

Great Gaddesden C of E Primary School Weekly update - Spring Term '24 : Week 7

Religious Life of our School

As we continue our Lenten reflections, the children's RE learning is focussing on the enquiry questions in our RE curriculum, which relates to this period of preparation in the liturgical year.

EYFS - Why do Christians put a cross in an Easter garden?

Y1&2 - What are the symbols of Jesus' death & resurrection at Easter?

Y3&4 - Is the cross a symbol of love, sacrifice or commitment for Christians?

Y5&6 - What is the great significance of the Eucharist for Christians?



We are delighted to be able to share this letter, received from Damian Hinds, the Minister for Schools. We are very proud of our pupils and staff.



Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP
Minister for Schools

Sanctuary Buildings 20 Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/contactus/dfe

Mrs Sarah Wickens
Great Gaddesden Church of England Primary School
Church Meadow
Hertfordshire
HP1 3BT

5 February 2024

D. Ms Wickens

I would like to congratulate you, your staff and your pupils on the very high standard of achievement demonstrated in the reading, writing and mathematics Key Stage 2 assessment last year.

Your school's results, as published on 14 December, show that 92 per cent of your pupils reached or exceeded the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics at the end of Key stage 2. This means that for achievement in reading, writing and mathematics, Great Gaddesden Church of England Primary School is in the top 1 per cent of primary schools in the country.

The government wants to ensure that every child has the fluency in reading, writing and mathematics necessary to prepare them for a successful secondary education and beyond, which is why I was delighted to see your results.

Thank you for your work in continuing the drive towards higher academic standards, and congratulations again to you and your staff for your commitment and success.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

D. Hinds

Damian Hinds
Minister for Schools

Slapped Cheek Syndrome & Scarlet Fever

We have had some recent cases of [slapped cheek syndrome](#) and [scarlet fever](#) within our school community. Please see the NHS links above regarding these illnesses.

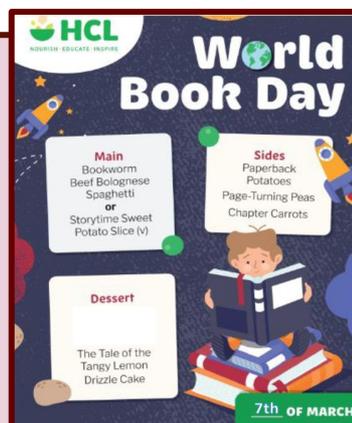
Children with scarlet fever should not return to school until 24 hours after they have taken the 1st dose of antibiotics.

Buddy Reading

As part of our World Book Day celebration, we will be holding a special 'Reading Buddy' session. We would like to ask children in EYFS and Y1/2 to bring in their favourite book to share with their buddy. We would like to ask children in years 3-6 to bring a book that they enjoyed reading when they were younger, to share with their buddy.

World Book Day Menu - Thursday 7th March

Please see below, our special World Book Day menu. There will also be a jacket potato option.



School lunch charges increase

Following a price increase from Hertfordshire Catering Company, the following charges will be applicable from April '24 :-

KS2 (Years 3-6) : £3:35

The meals for Reception and KS1 pupils, will remain free of charge. These are known as Universal free school meals.

It may be that you are entitled to access [free school meals](#). Please use the link to check and inform the office if this is the case.

Busy Bakers Club

Please see the attached leaflet, giving details of a cooking club which the school is hoping to start in the summer term. This club will run weekly, on a Wednesday from 3:15 - 4:15.  If you are interested in a place for next term, please email the office.

Safe Parking around our school

As we return to school after half-term, we would like to remind everyone about the importance of parking responsibly at school drop off and collection times. By parking considerately, we create a safer environment for our children, as they arrive and depart.

As always, you are encouraged to park at the garden centre and walk the short distance to school, to help reduce congestion at this busy time.

Many thanks for your cooperation with this.

Forest School

A great highlight of this week's Forest School, was meeting an escaped sheep on the journey to the woods! We talked about the parable of the lost sheep and were pleased when he found his way home, through a gap in the hedge! Years 3&4 enjoyed seeing signs of spring in the woods, including catkins and wild garlic. They made some fantastic shelters to shield us from the rain. They also created beads by cutting elder branches using secateurs and then hollowing out the pith using palm drills.



WWF Zoom

On Wednesday, KS2 joined the WWF zoom meeting, which focused on biomes around the world and the plants and animals that live in each one. There was an emphasis on conservation and human impact on the environment. Animals on the endangered list were also discussed. Later in the zoom meeting, the focus moved onto wild animals within the UK. The children found this part really interesting and enjoyed identifying all the different species around the country. They had to vote for particular animals or groups of animals that they wanted to save from extinction.



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**.

04/03/24	Y5/6 - Magistrate workshop
07/03/24	World Book Day
10/03/24	Mother's Day
14/03/24	Y3/4 - WOOFYT music session (Boxmore)
15.03/24	FOGGS disco (cancelled)
19/03/24	3:30/5:00 Parental Consultations
21/03/24	5:00/7:00 Parental Consultations
26/03/24	9:15 Easter Service in church
	Egg rolling competition
28/03/24	1:30 End of term



HEMEL STORM BASKETBALL ACADEMY

PRIMARY & SECONDARY

↑ Laureate Academy, HP1 3DW

THIS YEAR'S ACADEMY:

***Days/Time:**
Monday Primary: 5pm-5:45pm
Monday Secondary: 6pm-6:45pm
Wednesday Primary: 5pm-5:45pm
Wednesday Secondary: 6pm-6:45pm

Pay to play cost:
£8 per session

Term Payment (Block payment):
Monday: Term 1 (£91), Term 2 (£77), Term 3 (£77)
Wednesday: Term 1 (£91), Term 2 (£77), Term 3 (£84)




***All sessions run in accordance with Hertfordshire school's term dates and Bank Holidays**

Booking link: <https://stormbasketball.net/weekly-skills-academy>

For more info: juniocoaching@stormbasketball.net