

Great Gaddesden CE (VA) Primary School

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



Weekly update

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week I have had the pleasure of visiting all classrooms and seeing learning in action. Behaviour across the school remains a strength and I am very proud to lead a school that provides such warm, nurturing environments that support our children to flourish. It was lovely to see the children giving tasks a go, enjoying learning and engaging in great discussions. I also enjoyed visiting Year 1 and 2 to talk about their History learning about old and new toys.

On 14th November, 9-10:00am we will be hosting our first Parent Forum meeting at school. Two weeks before the meeting, I will circulate with all parents/carers items as a school we would like to discuss and consult with parents about as well as the terms of reference for parent forum. Parents are then welcome to respond with any areas they would like to discuss together. These will be whole school areas and year group specific. Any individual concerns or queries should be shared with the school separately.

Attached to this week's newsletter is an important update from our governing body. I am very thankful for the support Carole Connelly provided as I stepped into the role of Headteacher at Great Gaddesden and know how much she has done for the school over the years. I am very much looking forward to working with Sarah Pugh in her new role as Chair of Governors.

As you may be aware, governance is a voluntary role and they provide invaluable support to the strategic direction of the school. We are very fortunate to have a diverse range of skills on the board and I would like to thank all of our governors for their time and effort to shape the future of our school.

Thank you everyone for your patience as we began using Arbor for the first time to book parental consultation appointments. If you need any support with this, please let the office team know.

Have a lovely weekend!

Mr Matt Beach
Headteacher

In this issue:

- Update from Headteacher- 1
- Religious life of our school- 2
- Spotlight on learning- 3
- Awards & attendance- 4
- Forest school & FOGGs update- 5
- Community information & dates- 6 & 7



Religious life of our school

This week, during our Monday collective worship, we introduced Black History Month. We discussed the theme for this year and focussed on a range of inspirational people that have contributed towards Black History. In particular, we spoke about Martin Luther King and how he used his faith and the Bible to bring about change to society. We listened to one of his prayers and reflected on his courage and determination for equality.

Today, linking to our monthly value 'Respect', Mrs Tisbury shared the Bible story about Phillip helping and supporting a man from Ethiopia. The story is a powerful lesson about diversity and being accepting, kind and welcoming to individuals from all walks of life into the family of faith.

Our questions for reflection this week were:

Our value of the month is:

As all God's children, how do we show respect to each other?

"Look after everything and show kindness"

"By listening to each other"



How will we ensure that Black History is carefully understood and respected in our school?

"respecting we are all different"

"Providing lots of opportunities to learn about diversity in the curriculum"

Harvest



DACORUM FOODBANK HIGH NEEDS LIST

HARVEST 2024

Further to the communication sent out this week, we are getting ready for the upcoming Harvest service on **17th October at 2:30pm**.

If you are unable to join us, we will take some photos and share these on X (previously Twitter).

We are still accepting donatations for our offering and these can be dropped off with your child/children in the mornings.

FOOD
• Tinned ham/corned beef
• Jars of cooking sauces
• Sponge puddings
• Custard
• Tinned rice pudding
• Tinned fruit
• 200ml juices/drinks
• Tinned vegetables
• Cereal bars
• Biscuits
• Tea bags

KITCHEN/HYGIENE
• 2-in-1 shampoo
• Washing up liquid
• Laundry liquid/powder/tabs
• Men's and women's deodorants
• Size 4-8 nappies
• 75 litre black sacks
Please note: We do not accept furniture, clothes, shoes and accessories.



Spotlight on learning

This week, we hear from Year 5 & 6 who have been inspired by the work of Walter De La Mere to create poems and descriptive writing about the forest. We have used his poem 'The Listeners' to create some very atmospheric writing with a focus on expanded noun phrases and relative clauses. We have also created 'human sentences' to explore how changing the word order in a sentence can create greater impact.

In Science, the children have been learning about the circulatory system. This week, they role-played being blood, transported by the heart to the lungs and around the body to distribute the oxygen.

In RE, the children are exploring the enquiry question, 'What does the Qur'an reveal to Muslims about Allah and his guidance?'

So far they have discovered how the Qur'an was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad and how Muslims memorise the Qur'an to help them live their lives according to Allah's guidance.

Finally, we have enjoyed learning about the Ancient Egyptians during our history lessons. This unit will continue for the rest of the term when we will research hieroglyphs, Tutenkhamun and many other aspects of Ancient Egyptian life

Early Years

We have some exciting development plans for Early Years! As you are aware, Forest School and our natural environment is very important to us. Therefore, we are looking to provide a range of natural resources inside the classroom as well.

If you have anything you would like to donate for our 'loose parts' area such as conkers, pine cones, corks etc or have any wooden or natural resources and/or furniture you would like to donate or know of anyone that would be willing to support us with this project, please let Mrs Benson or Mrs Marshall know.

Here are some examples:



Learners of the week



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

Early years	Roman
Year 1/2	Ozzy
Year 3/4	Amelie
Year 5/6	George

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

Early years	Freddie
Year 1/2	Mia
Year 3/4	Harley
Year 5/6	Joey



Attendance

OUR OVERALL ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK IS: 92%
OUR OVERALL ATTENDANCE SO FAR THIS TERM IS: 92%

In line with our attendance policy, we are currently monitoring persistent absence. Therefore, as a courtesy message, I just wanted to inform you that letters will be sent out next week if your child's attendance has dropped below 90%. We usually would send out a letter if attendance has dropped below 95%. However, at this point of the year, we understand that attendance figures can drop lower due to the overall number of days in school being lower.

If you receive a letter, have any concerns or would like to discuss this further including any support we can provide, please get in touch and book an appointment.

Thank you for your ongoing support with these statutory changes to our policies and procedures.

Attendance Ladder



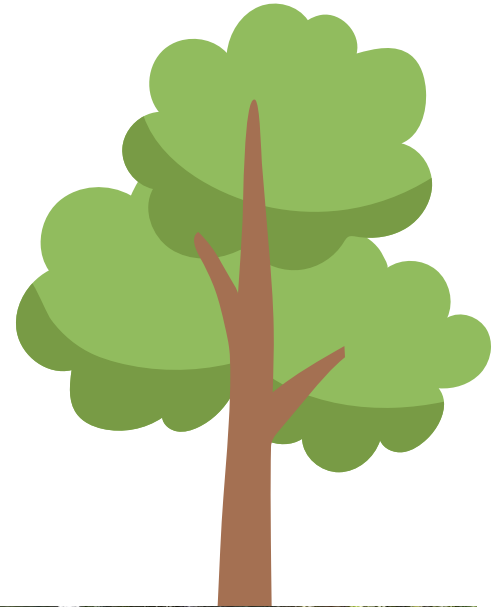
Forest school

This week, EYFS had their first Forest School. They learned about the rules at Forest School and experienced a variety of activities.

The children used the palm drills to create conker creatures; this was a great opportunity to hone their fine motor skills as they used the palm drills and threaded their conkers on to pipe cleaners.

It was wonderful to see their imagination come alive as they had the idea to make leads for their conker pets and took them wherever they went!

They also created a Forest School circus out of tarpaulins!



FOGGS update

Our fabulous FOGGS team have been working hard at sorting through all of the donated uniform in the Church.

If you require any uniform, please feel free to pop up to the Church to have a look. The rail is located at the back of the Church and FOGGS will be there at our Harvest Service next week.

We are very thankful for all of the donations but to keep this space manageable, please could future donations be items with the school logo on.

Thank you



Community information



Help with your Secondary school application form

Date	Monday 21 st October 2024
Time	12.30-2.30 pm Online via MS Teams and face to face at Hobbs Hill Wood Primary School HP3 8ER

Are you applying for Secondary school this year?

Let us help with the worries of applying for a secondary school place. We can offer a step-by-step guide to completing the application form along with practical help and advice. A member of the Secondary Admissions Team at County will also be online to answer any questions – this will be an ideal opportunity to gain a greater understanding of the process including any Do's and Don'ts




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

Please specify whether you would like to join us online or in person



Anxiety and Attendance

Date	Monday 14 th October 2024
Time	1:00 – 3:00 pm Session will be held online via MS Teams

Is your child struggling to come into school?


A **free** workshop for parents:

- What is anxiety? – signs to look out for
- Strategies to manage anxiety and improve resilience and attendance
- Understand your child and their responses and behaviour





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



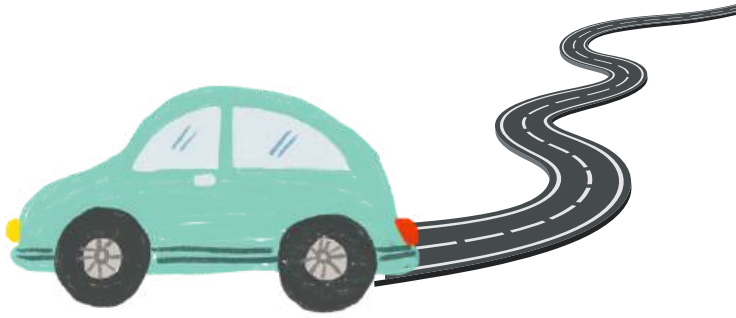
FREE Workshops

For all parents/carers*

Sessions will be held either online via MS Teams or face to face at Hobbs Hill Wood Primary School HP3 8ER

Lite Bite	Date	Time & Location
Secondary School Application – Top tips	Wed 25th September 2024	10.00-11.30 online
Anxiety & Attendance Part 1	Mon 14th October 2024	1.00-3.00 online
Help with your secondary school application form	Mon 21st October 2024	12.30-2.30 Face to face & online
Anxiety & Attendance Part 2 Strategies & Tips	Wed 13th November 2024	10.00-11.30 online
Helping your child with their anger	Tues 14th January 2025	9.30-11.00 Face to face
I've been offered my secondary place - what now?	Tues 25th February 2025	10.00-11.30 online
Helping your child with their worries	Wed 19th March 2025	10.00-11.30 online
Helping your child with their anger	Tues 8th April 2025	10.00-11.30 online
Promoting healthy sleep for your child	Wed 7th May 2025	10.00-11.30 online
Top tips for transition to secondary school	Wed 18th June 2025	10.00-11.30 online

To book your place, please contact Jan Nethercoat on:
jnethercoat@hobbshillwood.herts.sch.uk
 Tel: 01442 401222 Ext: 5 (Term time only)
 Please include contact details and name of child's school when booking

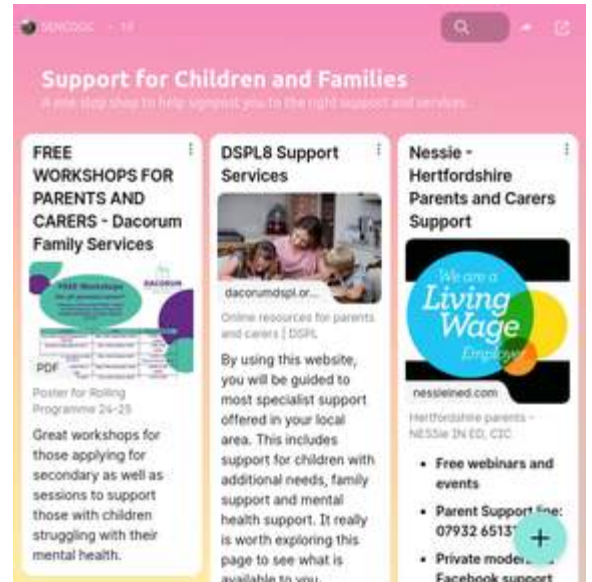


Parking along Church Meadow

We have had some concerns reported this week from local residents about parking at drop off and pick up. Please do not park across drive ways or use our neighbours driveways to turn around.

Where possible, please use the garden centre car park and walk to and from school. Not only is this more environmentally friendly as there is less idling and traffic but it is also more considerate to our local neighbours.

Thank you for your support and cooperation.



Key dates

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

<p>October</p>	<p>15th Vision day exhibition at the Church (after school) 17th Harvest Service at 2:30pm 22nd & 24th Parent Consultation evenings (see separate communication) 24th Early Years stay & play 8:45-9:15am w/c 28th Half Term</p>
<p>November</p>	<p>14th November Parent Forum 9-10am (open to all parents to attend/more details to follow)</p>