed lunch (you may choose for your child to have a packed lunch on some days and school lunch on others.) Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 all currently receive Free School Meals from the government's Universal Free School Meals initiative. Children in Nursery/Reception/Year 1 and Year 2 will receive a piece of fruit through the NHS SFVS (School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme) and parents also have the option of ordering milk on a termly basis in advance. Details are sent home towards the end of the second half of each term. Children in Years 3 – 6 may bring in their own piece of fruit to have at break time.

Governing Body

The Governing Body plays an active role within the school, meeting regularly to provide both challenge and support in their role as a "critical friend". Governors are very supportive of the school, devoting time to their formal commitments and to participating in the life of the school. The Full Governing Body meets every half-term and there are active sub-committees (Finance, Personnel & Premises, Curriculum & Standards and Admissions). There are two elected parent governors on the governing body.

FOGGS

The school has an extremely enthusiastic and successful PTA known as, the 'Friends of Great Gaddesden School' (FOGGS), which all parents, carers, teachers, family members and members of the community are welcome to join. FOGGS host a number of fund-raising events throughout the school year. Recent events have included: Seasonal Fayres, Cake Sales, Quiz Nights, Film Nights, Discos for pupils, Uniform Sales and many more. FOGGS are always happy to welcome new members. In addition, the school welcomes support from parents/carers in the form of readers/volunteers.

Pupils as Leaders

School Council

Every year group, from Year 1 and up, has a representative on the school council. The school council meet once a week to discuss issues/suggestions raised through their 'suggestion boxes' (available for *all* children to make suggestions). In the last 12 months, the school council have conducted pupil surveys, formulated playground rules and worked towards 'Green schools' accreditation. They have also managed a small budget to purchase new playground equipment.

House-Captains

In Year 6, children are voted in as house-captains to lead the rest of the school within their houses. Upon entry to the school, every child will join one of our school houses (Ash, Beech, Oak and Sycamore). Children work hard across the curriculum to earn house-points to compete for the house cup each term. In addition, there are events throughout the school year in which children compete in their teams, lead by their house-captains. These include: Sports Day and inter-house competitions.

Links with the Church

We have excellent links with the parish church, St. John the Baptist, which supports the pastoral care the children in our school receive. Children attend Collective Worship at the church every Friday morning, which parents/family members are always welcome to attend. In addition to this, there are several events throughout the school year, in which the school works in collaboration with the church,

including: Harvest Festival, Advent Service, Christingle Service, Carol Concert, Mothering Sunday Service and Easter Service.

Extra-Curricular Activities

The school runs a number of extra-curricular clubs. In recent years, these have included: Football, Netball, Tennis, Rounders, Fitness, Art, Craft, Problem-Solving, Creative Writing, Maths, Chess, Social Skills, Gardening, Choir and Knitting. We are always open to suggestions for new clubs. As previously mentioned, our Breakfast Club runs daily from 8:00am and costs £1.00 per child, per day. (For children who are entitled to Free School Meals or Pupil Premium funding, there is no charge for Breakfast Club.)

We value the benefits of learning outside of the classroom. In order to enrich the experiences for our children, we run a number of school-trips and workshops, which are specifically chosen to link with learning in the class-room. Examples of these from recent years include KS2 Hazard Alley Safety Centre in Milton Keynes, KS2 trip to St Albans Abbey as part of the Chorister Outreach Project as part of the Music curriculum, Years 2 – 6 trip to Wimbledon, Year 1 & 2 trip to Boxmoor Trust for a Gruffalo hunt to support learning in Literacy.

In addition, we run two residential trips – one for Years 5 & 6 for a week in Dorset and another for Years 3 & 4 for an over night stay at Hudnall Park (a local activity centre in Little Gaddesden). In Years 5 & 6, children also visit Paris for the day to put their French speaking skills into practise!

Attendance/Absence/Punctuality

We are committed to ensuring that every child is at school on time, every day as we know the positive impact this has on learning. We are thrilled with the improvements in attendance over recent years. The children's excellent attendance speaks volumes about relationships between home and school. Children who have 100% attendance across a half-term will earn a certificate for their achievements and those who achieve 100% attendance for the year are presented with an award in July.

Communication with parents/carers

The school operates an open door policy. Should parents ever have any concerns about any aspect of school life, we would encourage you to discuss them with staff in order for them to be addressed promptly. Staff are on the playground every day before school and often after school too. We make regular contact with parents via newsletters and emails as well as keeping our school website up to date with all the latest news. The school hosts two parents evenings, one in the Autumn Term and one in the Spring Term. Reports are issued at the end of the academic year.

Homework

From Year 2, children receive formal homework. Homework is linked directly to learning in class and covers the full range of subjects. (Homework sheets can be found on the school's website as well as within homework books.) Lower down in the school (Reception and Year 1), children have sound and word cards to support their understanding of phonics and their reading and, when they are ready, a book. In Year 1 children are expected to read regularly as well as learn personalised spelling words.

IALAC

We have absolute confidence that every child who attends Great Gaddesden Church of England School is both likeable and capable and it is our primary aim to ensure that *every child believes this of themselves*. During our Celebration Collective Worship each week, two children are selected to share why they are both likeable and capable. See the attached letter for further information.



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Dear

IALAC **I Am Likeable And Capable**

CONGRATULATIONS!

You have been selected to share with the school why you are likeable and capable.

Next Thursday, in our Celebration Collective Worship, you will share with the school why you are likeable and capable. This could include things from inside and outside of school. Consider all the things that make you the fantastic person that you are – it could be that you are a good friend/sibling/daughter/son – what makes you special? What are the things that you are really good at? It could be Maths/Art/Horse-riding/English/History/Tennis – the list is endless!

Your opportunity to share with the school will last for approximately 1 minute. Please make sure you know what you are going to share with us – we can not wait to hear it!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Comer
Headteacher