

Great Gaddesden CE (VA) Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Matt Beach

Weekly update

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week began with some exciting news as Great Gaddesden was listed in the Sunday Times Good Schools Guide (2025) as being in the Top 30 of small state schools nationally! It is great to have the recognition for all of the achievements of our school community.

Next week is a very busy week planned at Great Gaddesden.

Here is a summary of events and reminders:

- **Monday 16th**- KS2 will be visiting St Paul's Care Home to sing Christmas Carols
- **Tuesday 17th**- Whole school trip to the Pantomime in Dunstable*
- **Wednesday 18th**- Christmas jumper (over school uniform) and dinner (optional donation for Save the Children).
- **Thursday 19th**
 - Early Years 'Nursery Rhyme Nativity' at 9:30 (please arrive at the school office from 9:20)
 - KS1 Nativity- 2pm at the Church
 - KS2 Carols by Candlelight- 4:30pm-5:30 (approx) at the Church (all KS2 children to remain at school until after the service)
- **Friday 20th**- Christingle (in school event)

*For the pantomime, the children will need to bring their water bottle and a small, pocket sized treat. No chocolate or nuts please.

We look forward to you joining us next week for lots of Christmas joy!

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Mr Matt Beach
Headteacher

12 days until Christmas!



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Top 30

Great Gaddesden is in the top 30 of small state schools across the country!



THE SUNDAY TIMES
SCHOOLS GUIDE
2025

Religious life of our school

In collective worship this week, we listened to the Bible story about Paul and the shipwreck.

Questions for Reflection:

How do you think Paul and the people on the ship felt when they finally reached land?

How did Pauls' faith in God give him hope and strength?

Who around the world might be in need of help right now? Let's pray for them together.

This week's 'Big Question' was...

"By believing in yourself and never giving up"

"Believe in yourself and never doubt"

How can we have hope when at times we might feel hopeless?

"By trusting Jesus Christ and believing in him"

"Believe and trust in God. Believe in yourself and pray"

"By pushing through hard and rough times"

"Talk about it"

"By trusting Jesus"



'Treat others exactly as you would like to be treated yourself.' (Luke 6:31)

FOGGs Disco



A fabulous time was had by all at the FOGGs Christmas disco last Friday.

Thank you to all of FOGGs for organising this event, our parent helpers and the staff that supported the event. It was lovely to see how much fun and joy the children had!



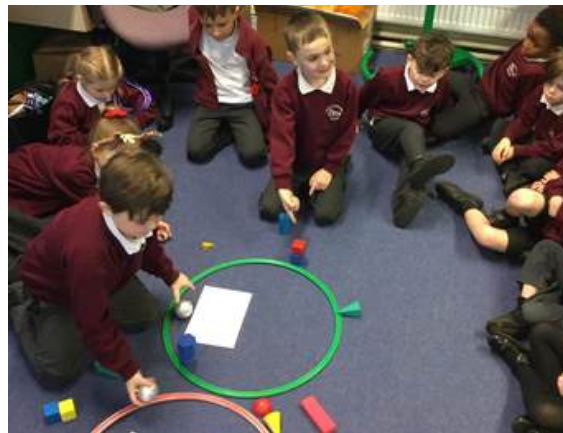


Spotlight on learning



This week, we hear from Key Stage One!

Year 1 and 2 have been excitedly preparing for their Nativity and beginning some winter activities in class. However, they have still packed in plenty of learning! We have come to the end of our topic on shape this week. The class worked together to sort 3D shapes into ones that roll and ones that stack. They have also created shape patterns and completed some winter symmetry.



In English, the children have written some beautiful descriptive sentences about Winter and what they might see, hear and feel. They also used their 'bossy verbs' to instruct a partner how to get changed for a cold Winter's day and also how to build an imaginary snowman. Some excellent work was produced from all the children.



In D&T, Year 1 and 2 have been collaboratively working on a couple of Arctic box habitats so we will aim to finish those off before the holidays. With Christmas cards, calendars and decorations still to make, it will be a fun and crafty end to the term!



Learners of the week

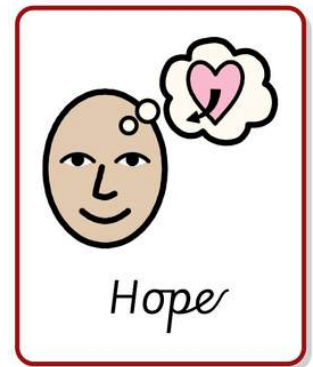


This week, the following learners below were chosen by their class teacher for demonstrating **excellent learning behaviours**:

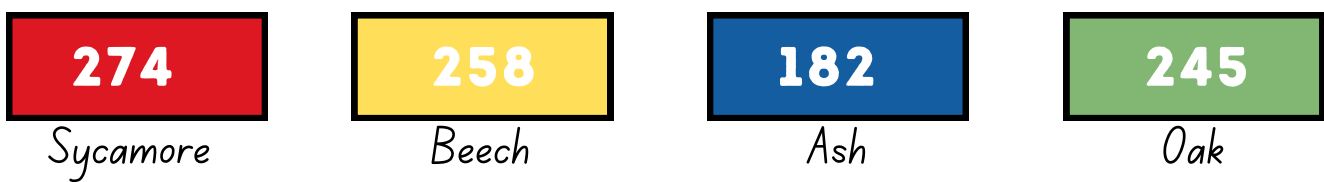
Early years	Freddie
Year 1/2	La Belle
Year 3/4	Joseph & Grace
Year 5/6	Kiera

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

Early years	Savannah
Year 1/2	Nyree
Year 3/4	Leo
Year 5/6	Amorie



The total house points for this term are listed below:



Well done to **Sycamore house!** They will have a reward next week for collecting the most amount of house points!

Attendance

OUR OVERALL ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK IS: 91%

OUR OVERALL ATTENDANCE SO FAR THIS YEAR IS: 93%

Attendance Ladder



Community information

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



Reminders

Uniform

Please ensure your child is wearing the correct school uniform. It is important for the children to be dressed smartly for school.

Our uniform expectations:

- School jumper (with logo/badge)
- White polo top (logo/badge not required)
- Grey or black smart trousers or skirt (jogging bottoms are only allowed for children in Early Years)
- Grey or black socks or tights (no trainer socks)
- Hair below shoulder length to be tied back
- Black shoes (trainers are allowed if they are black)



Idling & Parking

Please be mindful of idling at drop off and pick up.

We have had reports of parents leaving cars running unattended which is very dangerous.

Thank you for your support with safe parking and reducing idling.

Key dates

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

December

17th Whole school Panto trip- Beauty and the Beast (Dunstable)

18th Christmas Dinner & Jumper day (optional £1 donation for Save the Children)

19th (parents welcome to join all of these events)

- **Early Years 'Nursery Rhyme Nativity' - 9:30am in the school hall**
- **KS1 (Years 1&2) Nativity - 2pm at the Church**
- **KS2 (Years 3-6) Carols by Candlelight - 4:30 at the Church**

20th Christingle at 1:00pm at St John's Church (in school event)

End of Term 20th December @1:30pm