

# Great Gaddesden CE (VA) Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Matt Beach



## Weekly update

Dear Parents/Carers,

On Monday, Year 5 & 6 set off on their adventure to PGL, Surrey. I had the pleasure of joining them for the second half of the week and was very proud of our children's behaviour, enthusiasm and how kind, supportive and encouraging they were to each other. Thank you to Mrs Lilley, Mrs Redman and Mrs Cummins for coming along and making this happen.

As you may be aware, next Friday, we will be taking part in the MacMillan coffee morning between 9 and 10am. If you would like to donate any cakes, please can these be dropped off at the Nurture room door on Thursday (after drop off). The coffee morning will start after drop off on the Friday and finish at 10am. Please make your way to the office and we will sign you in there. I am very much looking forward to meeting with parents, getting to know everyone more as well as supporting a cause close to many of our hearts.

I am enjoying taking to time to get to know the school, listening to all stake holders, reflecting and appreciating the many strengths of the school and areas we can develop further. In light of this, I am very thankful for all of the feedback provided on the parent survey. I value the warm, family feel and caring ethos and I am very passionate about continuing to make this a priority. I will be able to update you more formally later this half term with our development plans. If you have any questions or things you would like to discuss, please reach out.

In other news, we have started taking bookings for tours of the school for Reception places in September 2025. Please share this with families you know in the area.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

**Mr Matt Beach**  
Headteacher

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# Religious life of our school

## Question for reflection

Here are some of the children's really thoughtful reflections from last week's question, "How will we ensure we treat others exactly as we would like to be treated ourselves?"

*"To be respectful and helpful"*

*"Be kind to everyone, play with people and help them"*

*"By being nice. kind and living out our school values"*

*"By being kind, helpful and welcoming to others"*

This week, we listened to the story of Noah's ark. From this, our Big Question for this week is: "How did Noah demonstrate responsibility? What makes someone be responsible?"



## Harvest

We are getting ready for the upcoming Harvest service on 14th October.

We are delighted to share that we will be continuing to support DENs this year.

If you would like to donate, please see the list of items that DENs are particularly in need of. The offering will be shared with DENs after the service.

All donations can be brought into school from Monday 7th October and will be stored in the Nurture room.

Mrs O'Brien is busy teaching the children a range of Harvest songs to sing at Church.



## DACORUM FOODBANK HIGH NEEDS LIST

HARVEST 2024

### 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.



# Learners of the week



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

Early years	<b>Emma</b>
Year 1/2	<b>Amelia</b>
Year 3/4	<b>Theo</b>
Year 5/6	<b>Whole class</b>



This week, the following learners below were chosen by their class teacher for demonstrating '**responsibility**' (our value of the month):

Early years	<b>Max</b>
Year 1/2	<b>Keeva</b>
Year 3/4	<b>Kaiden</b>
Year 5/6	<b>Whole class</b>

# Attendance

## OUR OVERALL ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

IS: **95%**

Please note:

If your child is due to be absent from school, we **must** have a reason for this each morning. When an absence is continued, we ask for you to update us please each day.

All leave of absence requests must be submitted in writing by completing the form (which is available from the school office). Please ensure requests are submitted with at least two weeks notice. It is important to note that, in line with the new guidance from the Department for Education, there are only very exceptional circumstances that we can authorise absence.

## Attendance Ladder

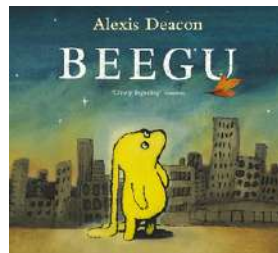


# Spotlight on learning

This week, we hear from Year 1 & 2!

The children are settling in brilliantly to their new class!

We have kicked off the term using the story 'Beegu', which holds a lovely message about friendship and inclusivity. We have used drama and role play to explore Beegu's feelings throughout the story and the children made their own Beegu puppets to relive this. This week, the children have made their own friend for Beegu using playdough and have gone on to write wonderful descriptions of these. They had to think carefully about what makes a good friend.



Our R.E. topic has had us thinking about belonging. We have thought about how we all belong to our school family and linked this with Christians belonging to the church family. This has also tied in with our P.S.H.E., where we have been discussing belonging to our class and our rights and responsibilities at school.

Finally, we have enjoyed starting to learn about 'old and new toys', which is our History topic this half term. We have been exploring the ways in which toys from a long time ago were often made using different materials, but we have noticed that many are still similar to the toys we play with today. We were lucky enough to have an old wooden puppet brought in by one of our children to share. If you have an older toy you would like to bring in to show us, please do!

# Community information






Applying for Secondary School - Top Tips (Part 1)	
Date	Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> September 2024
Time	10.00-11.00 am <span style="color: red;">Session will be held virtually via MS Teams</span>
Are you applying for Secondary school this year?	
A <b>free</b> workshop for year 6 parents/carers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key dates to look out for</li> <li>School open evenings</li> <li>What to consider when choosing a school</li> <li>General tips &amp; advice</li> </ul>	
	

**For more details and to book, please email:**

[jnethercoat@hobbshillwood.herts.sch.uk](mailto:jnethercoat@hobbshillwood.herts.sch.uk)  
 Please include contact details and name of child's primary school when booking  
 Tel: 01442 401222 Ext: 5

**Support for Children and Families**  
A one-stop shop to help signpost you to the right support and services.

**DSPL8 Support Services**



Online resources for parents and carers | DSPL8

By using this website, you will be guided to most specialist support offered in your local area. This includes support for children with additional needs, family support and mental health support. It really is worth exploring this page to see what is available to you.

**Nessie - Hertfordshire Parents and Carers Support**



Free webinars and events  
Parent Support line: 07932 651319  
Private moderated Facebook support


**The Hertfordshire SEND local Offer**



The Hertfordshire SEND Local Offer lets parents and young people know what special educational needs and disabilities services are available in Hertfordshire, and who can access them.

## INTRODUCING CASHPOT FOR SCHOOLS

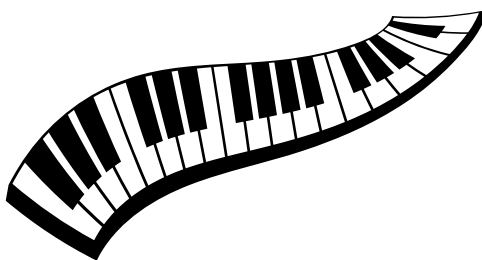
Download and opt-in with Asda Rewards and we will donate ££s to schools.



with Parentkind

**Here's How**

- 1 Download the Asda Rewards app & sign up today
- 2 Opt-in to Cashpot for Schools and follow the steps in your app
- 3 Shop, scan and we donate



From after half term, there will be a few spaces for piano lessons on Fridays with Mrs Seodi. Please get in touch with the school office if you would like to book a place.

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

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



Last week, we shared key dates for the year ahead which are now on the website. Each week, we will provide reminders of dates for this half term. Please note- new dates will be added on in red

September	25th Early Years Phonics Workshop 2:45-3:15pm 26th Forest School- Year 5&6 27th Macmillan Coffee Morning 9-10:00am
October	Black History Month 2nd Vision day 3rd Forest School- Year 3&4 4th Grandparents afternoon 2:00-3:00pm 8th Individual Photos 10th Forest School - EYFS 14th Harvest Service 15th Vision day exhibition at the Church (afterschool) 22nd & 24th Parent Consultation evenings 24th Early Years stay & play 8:45-9:15am w/c 28th Half Term