

Great Gaddesden CE (VA) Primary School

This month's
value is:

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Headteacher: Mr Matt Beach



Weekly update



Dear Parents/Carers,

This week, we began by introducing our value of the month which is 'Community'.

On Wednesday, Year 5&6 set off to St Alban's Cathedral to visit the 'Cosmos in the Classroom'/planetarium! It was an excellent opportunity to bring their learning about Earth and Space to life; they were particularly impressed with the moon!

We had two visits from external advisors this week. Firstly, Mrs Rothwell came in to review our SEND provision. This is part of the annual school visits commissioned by the local authority whereby all schools are visited with a different focus each year. Towards the end of the week, we had a visit from our School Effectiveness Advisor, Mrs Peck. This time she focussed on Maths, Safeguarding and RE. Both of our visitors enjoyed their time at Great Gaddesden and could see the hard work we have been doing to continue to improve our school. In relation to safeguarding, Mrs Redman completed a recent pupil voice and I am pleased to report that **100%** of children feel safe in school and identified an adult they could talk to if they felt worried.

I feel very blessed to be supported by such a wonderful staff team and supportive community. Our children really shone to our visitors as being such kind, thoughtful and hard working individuals which makes me feel so proud of each and every one of them!

Next week, the works will begin for our Early Years outdoor area! The company installing the new outdoor area are a local business and were recommended to us. They commonly complete works during term time and will ensure this is completed very safely. Next Wednesday, we have our next Parent Forum meeting from 2:00-3:00pm. Please let the office team know if you plan to join us for this.

Wishing you a restful weekend.

Kind regards,

Mr Matt Beach
Headteacher

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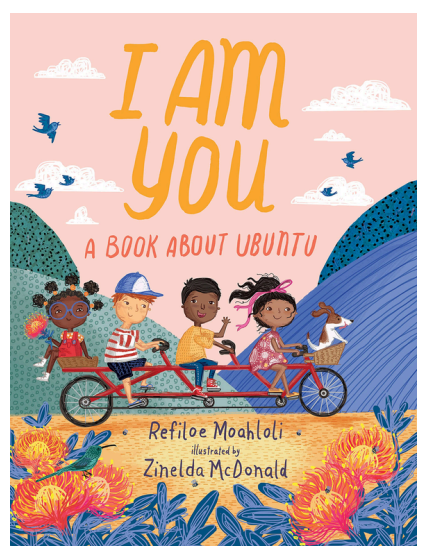
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Religious life of our school

This week, we introduced the new value of the month 'Community'. We discussed what it means and examples of different communities.

We then moved on to explore Ubuntu which is a philosophy that originates from South Africa. Ubuntu is the belief that we are all connected and sometimes translated as 'I am because we are'.

We reflected on how connections develop belonging, unity and togetherness/a sense of community. We watched a video clip about Ubuntu, its origins & I shared the the book 'I am you- A book about Ubuntu'



"Our humanity- the thread that binds... there's no me without you..."

Big question:- How do we create a sense of belonging, unity and togetherness?



Nursery September '25

If you know of any families that are looking for a Nursery place for September 2025, please share the information below:

15 & 30 HOUR NURSERY

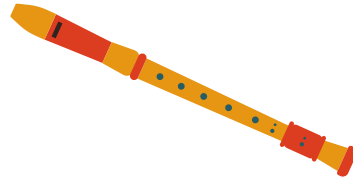
Are you looking for a pre-school place for September 2025? Have you considered Great Gaddesden?

- ✓ Qualified teacher
- ✓ Forest school
- ✓ Nurturing, inclusive environment
- ✓ New outdoor area being installed Spring 25

Please get in contact for a tour



Spotlight on learning



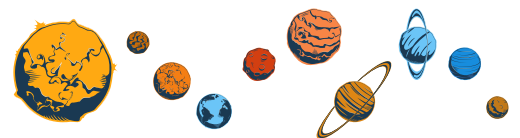
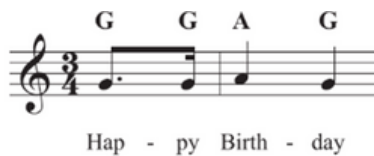
In Key Stage 2, we have started learning to play the recorder with Mr Waygood during our music lessons. It can be a bit squeaky at first, but did you know that it was one of the most important instruments in the sixteenth century, and even King Henry VIII used to play one when he was grown up? Mr Waygood played us some of his collection of recorders in 5 different sizes, and explained how the recorder is a great way to start if you want to play more modern orchestral instruments like the flute, clarinet or saxophone.



"I really like it because I always wanted to play the recorder" Grace

We started by learning how music is written to show rhythms (which we can practise by clapping), and also when notes change, so we can move our fingers at the right time.

So far we have just learned the first 2 or 3 notes, but we can already play tunes covering a whole page of music.



Cosmos in the Classroom!



Learners of the week



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

Early years	Maeve
Year 1/2	Tommy
Year 3/4	Alex
Year 5/6	Leo

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

Early years	Freddie
Year 1/2	Thomas
Year 3/4	Theo
Year 5/6	George



Benji and Fredrik- for excellent independent writing!



Attendance

OUR OVERALL ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK IS: 93%

OUR OVERALL ATTENDANCE SO FAR THIS YEAR IS: 94%



- Please ensure absences are reported every morning before 8:50am via our absence line (Option 1) or via email: absence@greatgaddesden.herts.sch.uk
- If you need any support with your child's attendance, please contact Mrs Redman (Pastoral Support)

Community information

Please scan the QR code to find out lots of information about support available locally for families

DSPL8



We're Hiring



After School Club Manager

Great Gaddesden C of E (VA) Primary School

Dacorum Borough Part time

£25,183 - £26,409 H4 Pro-rata (based on 15 hours weekly/term time)

Closing date: 30th Jan 2025 5:00 PM

We are very excited to offer this new opportunity to join our team. The role of After School Club/Wrap Around Manager is key to helping us achieve our vision to grow our wrap around provision at Great Gaddesden school. The role is for 15 hours per week (3:00-6:00pm Monday to Friday) and...

VIEW FULL DETAILS

https://www.teachinherts.com/find-a-job/view,after-school-club-manager_100149.htm

On **12th February 2-3pm** we have our next **Parent Forum Meeting.**




I've been offered my secondary school place – what now?

Date	Tuesday 25 th February 2025
Time	10.00-11.30 <i>Session will be held virtually via MS Teams</i>

Are you applying for secondary school this year?

Practical help and advice on what happens next after you've been offered a school place

For more details and to book, please email:

jnethercoat@hobbshillwood.herts.sch.uk

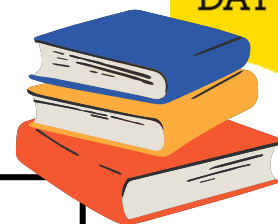
Please include contact details and name of child's school when booking

Tel: 01442 401222 Ext: 5

(closing date to register is Fri 14th Feb)

12th March- World Book Day

The children are welcome to dress up as a character from their favourite book. We ask that the children bring with them a copy of the book their character is in (where possible) to share for a whole school 'drop everything and read' session on the day. We encourage families to be creative with what you have at home and not buy a costume for the occasion. We have copies of lots of books in our Library which the children can borrow for World Book Day. If you would like to make a story in a jar with your child, they will be most welcome to refresh the current ones we have.



Key dates

New or amended dates added in **red**
Things in bold are coming up next week

February	<p>11th Safer Internet Day</p> <p>12th Parent Forum 2-3pm</p> <p>13th Y3/4 Forest School</p> <p>14th FOGGs Spring Disco 3:15-4:30pm</p> <p>w.c 17th Half term (school closed)</p> <p>24th February- Spring 2 begins</p> <p>27th- Y1/2 Forest School PM</p> <p>27th@ 8pm - Parents Online Safety Information Session (online led by Mary Rebelo- Computing & Online Safety Consultant). The link will be sent out before hand.</p>
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