



Great Gaddesden C of E (Voluntary Aided) Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs N. Comer
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Autumn Newsletter: 6

Friday 3rd November 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

Headteacher Update: Between now and Christmas, Mrs Wickens (our new Headteacher) and I are meeting once a week to ensure a smooth hand-over. Mrs Wickens is really excited to join our school and we are having productive meetings discussing various aspects of school life.

Values: Our value for November for **Tolerance**. This week, Emily was nominated by Miss Ayres for displaying this value when she was working with some children in Reception and Year 1 earlier in the week. Miss Ayres noted that Emily was really tolerant when many of the children wanted Emily's help and support. Also this week, we had a couple of children nominated for our value of **Caring** (from last month) – Ollie, in Year 4, nominated Sophia in Reception for being caring towards Tory and Paul nominated Luke for being a caring friend.

House-Points: This week, even more children have been awarded their first certificate for achieving ten house-points. Harry O., Harrison O., Lilly G., Fallon, Immy, Lilly A. and Harvey have all achieved ten house-points and Jack G. has achieved twenty house-points. Well done to all of you for your hard work!

Snacks: Recently, we have been approached by a couple of parents regarding children having snacks at school. Children in the infants have a morning snack each day, but **all** children are welcome to bring in a **fruit** snack for break-time.

Attendance: This week, we were able to celebrate excellent attendance for the first half-term of the academic year. Over forty children achieved 100% attendance, which is a fantastic achievement. We are hoping for more of the same over the course of this half-term.

Choir Performance: At the end of this half-term there will be a choir and drumming performance for parents/carers of children in either choir and/or Years 3 – 6 to attend. The performance will be in the school hall on Monday 4th December at 2:45pm.

Staffing Update: Mrs Batson has returned to work this week. The children (and staff!) were really excited to see Mrs Batson and I know you will join us in welcoming her back to school.

Reception applications: Across the course of this term, our Year 6 children are hosting tours for prospective parents of children who will be in Nursery or Reception in 2018. If you, or someone you know, is looking for a school place for September 2018, please contact the school office. *If your child*

is in Nursery, you will still need to apply online for a Reception place as well as complete a supplementary information form. If your child is in Nursery and you are yet to receive a supplementary information form, please contact the school office.

Parent Governor: A letter came home today regarding a vacancy for a Parent Governor on our thriving and dynamic governing body. If you are interested in joining the governing body, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Alison Wilkinson (our Chair of Governors).

FOGGS Update: You will have noticed this week, that new equipment has been installed in the bark area. This piece of work follows significant fundraising from the FOGGS team and I know the children are very excited to be let loose on it! We are anticipating that the children will be able to use the equipment from Tuesday of next week.

Office Reminders: If you are planning on bringing a shoe-box into school for the Samaritan's Child Operation Christmas Child Appeal, please note that the deadline is **Friday 10th November**.

You will have received a letter today regarding Herts Catering's Christmas lunch. Please return the reply slip to the office as soon as possible in order for us to order the correct amount of meals.

Individual and sibling photos will now take place on **Thursday 16th November**. *(Please note that these photos are for children of school age only.)* Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Finally, letters regarding our annual whole school panto trip have come home today. Please do reply the slips and contributions to the school office at your earliest convenience.

Dates: Please see below for important dates for this term. Should there be any changes, we will communicate them in future newsletters as well as on our website. (Please be aware that the Year 5 & 6 class assembly has moved from Tuesday 21st November to Tuesday 28th November.)

Yours sincerely,

Mrs N. Comer
Headteacher



Dates for this term:

As you will see below, there is much to look forward to in the term ahead! Please make a note of all dates that are relevant to your child/ren. Any edits or additions will be in future newsletters. Please see below for term dates for this academic year.

Tuesday 7th November – Years 1 & 2 Inter-house Football Competition

Wednesday 8th November – Nursery/Reception Class Assembly (Parents/Carers welcome)

POSTPONED! Thursday 9th November – Years 5 & 6 Trip to Amaravati Buddhist Monastery (new date to follow)

DATE CHANGE! Friday 10th November – Last day for shoe-box appeal

Friday 10th November – Year 3 & 4 Trip to Milton Keynes Theatre – Awful Auntie (more information to follow)

Wednesday 15th November – Reception/Year 1/2/3/4 Nasal Flu Jab (see previous letter for information)

DATE CHANGE! Thursday 16th November – Individual/Sibling Photos

Friday 17th November – Reception Reading Open Afternoon (speak to Miss Ayres for more information)

Monday 20th November – Friday 24th November – Writing Week (more information to follow)

NEW! Monday 20th November – Year 5 & 6 Trip to Sky Studios (see previous letter for information)

DATE CHANGE! Tuesday 28th November – Years 5 & 6 Class Assembly (Parents/Carers welcome)

Wednesday 29th November – Years 1 & 2 Class Assembly (Parents/Carers welcome)

Friday 1st December – After school clubs finish.

Friday 1st December – FOGGS Film Night/Disco (more information to follow)

NEW! Monday 4th December – Choir/Drumming Performance, 2:45pm (For Parents/Carers of children in Years 3–6 and/or choir)

Wednesday 6th December – Years 7 – 9 Afternoon Tea, 4:45pm – 6:15pm

Thursday 7th December – Nursery/Reception Nativity, 9:15am (Parents/Carers welcome)

NEW! Friday 8th December – Christmas Jumper Day (Please bring a donation for FOGGS' Christmas Hampers)

Monday 11th December – Science Day (more information to follow)

Wednesday 13th December – Years 3 & 4 Class Assembly (Parents/Carers welcome)

Wednesday 13th December – Years 3 – 6 carol singing in the village, 3:30pm – 5:30pm

Thursday 14th December – Herts Catering Christmas Lunch

Thursday 14th December – Carol Service, 2pm and 7pm (Years 1 – 6 required at both services)

Friday 15th December – FOGGS Family Christmas Event

Monday 18th December – Whole School Trip to Panto at Watford Theatre (see additional letter for information)

Monday 18th December – FOGGS Santa Sleigh event with Berkhamsted Lions

Tuesday 19th December – Christingle Service, 9:00am

Tuesday 19th December – End of Term, 1:30pm

*Children to return to school on **Thursday 4th January 2018***

Term Dates for academic year (2017/18):

AUTUMN TERM: Wednesday 30th August – Tuesday 19th December

*Children to return on **Monday 4th September***

HALF-TERM: Monday 23rd October – Friday 27th October

SPRING TERM: Wednesday 3rd January – Friday 30th March

*Children to return on **Thursday 4th January** and break up on **Thursday 29th March***

HALF-TERM: Monday 12th February – Friday 16th February

SUMMER TERM: Monday 16th April – Friday 27th July

*Children to return on **Tuesday 17th April** and break up on **Friday 20th July***

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

Please make a note of the following INSET days and Occasional Days when children will *not* be at school:

Wednesday 3rd January – INSET DAY

Monday 16th April – INSET DAY

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