



# Great Gaddesden C of E (Voluntary Aided) Primary School

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Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

This letter outlines the curriculum for Years 5 and 6 for the Autumn Term.

In **Maths** this term we will be studying the following units: Number and place value, the four operations, geometry of shapes, position and direction, fractions, decimals, percentages, ratio and proportion, algebra, statistics and measurements. We will continue to work on our mental maths skills with a weekly mental maths test. In addition, in every unit of work we will be working on our problem-solving skills.

In **English** this term we will be studying the following units: Traditional tales, Poetry, Recounts, Explanation texts and Choral Performances as well as developing our Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar. Our English units will be linked to Haiti, looking closely at their traditional tales, poetry and how the Earthquake has effected Haitians.

In **R.E.**, we will be studying Buddhism. This topic will include a trip to the Amaravati Buddhist Monastery as well as a visit from one of the monastery's monks. Children will learn about the beliefs and values that are important to Buddhists. We will also be using the iPads to share our learning on this unit.

In **Science**, our topic is Properties of everyday materials. We will be carrying out a wide range of experiments to cover the five scientific enquiry skills: classify, fair tests, observe over time, research and pattern finding. Some of the experiments the children will be carrying out are: What liquids will turn nails rusty? What happens to bread as it cooks? Which materials can be separated from water? Which materials will dissolve in water? Which ones won't? What happens to the others?



Our **Computing** topic this half term is 'We are Architects'. Using a software programme called SketchUpMake, we will be designing our very own classroom, ensuring space is maximised for the purpose of the room. The children will be able to change the style of the walls, floors and items that they create in the room and adapt the dimensions. They will then present their design to the class. In the

second half term, our topic is 'We are Fundraisers'. This unit will allow children to understand and use spreadsheets for a real life purpose, creating a profit and loss account for the stall they will decide to run at the school Christmas Fayre. They will need to pitch their idea, in groups, in a Dragon's Den style pitch. They will also create flyers and stall designs using a range of digital software.



In **Geography** this term our topic is The Americas and Earthquakes. We will be learning about the changes in the landscape and climate between the continents of North & South America, physical changes in landscapes, who the settlers were and early tribes in Peru. They will be creating travel guides around South America and taking part in a passport around North America challenge. In addition to this, the children will also study the key aspects of earthquakes and the effects of seismic waves, which will be linked with our English units about Haiti.



Our **Design and Technology** lessons for the first half term will be creating Totem Poles and learning the history behind them. Each child will make their own totem pole, thinking carefully about using bright colours, 3D effects and the overall theme. They will be using a wide range of materials in order to create their final product.

In **Art** during the second half term, we will be focusing on a Haitian artist, Louisiane Saint Fluerant, where the children will be creating paintings in the same style, using vibrant colours.

In **Music** this term, children will be learning how to improve their singing. These lessons will be delivered by Miss Vineyard from the Hertfordshire Wider Opportunities Music Scheme.

During our **P.E.** and **Games** lessons in the first half term we will be focusing on Football and Dance. In Football, children will learn skills and techniques to apply in game situations. In the second half term we will be focusing on Basketball and Gymnastics.

In **French** this half term, we will be learning to describe places in town. In the second half term, children will learn directions.

In **PSHE** this term, our topics cover 'Thinking about others' feelings' and 'rules around us' where children will have opportunities to role play various situations, discuss opinions as a class and reflect on their own and others' views.

Finally, I will be hosting a brief meeting on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September at 3:00pm in our classroom to discuss the year ahead. In the mean-time, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or queries about the content of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Todiresei  
Year 5 & 6 Class-teacher