

# Great Gaddesden CE (VA) Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Matt Beach



## Weekly update

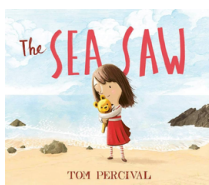
Dear Parents/Carers,

This week, as a staff team, we have been having pupil progress discussions across the school. These help us to ensure our children access support needed for them to flourish.

On Tuesday, Year 1&2 took part in the multi-skills event at Berkhamsted Everyone Active centre. They had a great time competing with other schools and being active. As per my letter last week, each class will have the opportunity over the coming months to take part in one of the Dacorum School Sports Network (DSSN) events.

In other news, one of our whole school priority areas is writing. We have been exploring different schemes of work to further develop our writing curriculum and each class has been trialling a unit of work from the Literacy Tree. Engaging, rich literature provides the framework to inspire and support our children to produce high-quality writing.

Here are some of the texts we have been exploring:



Year 1/2



Year 3/4



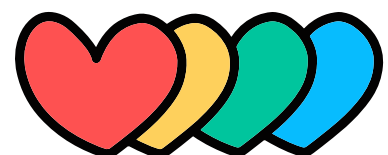
Year 5/6

On Monday 20th January, we are pleased to be taking part the International Day of Acceptance. The children can come in wearing rainbow colours or their favourite colour of the rainbow. We will be taking part in the virtual assembly with Electric Umbrella in the afternoon.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

**Mr Matt Beach**



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# Religious life of our school

This week, in collective worship, we explored the Bible story about Jesus healing 10 people. We explored how one of the people Jesus helped showed gratitude and was thankful for being healed.



Therefore, our 'Big Question' this week was:

**How do we show gratitude?**

"You can show gratitude by smiling and saying thanks!"

"Saying thank you for all you have"

"We can be grateful for the things we receive"

"Have gratitude in your heart, be grateful & have love in your heart"

"By saying thank you"



## Forest School

For our Forest school session this week, Year 5 and 6 enjoyed a trip to the woods. We learnt some of the basic skills needed for surviving in the wild. We also looked at 5 key things that you would need to do in a survival situation and ranked them in order of importance.

1. Stay calm and assess your situation
2. Find or build a shelter
3. Find clean water
4. Start a fire
5. Collect food

We discussed why you would carry them out in this order using **'The Rule of 3'**

- 3 minutes without air.
- 3 hours without shelter.
- 3 days without water.
- 3 weeks without food.

We spent the afternoon building shelters and making a 'fire in a tin.'



# Spotlight on learning



This week, we hear from Year 1 & 2!

Year 1 and 2 had a brilliant time at the DSSN Multi-Skills event this week. They took part in activities including football dribble, speed stacking, beanbag noughts-and-crosses, throwing and catching, curling stones and even activities to practise their maths skills! The children were fabulous ambassadors of our school while they were there, being praised for their calm attitude and listening to the coaches.



In the classroom, the children have been just as busy. Our maths learning over the last week has been based around subtraction. We have practised our counting backwards as a class, as well as using our number bonds to help us with more challenging subtraction sums.

In Science, we began our Spring term topic on 'plants' with a nature walk and created a research page of what we already know. Currently, we are observing what happens to plants during the Winter months.

## Spring term FOGGs events



Please save the following dates:

- 14th February - Spring Disco 3:30-4:30pm
- 21st March- PTA 'Break the Rules' Day
- w.c 31st March - Easter scavenger hunt

More information regarding the above events will follow.



# Learners of the week

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

Early years	<b>Freddie</b>
Year 1/2	<b>Edie</b>
Year 3/4	<b>Kaiden</b>
Year 5/6	<b>Guney</b>

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

Early years	<b>Maeve</b>
Year 1/2	<b>Charlotte</b>
Year 3/4	<b>Kaiden</b>
Year 5/6	<b>Sophie</b>



The following children received a **Headteacher's award** for exceptional work:

**Grace & Otto**- for their excellent poems that they published electronically.



# Attendance

**OUR OVERALL ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK IS: 94%**

**OUR OVERALL ATTENDANCE SO FAR THIS YEAR IS: 93%**

- Please ensure we have at least two contacts on Arbor should we need to contact you.
- We require a reason for absences **by 8:50am** and an update please for each further day of absence.
- Late arrivals after 9am would be recorded as an unauthorised session.
- If you need any support with your child's attendance or have any worries or concerns, please do reach out to Mrs Redman (Pastoral Support).

Attendance Ladder



# Community information

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



## 15 & 30 HOUR NURSERY

From January 2025, we are pleased to offer either 15 or 30 hour Nursery places.

- ✓ Qualified teacher
- ✓ Forest school
- ✓ Nurturing, inclusive environment
- ✓ Flexibility to top-up hours from 15 to 30 hours

Please get in contact for a tour

01442 255734  
admin@greatgaddesden.herts.sch.uk



**electric UMBRELLA**

**NO such thing as Normal Day**

**Donate and Dress Up!**

**Monday, 20th January**  
**International Day of Acceptance**

**Interactive Workshop**

Join us **online** at 2pm via Zoom for a fun-filled session of music and song with the Electric Umbrella team and members. Visit our site to learn more and get the link.

Join Electric Umbrella in shining a light on inclusion and celebrating difference! Leave your school uniform at home and be who you are - embrace the unique with the wackiest wardrobes, most heroic hairstyles, show stopping shoes!

Please bring a donation to support Electric Umbrella's work empowering learning disabled people and fostering a more inclusive society. Any amount from £1 is appreciated.

**Electric Umbrella: Where Music Unites People and Creates a More Inclusive Society.**  
electricumbrella.org.uk/NSTAN-day-2025 | @electricbrolly f X y @



Scan to Donate

# Key dates

New or amended dates added in red

Things in bold are coming up next week

January	<p><b>20th International Day of Acceptance (Non-Uniform- rainbow colours)</b></p> <p><b>23rd Early Years Forest School PM</b></p> <p>28th- Y3/4 DSSN Small Schools Rapid Fire Cricket (9:30-11:45)</p>
February	<p>5th Y5/6 'Cosmos in the Classroom'/Planetarium trip @St Albans Cathedral</p> <p>7th Parent Cafe @St John's Church (First Friday of each month)</p> <p>11th Safer Internet Day</p> <p>12th Parent Forum 2-3pm</p> <p>13th Y3/4 Forest School</p> <p>w.c 17th Half term (school closed)</p> <p>27th- Y1/2 Forest School PM</p>