

# Great Gaddesden CE (VA) Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Matt Beach

This month's  
values is:



## Weekly update

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week, we had an arrival of lots of books! These are to support us implement a new English scheme of work to teach writing and guided reading. Our scheme of work is based around the Literacy Tree programme which provides a book-based approach to teaching English. The programme aims to transform literacy through literature.



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### Wrap around care

Monday, Wednesday &  
Thursday 8:00am-6:00pm  
Tuesday 8:00am- 4:30pm  
Friday (breakfast club only)

To extend your booking to  
5:30 or 6:00pm, please  
contact the school office

On a separate note, unfortunately, we have had a high number of absences this week. Please note, we are unable to authorise term time holiday. The national threshold for a penalty fee is 10 sessions. Each day has two sessions so 5 school days absence within 10 school weeks meets this threshold. **Every day** really counts so please ensure to avoid taking holidays during term time.

As I mentioned last week, we have a few spaces left for Nursery and Reception in September. If you know of any families looking for a school place, please let them know.

Have a restful half term break and we look forward to seeing everyone on Monday  
2<sup>nd</sup> June.

Kind regards,  
**Mr M. Beach - Headteacher**

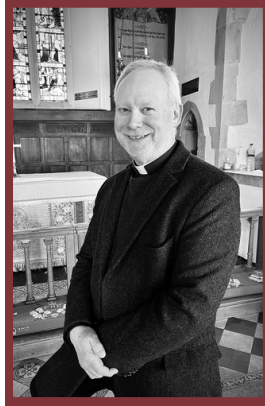
## Attendance

**OUR OVERALL ATTENDANCE THIS  
WEEK IS: 86%**  
**OUR OVERALL ATTENDANCE SO  
FAR THIS YEAR IS: 94%**

## Religious life



THANK  
YOU



Today, was Reverend John Russell's last Friday Service at Great Gaddesden. Mr Russell has been a very special part of our school community over the last 15 years and helped us shape our Church school ethos. This morning, the children shared some reflections about Mr Russell and lots of special memories from over the years. We thank Mr Russell for all of his service and support and wish him a happy, healthy retirement.

## FOGGS updates



# 25

### Challenge 25

Grace and Thomas have been busy completing their outdoor challenges! From rescuing butterflies to kite flying, tree climbing and a hike with Beavers!



FOGGS SUMMER PARTY

We are looking for donations!

Teddy's  
Soft Toys  
Unwanted Toys  
Lucky Dip



Please start collecting for our Summer Party on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July and hand donations in to school office for FOGGS to collate!

More info to follow!

Thank you!



This week, Ophelia has been very brave by doing some tricky rock climbing!



# Forest school



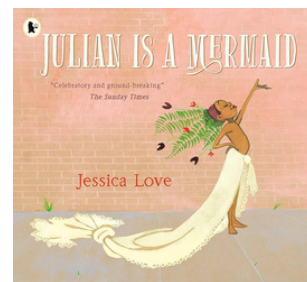
EYFS started their forest school afternoon with a walk down to the river to play 'pooh sticks!' We used our senses to discover all different types of nature along the way. We found mole hills in the field, listened to lots of different birds singing in the trees and we saw dragonflies flying over the river.

When we arrived back at school, we spent the rest of the afternoon playing in the mud kitchen and building dens in the school garden.



# Spotlight on Learning

This week, we hear from Year 1&2!



The children have been so busy this half term! In our English lessons, we read 'Julian is a Mermaid', a story about a boy who is fascinated by the mermaid costumes at a carnival he goes to. The children enjoyed sharing the story, creating their own carnival headdresses and dancing to traditional carnival music. They developed their vocabulary throughout their learning and created some beautiful poems.



Our Geography topic is 'Kenya', and the children have been enjoying learning about the geography of Kenya and comparing this to the U.K. They have recently learned about the 'Big 5' and worked in groups to create fantastic factual posters about each of these animals. The children also drew some detailed maps of a national park, painted African animals using watercolour and wrote postcards describing their experiences with the Maasai tribe.



In R.E. we have been learning about how and why Christians celebrate Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit. The children have explored the story of Pentecost and how this is celebrated in church. We have also been thinking about the 'Fruits of the Spirit' as the special gifts we have inside of us. The children all chose a 'fruit of the spirit' to decorate the tree in our reflection area.

In Science, the children have been identifying different animal groups and their structures. This week, we explored birds. After some research in the classroom, we made our very own binoculars and went for a spot of bird watching. Perhaps you could make a list of all the birds you see over the half term?





# Learners of the week

This week, the following learners below were chosen by their class teacher for demonstrating **excellent learning behaviours**:

Early years	<b>Poppy</b>
Year 1/2	<b>Nyree</b>
Year 3/4	<b>Otto</b>
Year 5/6	<b>Dolly</b>



## Headteacher's awards:

- Esmae
- William
- Alex
- Theo
- Lenny



This week, the following learners below were nominated for demonstrating '**honesty**' (our value of the month):

Early years	<b>Freya</b>
Year 1/2	<b>Ozzy</b>
Year 3/4	<b>Pippa</b>
Year 5/6	<b>Olive</b>



## Key dates

June	<b>3rd June Y3/4 Forest School (afternoon)</b> <b>6th June Y5/6 visiting Amaravati Buddhist Monastery</b> 13 <sup>th</sup> EYFS Forest School (afternoon) 16 <sup>th</sup> Y5/6 Forest School (afternoon) w/c 23 <sup>rd</sup> Small schools week 24 <sup>th</sup> Whole School Trip to Woburn (letter will be sent out on the first week back) 26 <sup>th</sup> Sports Day (Weather Dependent) (lunch picnic followed by the afternoon of events) 27 <sup>th</sup> INSET Day (School closed for Pupils)
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July	1 <sup>st</sup> Soiree (Evening/Time TBC) 2 <sup>nd</sup> Y3/4 Forest School (afternoon) 7 <sup>th</sup> Early Years Stay & Play/Welcome Meeting (for new families joining Nursery & Reception) 2-3:00pm 8 <sup>th</sup> Y6 Trip to Chessington 8 <sup>th</sup> Y1/2 Forest School (afternoon) 18 <sup>th</sup> End of Year Reports sent out 22 <sup>nd</sup> Y6 Leavers Service at 9am (St John's Church) 22 <sup>nd</sup> Term Ends @1:30pm 23 <sup>rd</sup> Occasional day
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