



Great Gaddesden Cof E (VA) Primary School

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Summer 2 Newsletter:

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a very busy first half term, with the children supporting and extending their learning by participating in workshops, visiting new places and making use of our wider environment. These learning opportunities provide valuable experiences for the children, introducing them to new skills and broadening the life experiences we offer the children.

The Year 6 and Year 2 children have now completed their SATS and impressed us all with the positive and resilient way in which they approached these tests, determined to do as well as they could. The children have worked very hard in the run up to these tests, supported very well by their teachers and teaching assistants and they all deserve to have done well. Although the tests are important and give a measure of the children's attainment according to national benchmarks, there are so many other aspects of our children's development that can never be measured by a SATS test! It is the children's moral development, talents and characteristics that make them the people they are and equip them with skills that will be with them for life.

Values

In the month of May, our value of *co-operation* has been recognised in Alex Blomley, Caden and Sonny in their behaviour to others and in the way Year 5 co-operated to support Y6 during SATS week.

IALAC

We have heard from the following children - Matthew G, Ethan, Abigail and Olivia W as they shared with the school the reasons that they are likable and capable. The staff and their peers shared further examples of these areas.

House Points:

40 badge:

Congratulations to Lucy and Aaron who have now achieved their 40 House points badge.

30 badge:

Congratulations to the following children who have now received their 30 house point badges- Ollie, Ollie A, Jack W, Lilly, Olivia W, Harrison O, and Immy. Well done, children.

An increasing number of children have now received their 10 and 20 house point certificates that reflect the hard work that is taking place within the school. Well done to you all.



Football News

Our school football team displayed excellent co-operation as they played against Flamstead School. Although we were beaten, the team persevered until the end with Caden, Sonny and Jack G scoring a goal each. Well done to you all.

Thank You:

A huge thank you to Mrs Graves for preparing the school garden and the allotment so that they are ready for the children to use. The children and staff are very appreciative of the time that has been spent in getting these areas ready for use.

Windsor castle trip

A few days ahead of the Royal Wedding, Y1/2 had a very enjoyable trip to Windsor castle. The children had a most exciting day and this experience resulted in some excellent pieces of work. Many thanks to Mr Scarborough, Mr Cramphorn and Mrs Robertson for supporting Miss Carty on the day.

EYFS News:

We had some very interesting space people and a life size rocket in EYFS last week. The children dressed up to reflect the space theme and their learning for the week was all centred around 'Space'. A very interesting space rocket was a great source of excitement for the children and they were very keen to use it in their learning.

WOOFYT session

Last week, Year 4 and 5 took part in a workshop that was sponsored by the Institute of Technology. The children learnt about the Science of sound and technology needed to produce an instrument, powered by wind. They all joined together to form individual notes of a Woofyt (**W**ooden **O**ne octave **O**rgan **F**or **Y**oung **T**echnologists) and managed to play Twinkle, Twinkle and Happy Birthday - both of which were recognisable! Thank you to Mrs Crosby for supporting me in enabling the children to have this valuable extended learning experience.

Sports Day

Our school sports day on Wednesday was a great success. It was marvellous to see the way the children all supported each other and every child tried their very best. A special thanks to Mrs Todiresei for organising and leading the event so well. An extended thanks to the rest of the team, particularly the Governors who had the important task of identifying the winning places and holding the finishing tape.

FOGGS

On behalf of the children, a big thank you to FOGGS for providing the ice lollies for all the children at the end of Sports Day. It was a most welcome refreshment for them.

Monastery Trip

Last week, Y5/6 spent the day at the Buddhist Monastery in Great Gaddesden. Mrs Waites and myself were extremely impressed with the way in which the children all engaged in the opportunities that were offered to them. Their behaviour was impeccable, being most respectful at all times and they were a credit to our school. During the day, the children engaged in meditation sessions, learned more about the principles of the Buddhist faith and we were invited to participate in a meal ceremony. As the community is supported entirely by donations, the children made their own contribution to the meal that the monks and nuns received. The community expressed their thanks to the children and I would like to thank the Year 5/6 parents, who donated so generously.



Nursery and Reception places

A few places remain available in our Nursery and Reception class for September. If you know of anyone who is still looking for a place for September, please let them know about us and give them the school details.

Gardening Challenge

If you have any old welly boots at home that are either too small or leak, please consider transforming one or both into a colourful planter for our school garden. They make great plant holders for either one plant or several small plants and would bring fun focus areas into our school garden!

I hope you all have an enjoyable remainder of half term and I look forward to seeing all the children safely back at school on Monday, 4th June.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S Wickens
Headteacher

Dates for this term:

New dates highlighted.

Children to return on Monday, 4th June.

Saturday, 2nd June	FOGGS Sausage Sizzle outside Bunnings, Apsley. (see member of FOGGS for details)
W/beg. 11 TH June	Welcome to Mrs Simpkins and Mrs Dill
Thursday, 14th June:	Y2 Singing Festival, St John's Church, Boxmore.(details to follow)
W/end 15 th – 17 th June	Art Exhibition of local artist , Gordon Beningfield
Friday, 15th June	INSET DAY – School Closed
Tuesday, 19 th June	9:00 Guitar/piano pupils' 'Sharing Assembly'
Thursday, 21 st June	School photos
Mon.25 th - Frid.29 th June:	Small Schools Week (details to follow separately)
Monday, 2 nd July	Great Gaddesden v Flamstead football match
Wednesday, 4 th July:	KS2 Rounders tournament at Beechwood Park School
Thursday, 5 th July	Wow Forest School Day
Tuesday, 10 th July:	Y5/6 Sports festival at Cavendish School
Tuesday, 10 th July	3:30 – 5:00 p.m. School Open Evening
Wednesday, 11 th July:	EYFS Bucks railway trip
Friday, 13 th July:	5:00pm Inter Village Sports
Monday, 16 th July:	Nursery Pre visit
Tuesday, 17 th July:	KS2 Production – 2:00 pm + 7:00 pm
Friday, 20 th July	1:30 - Leaver's Service in church
	2:15 – Break up for summer holiday



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 – 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, 2019 – INSET DAY

Tuesday, 23rd July, 2019 – INSET DAY

Wednesday, 24th July, 2019 – Occasional Day

