

Great Gaddesden CE (VA) Primary School

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Weekly update

Dear Parents/Carers,

On Monday, we gathered together for our act of Remembrance. It was a very moving event and enabled us all to be still, reflect, share prayers and poems. We were pleased to welcome parents, relatives and neighbours to join us for this.

On Tuesday, we had our termly visit from our School Effectiveness Adviser, Mrs Peck. For this visit, we spent the morning looking at our English curriculum. Mrs Peck was very impressed with our Early Reading Curriculum and the development work that has taken place to implement the systematic synthetic phonics (SSP) programme, 'Little Wandle'. We visited every classroom and Mrs Peck spoke to a number of children about their Reading and Writing learning. As always, our children were great ambassadors for our school; the calm learning environments also shone through. The further development of our writing curriculum and outcomes forms part of Priority 1 on our two year school development plan. Mrs Peck agreed with our self-evaluation including both the strengths as well as the development areas. She is excited to be on the journey with us and see how our school continues to grow.

This week has been Anti-Bullying week. The theme for this year is 'Choose Respect'. Each class spent their PSHE lesson focusing on this theme and gaining a shared understanding of how we respect, accept and understand our differences.

On Thursday, we had our first parent forum meeting. Thank you to everyone who attended. Following on from this meeting, a survey has been sent out to review drop-off arrangements. Minutes from this meeting (including a summary of our development priorities) will be shared by the end of next week.

Today, the children (and staff) enjoyed wearing something yellow and/or spotty for Children in Need. In line with our Christian ethos, it is important for us to support our children to understand that there are children around the world in need of support and help in difficult times.

Have a good weekend.

Mr Matt Beach
Headteacher

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Religious life of our school

Value of the month:



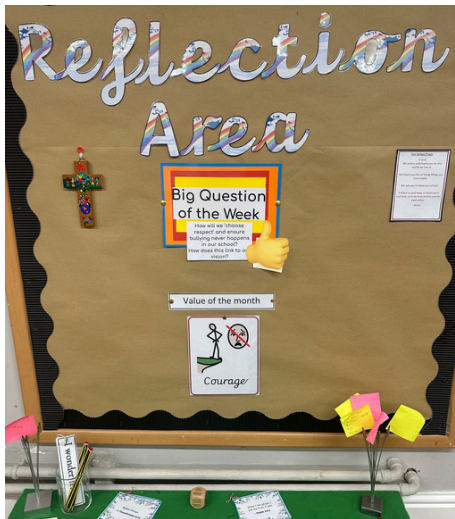
During our act of remembrance, we gathered together around the war memorial and the children shared poems and prayers. When the church bells rang at 11 o'clock, we observed two minutes silence. Our reflection ambassadors then laid a poppy wreath that was made by Year 3&4. The act of remembrance is just one way we support all members of the community to live out our vision through the Great Gaddesden Be's.



Be observant and thoughtful

Be flexible and reflective

Be kind and empathetic



Our Big Question this week has been:

How will we ensure to choose respect and ensure bullying does not happen in our school?
How does this link to our vision?



Spotlight on learning

This week, we have an overview of learning from each class.

Key Stage 1

In Geography, Years 1 & 2 have been using their map skills to learn about places around the world. They have located the UK, our local area and also our capital city, London.



Early Years

Early years have begun rolling snack. This means they have their snack when they choose. They have been using their Maths skills to count how many children have had their snack and also practising writing the fruit or vegetable they have eaten. Also, Early Years have had the guinea pigs visit their classroom this week! They have enjoyed learning about how to look after them.



Key stage 2



Years 3 & 4 have been very creative by making their own Stonehenge inspired silhouettes and sunsets.

Year 5 & 6 have also been capturing their learning creatively linked to their RE enquiry question 'What does the Qur'an reveal to Muslims about Allah and his guidance?'



Learners of the week



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

Early years	Freddie
Year 1/2	Joshua
Year 3/4	Ophelia
Year 5/6	Dolly

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

Early years	Max
Year 1/2	Eddie
Year 3/4	Elise
Year 5/6	Gunay



Attendance

OUR OVERALL ATTENDANCE

THIS WEEK IS: 92%

OUR OVERALL ATTENDANCE SO FAR

THIS YEAR IS: 93%

Our attendance this week has been lower than last week.

Whilst we do understand that illness is more common at this time of year, please be reassured that if you are unsure whether to send your child in, we will give you a call if they are feeling poorly and need to be at home.

Attendance was discussed at the parent forum this week and importance of improving our overall attendance and punctuality.

Please note- children arriving between 8:45-9:00 will be marked as late (L).

Arrivals after 9:00am will be recorded as an unauthorised absence (U) for that session. 10 sessions is the national threshold for a fixed term penalty to be applied for.

Thank you for your ongoing support with this.

Attendance Ladder



Community information



<https://padlet.com/SENCOGG/support-for-children-and-families>

Parentkind – the charity that supports school PTAs – have teamed up with Asda, who is making millions of pounds available to donate to primary schools across the UK through their ‘Cashpot for Schools’ initiative – all you have to do is, opt in through the Asda Rewards app, choose our primary school and shop and scan in store or shop online at [Asda.com](https://www.asda.com), between 2nd September and 30th November 2024 (**only two weeks left!**)

Asda will donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to our Primary school. Also, every time somebody opts in, Asda will give an additional £1 to the school Cashpot.

Key dates

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

November	21st Nov – Y5&6 Forest school 28th Nov- EYs Rescheduled Forest school
December	3rd World Disability Day 6th FOGGs Disco 3:30–4:45pm (payments via Arbor) 13th FOGGs Christmas film afternoon (children to bring in pyjamas to change into) 17th Whole school Panto trip- Beauty and the Beast (Dunstable) 18th Christmas Dinner & Jumper day (optional £1 donation for Save the Children) 19th Nativity and Carol Concert- there will be two services (afternoon and evening) Early Years and KS1 Nativity (afternoon) & KS2 Carol Service (evening) 20th Christingle at 1:00pm at St John’s Church End of Term 20th December @1:30pm