

# Great Gaddesden CE (VA) Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Matt Beach



## Weekly update

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a rather rainy week this week! However, it has not stopped us taking our learning outside as Mrs Ansell enjoyed leading forest school with Year 5&6.

Today we took part in the Macmillan Coffee morning. It was lovely to see so many families, governors and local residents support this event. Thank you for your generosity towards this and to our Year 6 helpers for supporting the running of this event. I shared a few words and a prayer with everyone. If you were unable to join us, a copy of this is further down in the newsletter.

Following on from my letter this week about the attendance guidance and school day arrangements, as you will be aware, the opening of the gate/doors time has not changed but we would like the children to have arrived by 8:45. This is to ensure they receive their statutory full educational entitlement and do not miss out on important learning each day. If you drive to school, to reduce congestion, you may choose to park in the garden centre and walk to the school site leaving the roads clearer for parents who have more than one school drop off in the morning or who have little ones. Please be assured that if there are issues locally with the roads, we will of course be flexible and understanding of this. I am looking forward to welcoming all of our families onto the playground for pick up on Monday. I would like to thank you in advance for your support and cooperation with this and we will monitor this closely as we implement this change.

Next week is full of excitement and events as we have our vision day on Tuesday and grandparents afternoon on Friday. Also, as you will see further down in the newsletter, we have the FOGGS annual general meeting (AGM) this Thursday at 3:30pm. I look forward to joining this meeting and hearing about the exciting plans and events FOGGS will be supporting. I would like to offer my thanks in advance for everyone who has kindly volunteered their time to ensure FOGGs continues to be a success and support for the school.

Have a lovely weekend!

**Mr Matt Beach**  
Headteacher

## In this issue:

- Update from Headteacher- 1
- Religious life of our school & Harvest- 2
- Pupils awards & attendance- 3
- Spotlight on learning & forest school
- Community information & dates- 5 & 6

# Religious life of our school

## Question for reflection

Here are some of the children's really thoughtful reflections from last week's question, "How did Noah demonstrate responsibility? What makes someone be responsible?"

*"By helping all the animals and family from the flood!"*  
*"Being responsible means to look after our things"*

This week, we listened to the story of creation. The children were able to remember that this is the first book in the Old Testament called Genesis. From this, our Big Question for this week is: "How will you ensure to look after God's creation?"

Year 5 & 6 completed some follow up work in PSHE looking at the UNICEF video "Just a Kid" that explores how young people have demonstrated courageous advocacy.



## Harvest

We are getting ready for the upcoming Harvest service on **17th October (date change)**.

We are delighted to share that we will be continuing to support DENs this year.

If you would like to donate, please see the list of items that DENs are particularly in need of. The offering will be shared with DENs after the service.

All donations can be brought into school from Monday 7th October and will be stored in the Nurture room.

Mrs O'Brien is busy teaching the children a range of Harvest songs to sing at Church.



**DACORUM FOODBANK  
HIGH NEEDS LIST**

— HARVEST 2024 —

FOOD	KITCHEN/HYGIENE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Tinned ham/corned beef</li><li>● Jars of cooking sauces</li><li>● Sponge puddings</li><li>● Custard</li><li>● Tinned rice pudding</li><li>● Tinned fruit</li><li>● 200ml juices/drinks</li><li>● Tinned vegetables</li><li>● Cereal bars</li><li>● Biscuits</li><li>● Tea bags</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 2-in-1 shampoo</li><li>● Washing up liquid</li><li>● Laundry liquid/powder/tabs</li><li>● Men's and women's deodorants</li><li>● Size 4-8 nappies</li><li>● 75 litre black sacks</li></ul> <p><b>Please note:</b> We do not accept furniture, clothes, shoes and accessories.</p>



# Learners of the week



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

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Early years | <b>Iustin</b><br>For being really enthusiastic about his learning              |
| Year 1/2    | <b>Tommy</b><br>For a positive and enthusiastic attitude to learning.          |
| Year 3/4    | <b>Lenny</b><br>For being perseverant, resilient and independent.              |
| Year 5/6    | <b>Leo B</b><br>For being curious and independent learning about the Egyptians |



This week, the following learners below were chosen by their class teacher for demonstrating **'responsibility'** (our value of the month):

- |             |                    |
|-------------|--------------------|
| Early years | <b>Max</b>         |
| Year 1/2    | <b>Keeva</b>       |
| Year 3/4    | <b>Kaiden</b>      |
| Year 5/6    | <b>Whole class</b> |

# Attendance

## OUR OVERALL ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

IS: **92%**

Our attendance has dipped this week and our overall attendance so far this term is below national expectations. We have also had quite a lot of lateness.

Whilst I understand at this time of year, there are lots of coughs and colds, it is really important your child attends school regularly and arrives on time. Please be reassured that if you send your child in and they start to feel unwell, we will give you a call.

Thank you for your support with this.

## Attendance Ladder





# Spotlight on learning

This week, we hear from Year 3 and 4.

Year 3 and 4 are really enjoying learning about The Stone Age. In our History lessons we have learnt what 'prehistory' means, we have found out what it means to be a 'hunter-gatherer' and we have created some amazing cave art using charcoal and pastels.

We had a lovely afternoon up at the forest school woods last week where we made a Stone Age camp! We built shelters using sticks and 'animal skins'(tarpaulins!) and we built campfires using moss, sticks and leaves. Whilst walking to the woods, we discovered objects that would have been useful to us during the Stone Age. Along the way we found blackberries, elderberries, nettles and hazelnuts which would all have been good food sources. We found a river which would have given us a water supply and we spotted stones and flints which would have been used to make different tools. The whole class were very enthusiastic and engaged with their learning and their behaviour during the trip was exemplary.



## Forest school

At Forest School this week, the Y5 & 6 children were introduced to an Autumn classic - a game of conkers! They threaded string through their conkers, after using a palm drill to make a hole. Then the tournament commenced.

Congratulations to Leo F and Tommy who were our conker champions! The children also used the palm drills to make some fabulous conker creations: spiders, butterflies and a golden snitch!

Any donations of conkers gratefully received as our supplies are now depleted.

They also enjoyed painting with home-made elderberry and blackberry paint and creating a fantastic woodland restaurant.



## Community information



Hello Everyone,

Firstly we wanted to say thank you so much to all those that offered to support Friends of Great Gaddesden School (FOGGS) last term when it was at risk of closure. We now have candidates for the main 3 roles to continue the charity but are still relying on your support to keep FOGGS a success!

Parent fundraising is vitally important for every school, and even more so for a small school like ours. In previous years FOGGS provided the funding for the Year 6 leavers' hoodies, the pantomime coach, interactive whiteboards, Chromebooks, reading books, the outdoor classroom and most recently the wonderful new garden atrium.

We would love to be able to continue supporting the school like this and more but we can only do it with your help!

You can support FOGGS in so many ways:

- Attending events and donating whatever you are able to
- Making us aware of any fundraising schemes you see available
- Volunteering to support at FOGGS events.
- Joining the committee. If you would like more information on what this entails come have a chat with us.

If you are interested in hearing our plans for this academic year please come along to our AGM which will be held at the school on Thursday 3rd October at 3.30pm

FOGGS is a registered charity and every penny donated goes toward the school and the children, if you would like to make an additional donation at any time it would be much appreciated!

Thanks so much!



### Friends of Great Gaddesden School

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This is the PUBLIC facebook page of Friends of Great Gaddesden School (FOGGS).

Like

Message



SAVE  
-THE-  
DATE



# Macmillan



Thank you to everyone who attended and supported this and to our Year 6 helpers! Your generosity is much appreciated. Year 6 will count up how much was raised and we will share this next week.

Mr Beach also shared a few words and a prayer (please see below if you were unable to join us)

*I am very proud to be the new headteacher at Great Gaddesden.*

*Having worked as an Assistant Headteacher and Inclusion lead at two schools (one of them being another village Church school), I really value the school's vision and values, Christian ethos and warm, family feel.*

*I understand with change can bring some feelings of uncertainty. However, following on from the Diocese conference I attended yesterday which focussed on stewardship and journeys of hope, it also brings new perspective and opportunity of what could be. One thing we all have in common is that we care deeply about the education and welfare of all the children and this will always remain at the centre of the work we do as a school.*

*Thank you for your ongoing support.*



*Dear Lord, thank you for everyone's generosity, kindness and support for this morning for a cause close to many. May you bless our school as we move forwards in this new chapter. Please give us strength, hope and wisdom.*

*In Jesus name, Amen*



## Key dates

Last week, we shared key dates for the year ahead which are now on the website. Each week, we will provide reminders of dates for this half term. Please note- new dates will be added on in **red**

October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Black History Month</li> <li>2nd Vision day</li> <li>3rd Forest School- Year 3&amp;4</li> <li><b>3rd FOGGS AGM @3:30pm</b></li> <li>4th Grandparents afternoon 2:00-3:00pm</li> <li>8th Individual Photos</li> <li>10th Forest School - EYFS</li> <li>15th Vision day exhibition at the Church (afterschool)</li> <li><b>17th Harvest Service</b></li> <li>22nd &amp; 24th Parent Consultation evenings</li> <li>24th Early Years stay &amp; play 8:45-9:15am</li> <li>w/c 28th Half Term</li> </ul>
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