

Great Gaddesden CE (VA) Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Matt Beach



Weekly update

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is definitely starting to feel a bit more like Autumn! The leaves are starting to fall and it is getting a bit colder.

This week, we had our Meet the Teacher meetings and we also enjoyed our first celebration assembly of the year. Each week, we have two awards which are: 'Value Ambassador' and 'Star Learner'. In other news, Mrs Ansell was very excited to have restarted forest school mornings and this week, it was KS1's turn. More information about awards and forest school is shared further down in the newsletter.

Next week, Year 5 & 6 will be visiting PGL in Surrey for their residential trip. Mrs Cummins and Mrs Lilley will be there from Monday to Wednesday and then myself and Mrs Redman will be crossing over on Wednesday, returning with the children on Friday. We have made arrangements to cover the school office and support in classrooms but we politely ask to be mindful that we may take a bit longer to assist with queries via the school office.

Thank you to everyone who has completed the parent survey. This is due to close on Tuesday 17th September at 5pm. Therefore, please ensure to have shared your views by then.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Mr Matt Beach
Headteacher

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Religious life of our school

Question for reflection

Here are some of the children's reflections from last week's question, "With the help of God, what will we build together this year?"

"I think we should build a cross"

"We could make more friendships"

This week, our Big Question was "How will we ensure we treat others exactly as we would like to be treated ourselves?"

Blessing of the school

Today, we had the annual blessing of the school. Thank you to Reverend John for conducting this and for all of our parents/carers that were able to join us for this special event.



Spotlight on learning

This week, we hear from Early Years!

Our Early Years children have settled into school life amazingly! During the first couple of weeks, the children have been getting to know each other as well as the different areas of the classroom, our outside learning environment, the playground and the bark areas. We have also discussed ways to be at school including being kind, safe and responsible and what that looks like. The children have shown great understanding of the rules and routines over recent days when using these areas.

The children have also enjoyed their first PE session with Coach Matt and played some fun games as well as their first singing lesson with Nyree where they listened and learnt some new songs. We are really looking forward to a fantastic year ahead.



Learners of the week



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

Early years	Benji
Year 1/2	Kauan
Year 3/4	Otto
Year 5/6	Scarlett



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

Early years	Eve
Year 1/2	Elissa
Year 3/4	Amelie
Year 5/6	George

Attendance

OUR OVERALL ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK IS: 96%

Please note:

If your child is due to be absent from school, we **must** have a reason for this each morning. When an absence is continued, we ask for you to update us please each day.

All leave of absence requests must be submitted in writing by completing the form (which is available from the school office). Please ensure requests are submitted with at least two weeks notice. It is important to note that, in line with the new guidance from the Department for Education, there are only very exceptional circumstances that we can authorise absence.

Attendance Ladder



Forest School

The sun shone for our first Forest School of the year. Year 1 & 2 enjoyed spotting signs of Autumn and using foraged elderberries to make their own paint. They immersed themselves in lots of creative play from performing puppet shows to creating fox catching dens.

Upcoming Forest School Dates:

- Thursday 26th September - Year 5&6
- Thursday 3rd October - Year 3&4
- Thursday 10th October - EYFS

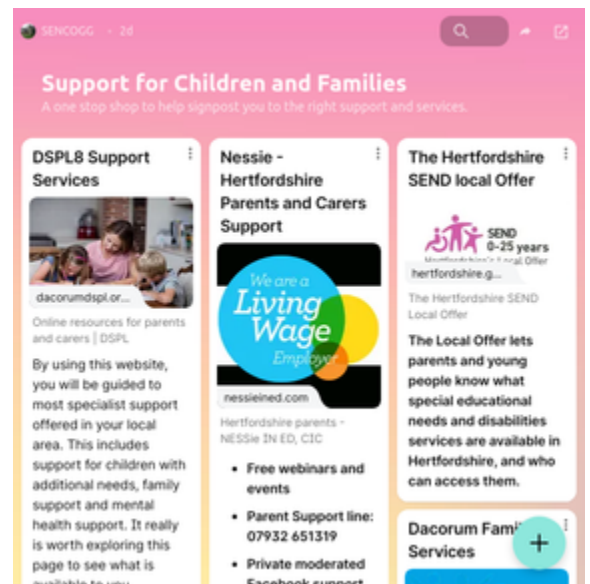


Community information

Mrs Aikman, our SENDCo, has kindly put together a padlett which contains useful information about support parents/carers can access in the local area. To access this, please scan the QR code on the right hand side.



If you need any support from our SENDCo, please email: senco@greatgaddesden.herts.sch.uk
Please note: Mrs Aikman's working day is Tuesdays.



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

September	16th-20th Y5/6 Residential (PGL) 25th Early Years Phonics Workshop 2:45-3:15pm 26th Forest School- Year 5&6 27th Macmillan Coffee Morning 9-10:00am
October	Black History Month 2nd Vision day 3rd Forest School- Year 3&4 4th Grandparents afternoon 2:00-3:00pm 8th Individual Photos 10th Forest School - EYFS 14th Harvest Service 15th Vision day exhibition at the Church (afterschool) 22nd & 24th Parent Consultation evenings 24th Early Years stay & play 8:45-9:15am w/c 28th Half Term