



Great Gaddesden C of E Primary School

Weekly update - Autumn Term : Week 13

Religious Life of our School



In our whole school Collective Worship, we looked at the symbolism of the Advent Wreath. We lit the first candle, linking it to our monthly value: hope. Following St Nicholas' feast day on 6th December, Mrs Tisbury used this theme for our Friday Collective Worship. She talked about how his generosity gave others hope. Well done to our fantastic actors, who helped tell the story!



Christmas Jumper Day

On Thursday, all children wore their Christmas jumpers to school and made a donation to the Save the Children charity. In class, the children looked at the ways in which by giving to others, their donations will help the work of the charity.

Christmas is coming

It is starting to look very festive at school. A huge thank you to Hemel Hempstead Garden Centre in Great Gaddesden, for their generous donation of this beautiful Christmas tree. Well done to the School Council, who did a great job of decorating it. From Thursday 14th December, children will be able to bring in Christmas cards to be posted in our school Christmas post box.



Pantomime

We are looking forward to our pantomime visit this Tuesday.

Children may bring a **small** treat to enjoy. Please remember that this must not contain nuts or chocolate. Please ensure the treat is small enough to fit in your child's coat pocket.

All children will take their school water bottle with them.



Open sessions

We would like to invite parents whose children are involved in the following activities, to attend their last sessions for this term :-

- Street Dance
- Piano + flute assembly

Please see diary dates for details.

Rotary Shoebox Appeal

As per the email on Thursday, we have been asked by the Rotary Club to, once again, take part in their Rotary Shoebox Appeal. If you feel able to support this scheme, the children are invited to bring in contributions that will then be included in the boxes. If you would like a box for your family to fill, please let the office know. Donations should be brought back to school by Thursday, 14th December, ready for collection by the Rotary Club.

Follow the Star: our walk to Bethlehem

It's the final few days of following the star and we are coming in to Bethlehem.



To celebrate what we have achieved together as a community and to share the grand total number of miles we have travelled, we will be holding a Celebration Collective Worship in church on **Friday, 15th December, at 9:00** a.m. All parents, friends and members of the wider community are invited to join us, when we will give thanks for all we have achieved through working together.

At the celebration assembly, the grand total that has been raised will also be announced.

Puppet Workshop

We were pleased to welcome Imaginari Theatre into school this week for a PSHE Puppetry workshop. The children made their own puppets and used them to gain insight into emotional awareness and empathy.



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**.

11/12/23	Last football club of term
12/12/23	Whole School Pantomime - Peter Pan
13/12/23	Christmas lunch
13/12/23	Last rugby club of term
14/12/23	KS2 Carol Singing at Care Home
14/12/23	Last Street Dance club of term Open session - parents welcome
15/12/23	9:00 Follow the Star Collective Worship in church - all parents welcome
15/12/23	2:40 Piano and flute sharing assembly. Performers' parents welcome.
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 church. Parents welcome
21/12/23	1:30 pm - End of Autumn term



Use of Social Media



It has come to our attention that a number of our older children have their own social media accounts, such as Tik Tok and Snapchat.

While we understand that technology plays a significant role in our lives and can offer educational benefits, it is crucial to ensure that our children are using digital platforms in a safe and age-appropriate manner. TikTok, in particular, has an age restriction of 13 years and above for users, and many other social media platforms have similar guidelines in place.

We would like to remind parents and guardians of the need to closely monitor and regulate their children's online activities. It is essential to be aware of the content to which our children are exposed, as well as to guide them in using technology responsibly.

In-school workshops

In order to offer support over and above our computing and PSHE curriculum, we have booked a day's visit from a highly experienced Online Safety & Computing Consultant & Trainer. The day will consist of workshops for all pupils, training for staff and Governors and a parental workshop.

FOGGS have very generously agreed to fund the whole programme. As a school, we are very grateful for this; it will benefit everyone in our school community and ensure that we are well informed of ways in which we can support the safety of our children.

Dates will be shared as soon as they have been finally confirmed.

Thank you for your cooperation and ongoing support in ensuring the well-being of all in our school community.

Rotary Shoebox Scheme

www.rotaryshoebox.org

Suggestions for filling your shoebox

Child ~ For young children

Cars, trucks, etc, balls, complete jigsaws, action figures, colouring books, pens, crayons, yo-yo, bubble blowers, wooden and plastic toys, pencil case, pencil sharpener, dominoes, playdough / plasticine & cutters, fluffy toys, dolls, stickers, writing pads, skipping rope, scarf, mittens / gloves, hat, harmonica, games, cards...

Teenagers ~ up to 18 years age

Sportswear, scarf, gloves, socks, hat, football memorabilia, writing materials, games, playing cards, tennis ball, tooth brush & paste, roll-on deodorants, comb, mirror, costume jewellery, make-up, hair brush, toiletries, school stationery, clothing repair kits, sketch pad, coloured pens / pencils...

Household Goods ~ For older folk & families

Scarves, gloves, hats, wrapped soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, disposable razors, shampoo, soap flakes, pan scourers, antiseptic cream, bandages, face or body creams, cosmetics, pens, writing pad & envelopes, T-lights, candles, sewing kit, scissors...

Baby ~ Age up to 12 months

This is given to new mothers and can include baby wipes, baby shampoo, baby oil, talc powder, bonnet, booties and mitts, baby grow, baby blanket, small soft toy or plastic rattle...

Romanian Customs now stipulate all items for babies must be new items

WHAT NOT TO INCLUDE IN ANY BOX

Do not include any sweets, chocolate, drinks or food of any kind
(They are against Customs regulations at country borders)

Battery operated toys, conflict related items, matches, inflammable liquids, inflammable aerosols (eg: deodorants & hair spray), seeds or any other living material, automatic washing machine powders

Please securely sellotape tops of liquid containers.
Protect anything sharp and do not put anything sharp into a CHILD box



- It is important to indicate on the box lid, who the box is for.
- The contents are of good quality.
- The box should be completely filled.
- Remember that the recipient will be opening the box in eager anticipation, and especially with the toys for the children, quite possibly the first real gifts they have received for a very long time.

“Spreading a Little Happiness”

Please follow link for details on [further courses](#) run by DSPL8.



DACORUM
FAMILY SERVICES
NORTH & EAST

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
Family Life on a Budget	Wed 18th October 2023	10:30 to 12:00 pm Online
Helping your Child to Manage Anger	Wed 15th November 2023	9:30 to 11:00 am Hobbs Hill Wood
Anxiety & Attendance	Tues 9th January 2024	10:00 to 11:30 am Online
Parent & Carer Wellbeing	Wed 28th February 2024	9:30 to 11:00 am Hobbs Hill Wood
Managing Worries & Anxiety	Wed 15th May 2024	10:00 to 11:30 am Online
Moving onto Secondary School	Thurs 20th June 2024	10:00 to 11:30 am 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

*at present sessions can only be offered to parents/carers of those children/YP who attend a DFS North & East Partnership School

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- Lessons are available 50 weeks of the year, 7 days a week, with a break over the Christmas period.
- Lessons available for students from 4 months – 16 years and Adults.
- Students are assessed regularly and moved up as soon as they are ready for the next stage.
- Qualified and DBS checked teachers/coaches.
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