



'Follow the Star'



We made it !! On Friday, we celebrated the grand total of 3410 miles that we have walked as part of our 'Follow the Star' project. We have achieved this together as a school and church community. This distance has taken us to Bethlehem, the place of Jesus' birth. In doing this, we have also managed to raise an amazing £1,734. This is such a fabulous achievement for our community and on behalf of the school, I thank everyone for the amazing support that has made this project such a success. We particularly thank Mrs Mudd, Mrs Scutt, Mrs Jones and Mrs Hobbins for their amazing organisation.



One of the most important aspects of this project was the way in which the children have been able to work together for the benefit of others. Some of the funds that have been raised, will be going to support the Ugandan charity, 'Small Steps'. Every Great Gaddesden child has written a letter to the school in Uganda, describing our school and telling them what our life is like. During our Celebration Assembly, we were able to hear a

few of these letters. All of them have now been given to Mrs Mudd, who will be ensuring that they reach the children in the school in Uganda.

Pantomime

Our annual pantomime trip was greatly enjoyed by all pupils and staff. Set in Foreverland, 'The All New Adventures of Peter Pan' told the story of Poppy Sunshine, and her adventures with Peter Pan, Tinkerbell and Captain Hook's son! We were extremely proud of our children and their excellent behaviour in the theatre. Fine ambassadors of our school.



Christmas Dinner



On Wednesday, it was time for our Christmas lunch. With tinsel decorating the tables and careful planning, we managed to seat all the children from Y1 - Y6 in the hall, so that they could all enjoy their lunch together.

Care Home Carol singing



An important annual event at this time of year is when our KS2 children visit a local care home to sing carols for the residents. The children sang a mixture of traditional and new carols. The residents were so delighted to hear the children's singing, reinforcing the importance of giving to others.



Piano and flute concert

We ended the week with our musicians giving a lovely concert, sharing the pieces that they have been working on recently. It was lovely to see the progress that they have all made. Well done to all our performers.



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**.

19/12/23	10:00 - EYFS Nativity 2:00 - KS1 Nativity story (Y1/2) 6:00 - KS2 Carol Service (Y3-6)
21/12/23	9:00 Christingle Service in the church. All parents welcome
21/12/23	1:30 pm - End of Autumn term

Forest School

Year 5 & 6 showed fantastic problem solving and collaboration skills as they set about the challenge of relocating and then spreading the wood chippings in the bark area. Many children chose to continue this task for the whole session, while others made some fantastic Christmas decorations from natural materials.



FOGGS Update

Merry Christmas Everyone!

This half term has been a busy one for FOGGs with GaddFest, Christmas card orders, Movie Night, Christmas Raffle and the Follow the Star fundraiser! Thank you to everyone for your support.

During Friday's whole school assembly, the school celebrated all the miles that had been collected during our Follow the Star fundraiser. Our wonderful community has raised nearly £2000! It has been truly wonderful to read about all the walking everyone has been able to do, as well as raise money for the school and The Small Steps Foundation in Uganda. You can read more about this here:

<https://www.hemeltoday.co.uk/education/school-children-heading-to-bethlehem-4442240>

So far this term we have raised £1726.95 for the school, however, this does not yet include the money raised from Follow the Star fundraiser or the Christmas Raffle! Thank you so much for all your support. This has meant we have been able to support the school by funding the coach for the panto trip, purchasing Jigsaw (a PSHE programme), a First News subscription and Online Safety training for the whole school community and this is just in the Autumn Term. Going forward, the school has asked us to raise money to redo the internal courtyard and the garden area. We will keep you up to date on our fundraising for this in our half termly newsletter updates!

Our fantastic Christmas Raffle is still live and you can still purchase tickets! We have 15 amazing hampers up for grabs this year and all the money raised will be going straight to the school. The draw for this will be at 10am on Tuesday 19th December and the hampers will be available to collect in the Church from Tuesday 19th December during the Christmas performances. Tickets are available to buy on:

<https://go.rallyup.com/greatgaddchristmas/Campaign/Details>

We will have festive Christmas refreshments (hot drinks and mince pies) available at all Christmas performances next week in exchange for donations. We will try to use our card reader at this, but signal may vary so there will also be pots for cash donations. These will be available from 30 minutes before the performance starts until it begins for all performances throughout the day. However, at the KS2 evening performance we hope to also serve them afterwards. Thank you in advance for your support with this.

Please remember we have a wonderful FOGGs Support Group and Committee, if you would like to join either then please get in contact via the school office or class reps.

Lastly, please follow us on socials where we will be posting about the different events!

Facebook – www.facebook.com/friendsofgreatgaddesdenschool

Instagram - [@friendsofgreatgaddesdenschool](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofgreatgaddesdenschool)

Spring Term Events and Dates

- "Yes" Day – 26th January.
- Valentines Day Krispy Kreme sale – 16th February.
- Easter Disco – March date TBC.