

# GREAT GADDESSEN C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

*'Treat others exactly as you want to be treated'.*



## Spring 4

Monday, 9th March '20

### Message from the Head

As a school, we marked the preparation of Lent by making pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. As we are now in the season of Lent, the children have been discussing the meaning of this time in the liturgical calendar. They have discussed the way they are going to aim to make a positive contribution during this time. The children have written these out as their Lenten Promises and are on display in the hall as a reminder for us all. During Lent, we will be supporting the church as they aim to make a weekly contribution to the DENS foodbank. The children are invited to bring a small contribution for the foodbank to school each Friday and this can be added when we go to church for our weekly Collective Worship.

As you will have noticed, the development of our Outdoor Learning Area is making good progress. We now have a new fence that separates the climbing area, new woodchip floor covering, newly jet washed safety flooring, and all the hedges have been trimmed. On behalf of the children and staff, I would like to thank all the parents who so generously gave their time to make these latest developments happen. We are so fortunate to have such supportive families, who give their support to the school in so many ways, including supporting the fund raising events organised by FOGGS.



#### KOALA PROTECTOR

Following the Y5/6 cake selling event, in support of the WWF - Australia, they were delighted to announce to the school that they have raised nearly £70 to help protect the future of the koalas injured in the Australian fires and to support some of the worlds biggest natural challenges facing our world today.



#### METRO BANK PROJECT

This term, Y3/4 are focussing on financial wellbeing in their PSHE. In order to develop the children's understanding of what this looks like in reality, we are very fortunate to have Metro Bank working with the children, supporting them in their learning during this project.

#### WORLD BOOK DAY

Last Thursday the children were very enthusiastic as they participated in a number of different events arranged to celebrate World Book Day. We had a range of interesting characters in school for the day (ranging from Stickman, characters from Harry Potter to Dr Seuss characters), who worked on book related activities during the morning. This included a session of buddy reading, where the older pupils buddied up with the younger pupils to share books. The book swap shop was very successful, with the children having the opportunity to access a range of different books. The aim of celebrating this day is to develop the children's love of reading and enjoyment in books. Listening to the children's feedback, it certainly seems that this was successful.

#### Monthly Value: FORGIVENESS

During the month of March, our value of Forgiveness links with the season of Lent. Matthew, Henry, Samuel and Dolly were the first children to be nominated for this value.

#### IALAC



Henry and Lucille gave their IALAC speech to the school

this week at our Celebration Assembly. It is lovely to see our younger children confidently talking about their gifts and talents to us all.

#### ATTENDANCE

Our current whole school attendance data shows that we are currently at **96%**. This shows a slight increase and it would be great if we could continue this upward trend.

#### Prayer of Forgiveness

*Dear God,*

*We ask you to help us to forgive others when we need.*

### **SPORTS RELIEF**

During this week, we will be supporting the Sport Relief charity, which raises funds to support people who are living difficult lives, in the UK and around the world. We are taking this opportunity to include a daily 'keeping active' activity throughout the week. On Tuesday and Wednesday, our Y6 Wellbeing Ambassadors will be selling Sports Relief wrist bands. These are priced at £1 each and all funds raised will go to support the charity.



### **WATER BOTTLE**

Please ensure that all children have a reusable water bottle every day. In the interest of hygiene, the children take their water bottles home daily. Given the need to be extra vigilant with hygiene, it is essential that these are returned daily for the children to use. Thank you for supporting the school's no single use plastic policy for water bottles.



### **STAFFING UPDATE**

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Redman to our staff, who joined us after half term. Mrs Redman is an experienced EYFS Practitioner, who will be working predominantly, with Mrs Letheren and Mrs Benson. In the Summer term, we will be welcoming Mr Young to our school. Mr Young will be joining Great Gaddesden as a Senior teacher and will be teaching in Year 3/4.

### **SPEEDSTACKING**

Y3/4 took part in the Dacorum speed stacking competition at Ashlyn's last week. They all tried their best and worked exceptionally well as a team. We are waiting to hear how the school has performed overall.



We plan to make the system for giving parental permission for participation in Dacorum Sports Partnership events more time efficient. We will be introducing a system whereby parental permission will be requested once a year and this will include permission for all events in which our school is participating. Details of each event will still be given, prior to participating in events.

### **Update on Coronavirus**

*'The importance of personal hygiene is the most important way we can tackle Coronavirus'. (DfE)*

In school, we are ensuring that the children are washing hands more often for 20 seconds with soap and hot water; and we are following the 'catch it, bin it, kill it strategy' for coughs and sneezes.

The DfE and Herts County send regular guidance to schools and if there is any news to share, this will be forwarded to all parents.

### **SPRING TERM DATES 2020**

**w/beg. 9th March:**

**Sports Relief Week**

*Sports Relief fund raising wrist bands on sale on Tuesday + Wednesday (£1)*

**Thursday, 12th March**

- 12:30 Y1 Interschool Athletics competition

**Friday, 13th March**

- Nursery Application closing date

**Monday, 16th March**

- Y3/4 Economic wellbeing with Metro bank

**Tuesday, 17th March**

- 9:00 Y1/2 Sharing Assembly
- 10:30 EYFS visit to public library

**Wednesday, 18th March**

- 9:00 Y5/6 Sharing Assembly

**Sunday, 22nd March**

- Mother's Day
- 2:00 - 4:00 Great Gaddesden Spring Clean

**Monday, 23rd March**

- Y3/4 visit to Metro bank

**Tuesday, 24th March**

- 9:00 Y1/2 Sharing Assembly
- 3:30 - 5:00 Parent consultation

**Wednesday, 25th March**

- 9:00 Y5/6 Sharing Assembly
- 5:30 - 7:00 Parent Consultation

**Thursday, 26th March**

- Y1/2 visit to public library

**Wednesday, 1st April**

- Y5/6 Football tournament

**Thursday, 2nd April**

- 9:00 Easter Church Service
- Egg rolling

**Friday, 3rd April**

- 1:30 pm - break up for Easter holiday

*Please help those who are suffering and unwell. Support them and their families.*

*Amen*