

Great Gaddesden CE (VA) Primary School

Email: admin@greatgaddesden.herts.sch.uk Tel: 01442 255734
Headteacher: Mr Matt Beach



Happy New year



Weekly update

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to a new term and new year! On behalf of the staff and governors, I would like to wish you all best wishes and luck for the year ahead.

This term, we warmly welcome Mrs Slater and Mr Waygood to our teaching team, and Mrs Davies, who will be covering in the office Tuesday-Thursday.

In other news, at the end of last term, the governors agreed to an exciting project we have planned to renovate the Early Years outdoor area. We are hoping the works will be completed this term for our Early Years children to enjoy as we move towards the warmer months. As a voluntary aided school, we receive a specific budget (based on our pupil numbers) for the purpose of maintaining our school building/site and for small-scale capital projects.

Further down in the newsletter, you will find dates for events, upcoming trips and forest school this half term. Moving forwards, forest school sessions will take place in the afternoon so the children will need to please bring in their clothes for forest school in a separate bag on the day.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Mr Matt Beach
Headteacher

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Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of this new year. May you bless our school community with love, strength and hope.

May your peace fill our hearts and your power uphold us.

Amen

Religious life of our school

To start the new year, in collective worship, we focused on Epiphany which was celebrated on 6th January. We explored its meaning and its importance to the Christmas Story. We also saw and heard how Epiphany is celebrated today in different ways across the world. We changed the cloth on the worship table from purple to green to symbolise the changing of the liturgical season.



*When they saw the star, they
rejoiced
Matthew 2:10*

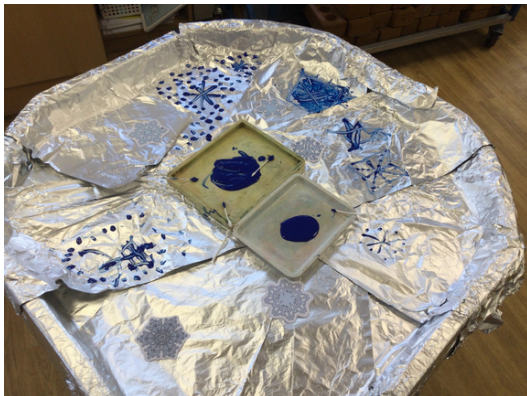


Also this week, we introduced our value of the month 'Thankfulness'. Our first Big Question of the week was: 'What are you thankful for?'

Spotlight on learning

This week, we hear from Early Years!

Our EYFS children have had fun investigating Winter this week. They have loved finding ice outside, dropping it and watching it shatter (and learning the word). They have created snowflakes in a variety of ways, using cutting skills, and using PVA glue, salt and water colour paint as well as creating them using loose parts. The children have created winter sticks using ribbon and wool to wrap round sticks. They have also made delicious looking hot chocolate in the mud kitchen and practised letter shapes in the 'snow'.



We have used the book Jack Frost and discussed what Winter is like, things we do in winter and what animals do. The children have experimented what would happen to ice when you add salt to it and tried to make it melt using warm water. They have used water colours and painted pictures on the ice as well as used their imagination to make up stories about the animals stuck in the ice and then had great fun trying to release them!

Learners of the week

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

Early years	Savannah
Year 1/2	Thomas
Year 3/4	Ella A
Year 5/6	Phoebe

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

Early years	Roman
Year 1/2	Henley
Year 3/4	Otto
Year 5/6	Keira



Attendance

OUR OVERALL ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK IS: 96%

OUR OVERALL ATTENDANCE SO FAR THIS YEAR IS: 93%

We have had a **really positive** start this year with our attendance!

Here are just a few important things from our attendance policy for us to please be mindful of with attendance & punctuality this term:

- We must have a reason for absence by 8:50am
- If the absence is continued, we still require an update each day
- If your child is late, please ensure to provide a clear reason for lateness.
- Arrivals after 9:00am, are recorded as an unauthorised absence for that session.

If you require any support or have concerns about your child's attendance, please contact our wonderful Inclusion & Pastoral Team- Mrs Redman (Pastoral Support) or Mrs Aikman (SENDCo) via the school office.

Attendance Ladder



Community information

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



15 & 30 HOUR NURSERY

From January 2025, we are pleased to offer either 15 or 30 hour Nursery places.

- ✓ Qualified teacher
- ✓ Forest school
- ✓ Nurturing, inclusive environment
- ✓ Flexibility to top-up hours from 15 to 30 hours

Please get in contact for a tour

01442 255734
admin@greatgaddesden.herts.sch.uk



electric UMBRELLA

NO such thing as Normal Day

Donate and Dress Up!

Monday, 20th January
International Day of Acceptance

Interactive Workshop

Join us online at 2pm via Zoom for a fun-filled session of music and song with the Electric Umbrella team and members. Visit our site to learn more and get the link.

Join Electric Umbrella in shining a light on inclusion and celebrating difference! Leave your school uniform at home and be who you are - embrace the unique with the wackiest wardrobes, most heroic hairstyles, show stopping shoes!

Please bring a donation to support Electric Umbrella's work empowering learning disabled people and fostering a more inclusive society. Any amount from £1 is appreciated.

Scan to Donate

Electric Umbrella: Where Music Unites People and Creates a More Inclusive Society.
electricumbrella.org.uk/NSTAN-day-2025 | @electricbrolly f X y @

Key dates

New or amended dates added in red

Things in bold are coming up next week

January	<p>From 6th- Epiphany</p> <p>14th- DSSN Multiskills (KS1 9:30-11:45)</p> <p>16th- Y5/6 Forest School PM</p> <p>20th International Day of Acceptance (Non-Uniform- rainbow colours)</p> <p>23rd Early Years Forest School PM</p> <p>28th- Y3/4 DSSN Small Schools Rapid Fire Cricket (9:30-11:45)</p>
February	<p>5th Y5/6 'Cosmos in the Classroom'/Planetarium trip @St Albans Cathedral</p> <p>7th Parent Cafe @St John's Church (First Friday of each month)</p> <p>11th Safer Internet Day</p> <p>12th Parent Forum 2-3pm</p> <p>13th Y3/4 Forest School</p> <p>w.c 17th Half term (school closed)</p> <p>27th- Y1/2 Forest School PM</p>