

Great Gaddesden CE (VA) Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Matt Beach



Weekly update

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have come to the end of a very successful first half term of the year. I have really enjoyed getting to know the community, learning about the school, understanding the many strengths and identifying areas to develop further. On Thursday, I met with the governors where we discussed the strategic plan for the next two years. A summary of our priorities will be shared after half term.

As you may be aware, we are expecting an inspection this year from SIAMS. The Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) is the Church of England and Methodist Church's outworking of the requirements of section 48 of the Education Act 2005. It is a key element of the life of all Church of England and Methodist schools in England. In preparation for our inspection we welcomed Lisa Kassapian who works as a consultant for the Diocese this week. It was a very positive visit and we were able to share all of the work we have been doing on embedding our theologically rooted vision and values, our RE curriculum, collective worship and everything that makes us distinctively a Church school.

Thank you to all of our parents and carers that attended the Early Years stay and play session this week and also our parental consultation evenings. We are continuing to welcome new families to tour the school that are looking for a Reception place in September 2025. If you know of anyone who are looking for a school place, please let them know. We are looking forward to welcoming more children and parents to our school family.

I hope you all have a restful half term holiday and we look forward to seeing everyone on Monday 4th November.

Warm regards,

Mr Matt Beach
Headteacher

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Religious life of our school

Value of the month:



This week, in collective worship, we explored the book 'The Big Wide Welcome' by Trillia Newbell. It explores a Bible story from the book of James. It enabled the children to reflect on treating everyone with mutual respect.

Leading on from this, our Big Question this week was: Following in the footsteps of Jesus, how do we ensure everyone feels a 'big wide welcome' in our school? Here are some of the responses:

"Showing respect is important." Ophelia (Year 4)

"We can invite others to play our games." Jess (Year 5)

"We have to be kind" Sophie (Year 1)

"We should respect everyone no matter if they have a disability or the colour of their skin" Dottie (Year 6)

"We have to be caring and kind to ensure everyone feels a big wide welcome" Sophie (Year 6)

DENS Offering

Also this week, we delivered our Harvest offering to DENS who were very appreciative of our generosity and kindness.



Poppy appeal

We are pleased to be supporting the Poppy Appeal again this year. Our reflection ambassadors will visit each class daily with a range of British Legion merchandise (during the first week back). Suggested donations are £1 for wrist bands and 50p for the reflective poppies. The paper poppies will be handed out for the service. For the service poppies, we kindly ask for a donation which your child can bring into school.



We also have Mr McCarthy from the British Legion coming in on 4th November to lead collective worship. His talks are always fascinating and have an enormous impact on the children. On 11th November we will be having our Remembrance service.



Spotlight on learning

This week we hear from Year 1 & 2!

In Design and Technology, the children have been busy over the last couple of weeks, designing and making their own puppets. We have seen a wonderful variety of people, animals and monsters! The children were creative in their ideas and the materials they used. For example, pipe cleaners, strands of wool, pom poms, cut up pieces of felt and even little bows. The children are looking forward to taking their puppet home today, to play with and enjoy at home.



Continuing with the creative learning, the children have also been busy with a variety of autumn crafts including leaf rubbing and designing an autumn tree. They even linked their Science learning on living things to their watercolour painting by sketching and painting leaves. It is wonderful to see them take such care with their work and show pride in their finished masterpiece! You may wish to continue to be crafty over the half term and try out some autumn art work with your families.



It has also been wonderful to hear the children's thoughtful responses to our R.E. learning around our big question 'Why is belonging to God and the church family important to Christians?'. The children could talk about where they belong and describe how people come to belong to the church family through baptism. We were lucky enough to visit the church and speak to Reverend Russell about what happens in a baptism, the children were then able to relive this experience through role play.

Learners of the week



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

- Early years **Eve**- a wonderful attitude to learning and painting of an owl
- Year 1/2 **Paloma**- for being enthusiastic and excited to learn
- Year 3/4 **Whole class**- for working really hard every day as a team
- Year 5/6 **Jess** - for trying her best in everything she does

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

- Early years **Emma**
- Year 1/2 **Molly**
- Year 3/4 **Harley**
- Year 5/6 **Tommy**



Attendance

OUR OVERALL ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK IS: 93%

OUR OVERALL ATTENDANCE SO FAR THIS TERM IS: 92%

I am pleased to share that our overall attendance this week has increased slightly.

We also have had much less lateness which is great.

We are aware that there are lots of colds, coughs and other seasonal related illnesses and naturally attendance rates rise as the year progresses. However, if you are unsure whether to send your child in, please refer to the poster on the right hand side.

UK Health Security Agency **NHS**

Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

	Until...
Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No
but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek

SCAN ME

Advice and guidance
To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minftec>.

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

Community information



<https://padlet.com/SENCOGG/support-for-children-and-families>



100% of parents strongly agree or agree that their child enjoys coming to school

Based on responses to an online survey completed in September 2024

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A RECEPTION SCHOOL PLACE FOR SEPTEMBER 2025?

Have you considered Great Gaddesden CE Primary School?

- Small, family feel
- Academic excellence
- Broad, engaging curriculum
- Caring, Christian & inclusive ethos

Please get in contact for a tour

Deadline for applications: January 15th 2025

01442 255734
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Key dates

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

November	<p>11th Remembrance Service</p> <p>w.c 11th Anti Bullying Week</p> <p>14th November Parent Forum 9-10am*</p> <p>15th Children in Need</p>
December	<p>3rd World Disability Day</p> <p>6th FOGGs Disco 3:30-4:45pm</p> <p>13th FOGGs Christmas film afternoon (children to bring in pyjamas to change into)</p> <p>17th Whole school Panto trip- Beauty and the Beast (Dunstable)</p> <p>18th Christmas Dinner & Jumper day</p> <p>19th Nativity and Carol Concert- there will be two services (afternoon and evening)</p> <p>Early Years and KS1 Nativity (afternoon) & KS2 Carol Service (evening)</p> <p>20th Christingle at 1:00pm at St John's Church</p> <p>End of Term 20th December @1:30pm</p>

*draft agenda to be sent out in the first week of term. If you have any whole school feedback you would like to discuss, please let the school office know by Tuesday 5th November.

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