



Great Gaddesden C of E Primary School

Weekly update - Autumn Term : Week 7

Religious Life of our school

As we complete a very successful first half term, it has been lovely that we have been able to share school events with family and friends. Following the blessing of the new school year, we then welcomed grandparents to school for the afternoon. Earlier this month, we celebrated our Harvest Festival as a community and we recently enjoyed having the school's excellent provision for all learners recognised, following a visit by a Hertfordshire School Advisor. We congratulate the children for their enthusiastic learning and the way in which all of them strive to live our mission statement, reflecting the school values.



Parental Consultations

It was great to see so many parents at our Parental Consultation meetings. This turned out to be a candlelit evening due to a power cut throughout the village, but the show still went on! A reflection of the resilience of both staff and parents !



Dacorum Parent/Carers Courses and Supports

Please follow the link for information regarding the [Autumn Term](#) parent/carers courses and activities run by Dacorum DSPL8.

Safety Newsletter

Please see attached the Dacorum and St Alban's Quarterly Newsletter, produced by the Fire and Rescue Service. Please take the time to read this important information and share accordingly with your children.

Staffing update

This week, we said goodbye and a heartfelt thank you to Mrs Hitchin, who has been working in our office since the beginning of term, setting up and implementing new systems and processes. She now hands over to Mrs Cummins, who will be leading the office from Tuesday to Thursday. Please remember to keep us updated with new phone numbers, contacts and addresses as they occur.



Follow the Star



This week, in our Celebration Assembly, we launched our Follow the Star challenge. When we were in church on Friday, we looked at the journey from Great Gaddesden to Bethlehem. This is a total of 2,755 miles and our challenge is to travel the equivalent number of miles; by foot, bike or scooter. Each week, we will celebrate the total number of miles travelled by our community. We will be looking at different aspects of each of countries as we travel through them.

The children are so enthusiastic about this new project, particularly as in addition to raising funds, it will also be a whole school community event, with the physical benefits supporting our wellbeing. Please find the additional information that the children brought home on Friday.

Follow the Star



FOGGS Newsletter : Autumn 1

Welcome to the new academic year!

In our September AGM, we agreed to make changes to the past FOGGS set up and events. We hope these changes will help to grow FOGGS and raise as much money as possible for the school, who welcome as much financial support as possible to support the children.

Last year, the money your donated to FOGGS was spent on the following:-

- EYFS whiteboard
- Little Wandle Reading books
- coach for the panto
- blinds in the reading corner
- school art resources
- Year 5/6 lockers
- Year 6 Hazard Alley trip
- transport for whole school trip Cliveden Trip coach
- National Trust Membership a
- Coronation crafts

Total financial support for the above activities totalled **£8135.51**. A fantastic amount that enabled our children to have experiences and resources that they would not otherwise have been able to have benefitted from.

All families are most welcome to join FOGGS. This year, there will be a core committee who run each meeting, have responsibility for financial and event decisions and take on the main roles for the charity. Everyone is most welcome to join the committee. Please just let Mrs Wickens know and she will pass on your details. We are aware people would like to support FOGGS without joining the committee, so we are setting up a FOGGS Support Group. If you would like to support and help at events on an ad hoc basis, put forward ideas etc., please join this group via the link that will be sent out in the class WhatsApp groups after half term.

We have started to plan events for the year and these will be communicated each term. They will be advertised in the newsletter and included in the newsletter diary dates. A reminder will go out in class WhatsApp groups nearer the time of the event.

Autumn Term events

Christmas cards and gifts: delivery planned for *w/beg Monday 20th November*

Follow the Star Sponsored Walk : *Friday 20th October to Tuesday 19th December*

Community walk: *Saturday 18th November, 1:30 p.m.*

Pyjama Movie Night: *Friday 17th November*

Non uniform day for Hamper donations: *Friday 1st December*

Christmas Raffle: Tickets on sale on *Monday 4th December*, with the draw on 18th December

Mulled wine and mince pies after the Christmas Service: *19th December*

Diary dates:

All dates are displayed on the [School Calendar](#) on the website. Please note that occasionally, it may be necessary to change dates. When this occurs, these will be highlighted to parents.

Newly added dates are displayed in **red**.

23/10/23 - 27/10/23 Half term break 27/10/23 - closing date for secondary applications	
01/11/23	Applications for Reception place opens (September '24)
02/11/23	KS2 Gaddesden Singing Festival: Y3 -Y6 2:40 - concert for parents
07/11/23	Visitor from The Royal British Legion
w/beg 13/11/23	Anti bullying week
16/11/23	Flu vaccines
17/11/23 3:30- 4:45/5:00	Children in Need day FOGGS movie night
29/11/23	Y5/6 Bletchley Park visit
01/12/23	Non uniform day (chocolate/bottle donations for FOGGS Xmas hampers)
07/12/23	Christmas Jumper Day (supporting Save the Children)
12/12/23	Whole School Pantomime - Peter Pan
13/12/23	Christmas lunch
14/12/23	KS2 Carol Singing at Care Home
19/12/23	a.m. EYFS + Y1 Nativity 2:00 - Carol Service - Y2 to Y6 6:00 - Carol Service - Y2 to Y6
21/12/23	1:30 pm - End of Autumn term