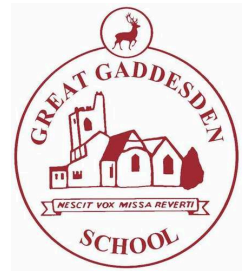


Great Gaddesden CE (VA) Primary School

Email: admin@greatgaddesden.herts.sch.uk Tel: 01442 255734
Headteacher: Mr Matt Beach



Weekly update

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a wonderful first week of the term, here at Great Gaddesden CE Primary School.

Thank you to everyone for making me feel so welcome. I have enjoyed meeting you all at the gates in the morning and getting to know the community. On behalf of everyone, I would like to warmly welcome our new children and their families to the Great Gaddesden community. We also welcome Miss Bonney to the team as a Year 1/2 Teacher. We will be hosting 'Meet the Teacher' sessions where you will find out more about the curriculum, routines and expectations for your child's class. More information about this is provided further down in this newsletter along with dates and events we have planned so far.

Over the coming weeks, I will be getting to know the school further, recognising the strengths and areas for us to develop further. In light of this, please click the link provided in the email sent out with this newsletter to complete an online questionnaire. All responses are kept confidential and it will help us to understand what you feel we are doing well and areas we could improve.

On 27th September, 9-10:00am, we will be taking part in the Macmillan coffee morning. We warmly welcome you to attend and I look forward to getting to know the community further.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

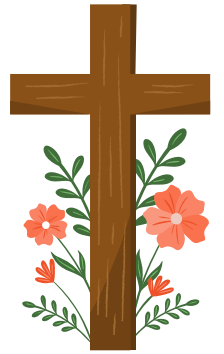
Mr Matt Beach
Headteacher

In this issue:

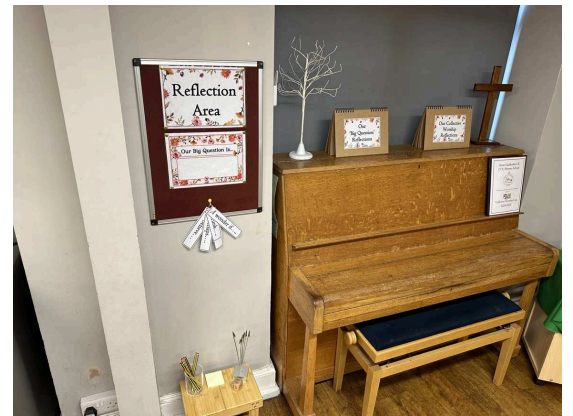
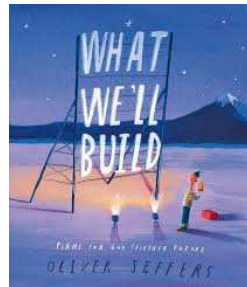
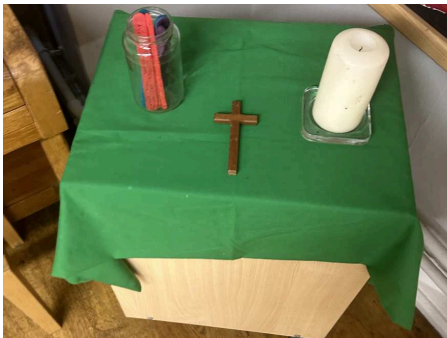
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Religious life of our school

During our staff training days, we revisited and explored our school's theologically rooted vision. At the heart of this is the school's mission statement "Treat others exactly as you would like to be treated yourself" (Luke 6:31). We plan to explore this further with the children on our upcoming vision day which will be taking place on 2nd October.



On Wednesday, I shared a couple of new things we have introduced to collective worship. Each time we gather together, the child that lights the candle is invited to choose a question to take back to their seat. The aim is to help them reflect spiritually and evaluate the impact of collective worship. This is then repeated again with another child at the end as we put the candle out. I also introduced 'Big Question of the Week'. Each week, we will share a question linked to the collective worship theme for the children to reflect on throughout the week. Linking to the story 'What We'll Build' by Oliver Jeffers which I shared with the children on the first day, our question of reflection this week is: "What will we build this year with the help of God?". The children are invited to share their reflections on this and we will collate them in our 'Big Question for Reflection' journal. In addition, we will reflect together by sharing the responses at our weekly service at the Church.



Our Guinea pigs

We are pleased to share that we now have two school guinea pigs! In line with our Christian ethos, when we decided to have guinea pigs, we made the choice to rescue them and make a donation to a lovely charity in Bracknell. They have been settling in well and are enjoying being part of the school family. To develop responsibility, we are keen to involve the children in taking care of the guinea pigs and handling them safely.



We have completed our risk assessment and would like to remind all parents that if your child has any pet allergies to please let the school office know.

The children took part in a vote and have named them Jet and Jasper! We are sure they will provide lots of happiness and joy for the years ahead.



Spotlight on learning

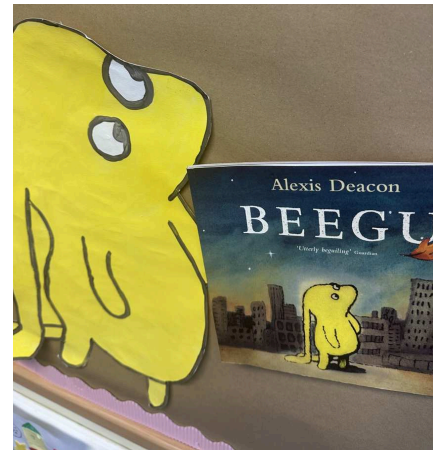
Each week, a class will have a section of the newsletter to update the community about learning that has taken place. For this newsletter, we have some photos of learning that has been happening across the school.



Mrs O'Brien returned on Thursday to sing with us all again. The children developed their knowledge of pitch and dynamics. Mrs O'Brien also taught the children a range of Makaton signs.



Early Years have enjoyed being creative with 'busy fingers' each morning.



Year 1/2 have started exploring the text 'Beegu' for their first English unit of the year.



Both Key Stage 2 classes have started two very exciting History topics. Years 3/4 are learning about the Stone Age to Iron Age and Year 5/6 are learning about Ancient Egypt.

Attendance

Good attendance is a vital part of ensuring every child progresses well both academically and socially.

As you may be aware, to improve attendance in schools nationally, the government has released new guidance about this. This is now statutory guidance and all schools are expected to adhere to this. In summary, the expectations for attendance and procedures schools must implement have become much more robust.

Here is a link to the guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance>

In light of this, we will be sharing a new attendance policy soon. When this is shared, Mr Beach will provide a letter summarising the changes.

Please ensure to inform us of any absences by 9am each morning and an update for each day that the absence continues.

Thank you your support with this.

Attendance Ladder



Reminders

- Please ensure lunch boxes have no sweets or chocolates.
- We are also a nut-free school so kindly ask you to be mindful of this.
- It is lovely seeing the children looking smart as they return to school; please check that all items are labelled.
- Please be mindful when parking not to block the pavements; this has made it difficult for families with push chairs.
- Please ensure the office have two emergency contacts and that information on Arbor is complete eg. photo permissions, medical needs etc.



Key dates

Please note- new dates will be added on in red

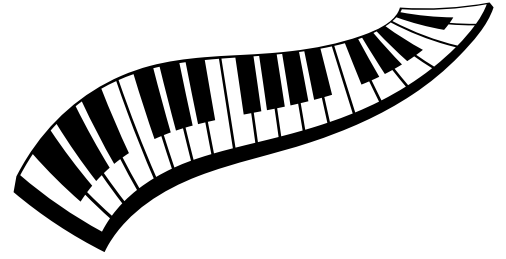


September	<p>10th Y3/4 Meet the Teacher meeting 3:00-3:15pm 11th Y5/6 Meet the Teacher meeting 3:00-3:15pm 12th Y1/2 Meet the Teacher meeting 3:00-3:15pm 13th School Blessing 16th-20th Y5/6 Residential (PGL) 25th Early Years Phonics Workshop 2:45-3:15pm 27th Macmillan Coffee Morning 9-10:00am</p>
October	<p>Black History Month 2nd Vision day 4th Grandparents afternoon 2:00-3:00pm 8th Individual Photos 14th Harvest Service 15th Vision day exhibition at the Church (afterschool) 22nd & 24th Parent Consultation evenings 24th Early Years stay & play 8:45-9:15am w/c 28th Half Term</p>
November	<p>British Legion Poppy Assembly TBC 11th Remembrance service w/c 11th Anti-Bullying Week 15th Children in Need</p>
December	<p>1st Start of Advent 19th Nativity & Carol Concert (more details to follow) 17th Pantomime @Beauty & the Beast Dunstable 20th Christingle (timings TBC) 20th End of term (1:30pm finish) w/c 23rd & 30th Christmas Holidays</p>
January	<p>6th INSET day (school closed for pupils) From 6th - Epiphany</p>

February	w/c 17th Half Term
March	<p>4th Shrove Tuesday</p> <p>5th Ash Wednesday (Start of Lent)</p> <p>12th Open afternoon</p> <p>14th Red Nose Day</p> <p>21st World Poetry Day</p> <p>25th & 27th Parental Consultation evenings</p>
April	<p>TBC Easter Egg roll, Easter Service & Bonnet Parade</p> <p>4th End of term (1:30pm finish)</p> <p>w/c 7th & 14th Easter Holidays</p> <p>20th Easter day</p> <p>22nd INSET day (school closed for pupils)</p> <p>29th Y6 SATs information session 3-3:30pm</p>
May	<p>w/c 12th Y6 SATs week</p> <p>w/c 26th Half term</p>
June	<p>w/c 2nd Y4 Multiplication Table Check</p> <p>8th Pentecost</p> <p>w/c 9th Y1 Phonics Screening Check</p> <p>w/c 23rd Small Schools Week & School Diversity Week</p> <p>24th Whole School Trip (more information to follow)</p> <p>26th Sports day</p> <p>27th INSET day (school closed for pupils)</p>
July	<p>18th End of year reports sent out</p> <p>Y6 Leavers Service TBC</p> <p>22nd Term ends @1:30pm</p> <p>23rd Occasional day</p>

Community information

There is a vacancy for piano lessons on Fridays with Mrs Seodi. Please get in touch with the school office if you would like to book a place.



We are pleased to continue working in partnership with Dacrum Family Services. They provide a range of support from Family Support Workers, SEND Family Support Workers, Pupil Support Workers and provide lots of useful information about support and services in the area.

To contact them, please see below for the details-

Tel: 01442 401222 Ext 5

jnethercoat@hobbshillwood.herts.sch.uk



ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A RECEPTION SCHOOL PLACE FOR SEPTEMBER 2025?

Have you considered Great Gaddesden CE Primary School?

Small, family feel



Academic excellence



Broad, engaging curriculum



Caring, Christian & inclusive ethos



Please get in contact for a tour

Deadline for applications: January 15th 2025

📞 01442 255734

✉ admin@greatgaddesden.herts.sch.uk



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