

# Great Gaddesden CE (VA) Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Matt Beach

## Weekly update



Dear Parents/Carers,

We started this week with a new Christmas tradition at Great Gaddesden! The children each put their own decoration on our Christmas tree. Creating a sense of belonging and recognising each child as a unique individual is very important to us. Christmas is a time where we come together, reflect on the message of the season and be thankful. Over the next couple of weeks, we continue to count down the days until Christmas with a range of festive events planned! On 17th, we have our annual whole school pantomime visit followed by Christmas dinner and jumper day on 18th December. On 19th December we have our nativities and carols by candlelight (reminder of timings is further down). Being a small school it means we can do all of these things together as a school family which makes it all extra special!

On Wednesday, we welcomed Mrs Tisbury, one of our foundation governors to visit our school. The focus of this visit was to visit RE lessons across the school. We visited every classroom and enjoyed watching the children engage in a wide range of themes, enquiry questions and reflecting spiritually.

It was lovely to see many of you at our Parent Cafe at the Church this morning and the children were very excited to have a Christmas Disco this evening! Thank you to FOGGs for organising this event.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

**Mr Matt Beach**  
Headteacher

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**19** days until Christmas!

# Religious life of our school



On Monday, we marked the start of advent by decorating our Christmas tree which was very kindly donated by our local Garden Centre.

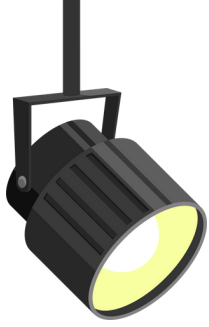
We introduced our value of the month 'Hope' and discussed how the season is a time for hope as we remember the birth of Jesus, the light of the world.

On Friday, at Church, Mr Russell focussed collective worship on special journeys. The children also lit the first candle on the advent wreath.





# Spotlight on learning



The children in Early Years have had a lovely week and are starting to get excited about Christmas! We have been looking at Christmas trees as some of the class have already put their trees up at home. We looked at the book 'The Christmas Pine' by Julia Donaldson and 'Pick a Pine Tree' by Patricia Toht. We used lots of language including thin, thick, bushy, short and spindly to describe the trees.

The children really enjoyed using their senses to explore the smells of Christmas and enjoyed mashing and squishing oranges, cloves, pine needles and cinamon. They collaborated and made a class Christmas tree and covered it in homemade decorations which looks wonderful.

During our drawing club sessions, the children thought about how to transport the tree to London after the lorry and ferry had broken and then when the lorry went the wrong way, where did the tree end up? The children had some great ideas!



# Learners of the week

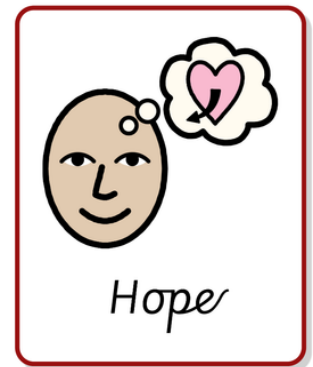


This week, the following learners below were chosen by their class teacher for demonstrating **excellent learning behaviours**:

- Early years **Iustin**
- Year 1/2 **Charlotte**
- Year 3/4 **Alys**
- Year 5/6 **Sophie**

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

- Early years **Fredrik**
- Year 1/2 **Fox**
- Year 3/4 **Molly**
- Year 5/6 **Scarlett**



# Attendance

**OUR OVERALL ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK IS: 92%**

**OUR OVERALL ATTENDANCE SO FAR THIS YEAR IS: 93%**

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...

Head, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Strep throat

Advice and guidance: To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrcs.dh.gov.uk/>





# Community information

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



## Key dates

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

December	<p><b>13th FOGGs Christmas film afternoon (children to bring in pyjamas to change into)</b></p> <p>17th Whole school Panto trip- Beauty and the Beast (Dunstable)</p> <p>18th Christmas Dinner &amp; Jumper day (optional £1 donation for Save the Children)</p> <p>19th (parents welcome to join all of these events)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Early Years 'Nursery Rhyme Nativity' - 9:30am in the school hall</li><li>• KS1 (Years 1&amp;2) Nativity - 2pm at the Church</li><li>• KS2 (Years 3-6) Carols by Candlelight - 4:30 at the Church</li></ul> <p>20th Christingle at 1:00pm at St John's Church (in school event)</p> <p>End of Term 20th December @1:30pm</p>
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