

Great Gaddesden CE (VA) Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Matt Beach

This month's
value is:



Weekly update

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has definitely felt colder this week at Great Gaddesden and we have been missing the sunshine from last week!

At the start of the week, we had a visit from Mrs Hunter who is an Early Years Advisor. She was very impressed with the work we have been doing in Early Years and enjoyed seeing our new outdoor area and finding out about the curriculum ambitions that we have been working on. These ambitions set out the 10 end points we set for our children to achieve by the end Reception and how our provision enables us to support the children to all achieve these. We plan to share these with our Early Years parents in the coming weeks.

On Wednesday, we had our Open Afternoon. It was lovely to see so many parents and carers join us for this.

On Thursday, it was Early Years' turn to attend a Dacorum Sports Network event. They went to Longdean and took part in a range of sports activities. We were very proud they came 2nd overall!

Also this week I shared a child-friendly version of the school's behaviour policy with the children. Whilst behaviour is a strength of our school and our interactions with each other are guided by our mission statement, it is important for us to remember the behaviour curriculum is an important part of every child's learning journey.

In other news, I am pleased to share that Mrs Curtis will be joining us as our permanent Office Administrator. She will join after Easter and brings with her 18 years of experience working in schools and has had a wide range of roles.

Kind regards,

Mr Matt Beach
Headteacher

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Religious life of our school



*"And while he was still a long way off,
his father saw him coming.
Filled with love and compassion, he ran
to his son and embraced him"
Luke 15:20*

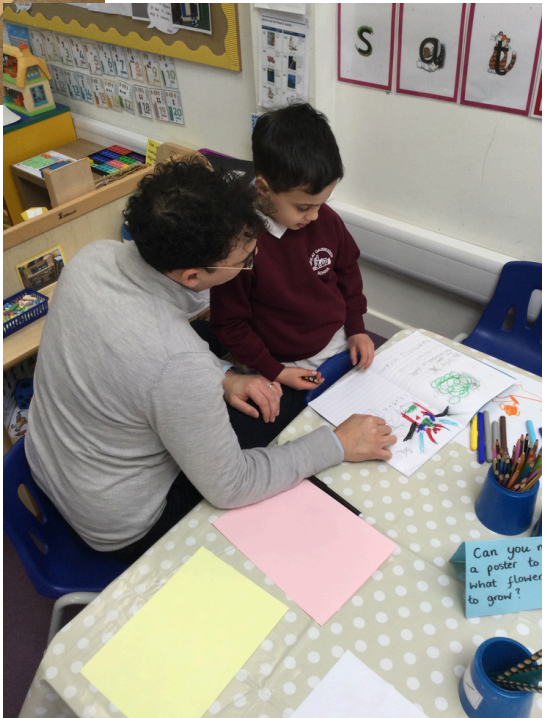
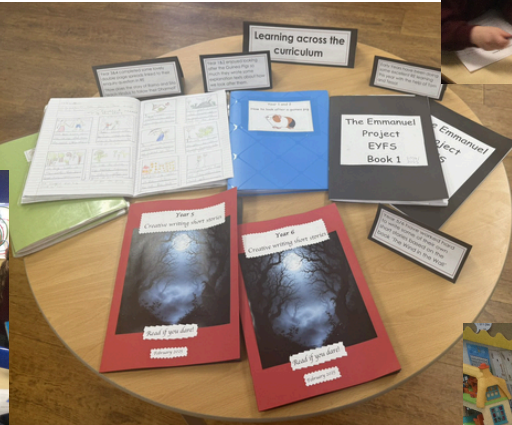
In collective worship this week, we have been focusing on our value of the month 'Forgiveness'.

We revisited the Bible story 'The Prodigal Son' which is an excellent example of God's unconditional love for us all and forgiving us if we make the wrong choice.

We discussed how forgiveness is not always easy and it can take time.

In light of this discussion, our 'Big Question' this week was 'Is forgiveness easy or hard? Why?'

Open afternoon



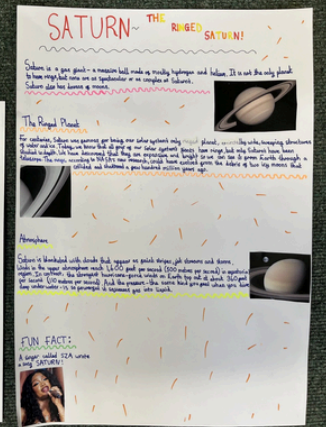
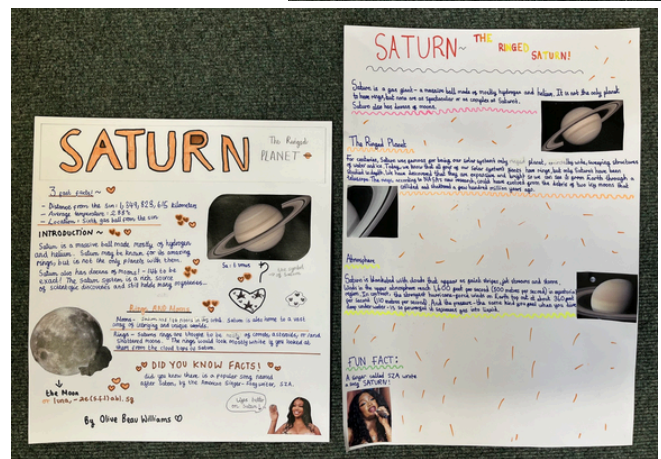
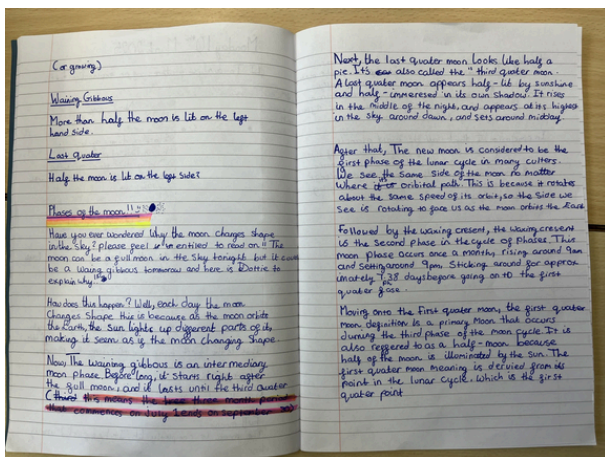
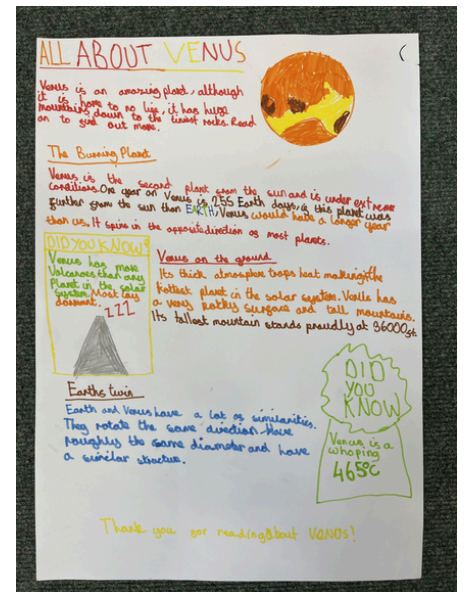
'Treat others exactly as you would like to be treated yourself.' (Luke 6:31)

Spotlight on learning

This week we hear from Year 5&6!

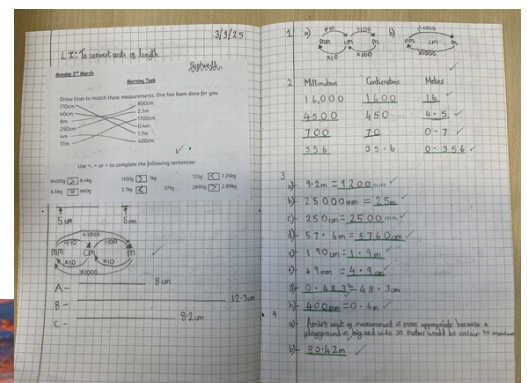
In Science we have been researching the planets in our solar system. We researched, drafted, and produced some very informative non-chronological reports. The children all choose their planet of interest and worked very hard.

We have now moved on to Phases of the Moon. We first learned about the different moon phases and enjoyed an art activity using a football and torch. The children sat in the dark hall in a circle and each drew the image they saw in front of them. When put together it showed all the moon phases and how the light from the sun reflects off the "moon" at different stages. We are now writing some explanation texts explaining the phases of the moon.



In Maths we have been converting units. We have been looking at lots of different units of measurement and strategies and knowledge needed to convert between them. The children also looked at metric and imperial measurements and categorised units into mass, length, and capacity. Great work!

	Length	Mass	Capacity
Metric	centimetre metre millimetre kilometre	kilogram gram tonne	millilitre litre
Imperial	foot inch mile	pound stone	pint ounce gallon



During our History lessons, we have been researching information on the Ancient Maya civilisation - they have discovered when and where the Maya lived and have independently researched the belief system of the ancient Maya.



In English, we have been reading the text Curiosity, a book that details the journey of the Rover, Curiosity, to the planet Mars. We have been inspired by this book to write newspaper reports about the day of the landing.





Learners of the week

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

Early years	Max
Year 1/2	Mia
Year 3/4	Leo
Year 5/6	Sophie

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

Early years	Eve
Year 1/2	Lewis
Year 3/4	Alys
Year 5/6	Olive



The following children were awarded a **Headteacher's Award** this week for exceptional work:

Year 1&2 - Esmae

Year 3&4 - Leo F-W, Joseph, Bea & Kaiden



Attendance

OUR OVERALL ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK IS: 97%

OUR OVERALL ATTENDANCE SO FAR THIS YEAR IS: 94%

Our attendance has been excellent this week! Well done everyone!

Absence reporting:

Please call on 01442 255734 and **Option 1** to leave an absence message.

or email- absence@greatgaddesden.herts.sch.uk

If you have any concerns about your child's attendance or need any support, please contact Mrs Redman, Pastoral Support.

Community information



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



Summer Term Tennis Coaching

Little Gaddesden tennis coaching will restart after Easter from Friday the 25th of April. All Juniors classes will run at Little Gaddesden on Fridays. We are also running a FREE taster session on Friday 4th of April.

To book in for any of these you can scan the QR code below or visit our booking page.

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/LittleGaddesdenTennisClub/Coaching>



The timetable for the Summer Term classes is below:

Adults Starting the 25th April:

- Intermediate 9.30-11am
- Improvers 11-12pm

Juniors Starting the 25th of April:

- Red Ball U8s - 3.45-4.30pm
- Orange/Green Ball U10s - 4.30-5.30pm
- Yellow Ball 11+ - 5.30-6.30pm

For more information, please contact Tyrell or Olly
Mobile - 07758631370,
07956944899



Helping your child with their worries

Date	Wednesday 19 th March 2025
Time	10:00 to 11:30 am <i>Session will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams and in person at Hobbs Hill Wood Primary School (HP3 8ER)</i>
Would you like some strategies to help your child with their worries and anxiety?	
A free workshop for parents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is anxiety? • The signs to look out for • Strategies & tips to help your child to manage worries and anxiety 	

For more details and to book, please email:

jnethercoat@hobbshillwood.herts.sch.uk

Please include contact details and name of child's school when booking
Please specify whether you would like to attend **online or in person**
Tel: 01442 401222 Ext: 5

Key dates

New or amended dates added in red

Things in bold are coming up next week

Please note the correct dates have been added for World Book Day and Red Nose Day.

March	<p>21st Red Nose Day (wear something red)</p> <p>25th & 27th Parents Evenings</p> <p>31st March Year 3/4 trip to BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Neasden</p>
April	<p>1st April Easter Service at 2pm (at St John's Church- all parents/carers welcome to attend)</p> <p>3rd April Decorated & plain eggs to come into school</p> <p>4th April End of term (1:30pm finish for all pupils)</p> <p>22nd April (INSET day/School closed for pupils)</p> <p>23rd April Start of Summer Term 1</p>