

Great Gaddesden CE (VA) Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Matt Beach



Weekly update

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all had a lovely Easter and welcome to the start of the Summer term. I would like to also welcome Mrs Curtis as our new Office Administrator who brings with her a wealth of experience.

This week began with our INSET day and we focussed on Curriculum Development and Spirituality. More information about Spirituality at our school can be found further down in the newsletter and on our website:

https://www.greatgaddesden.herts.sch.uk/web/spirituality_/421565

Also this week, we had a visit from our local authority attendance officer. They were impressed with the progress we have made with our attendance this year. Thank you everyone for all of your support with this.

Today, Early Years went to visit the Humbert's farm. They had a lovely time and we are very thankful for their kindness and time. The children were very well behaved and it always makes me proud when the excellent behaviour of our children is noticed.

Also today, your child will have come home with a flyer about our wrap around provision. Please book via Arbor and contact the school office if there are any difficulties with booking or for more information.

Have a good weekend.

Kind regards,

Mr Matt Beach
Headteacher

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Attendance

OUR OVERALL ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK IS: 91%
OUR OVERALL ATTENDANCE SO FAR THIS YEAR IS: 94%

Religious Life



On our INSET day, as a staff team we focused on curriculum development and opportunities for spirituality within our curriculum.

Here is our definition as a school of spirituality:

At Great Gaddesden CE (VA) Primary School, we define spirituality as a holistic journey, offering a space to develop, reflect and explore the depths of our being.

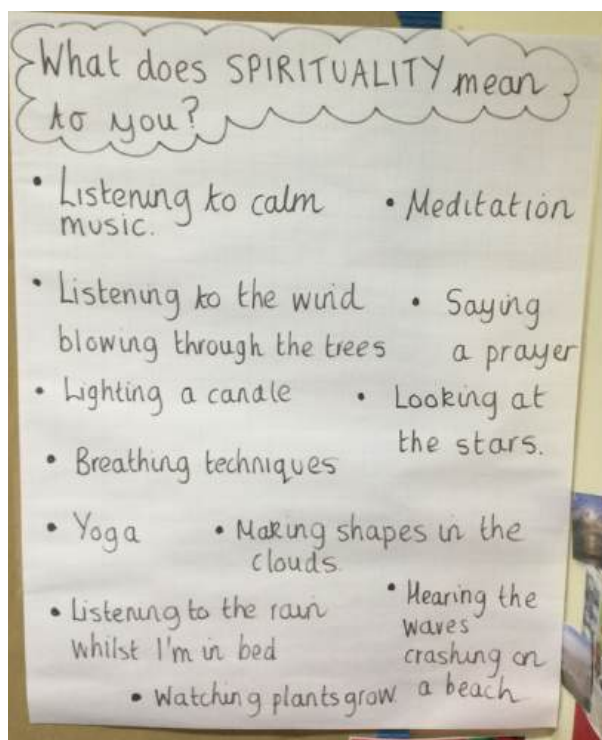
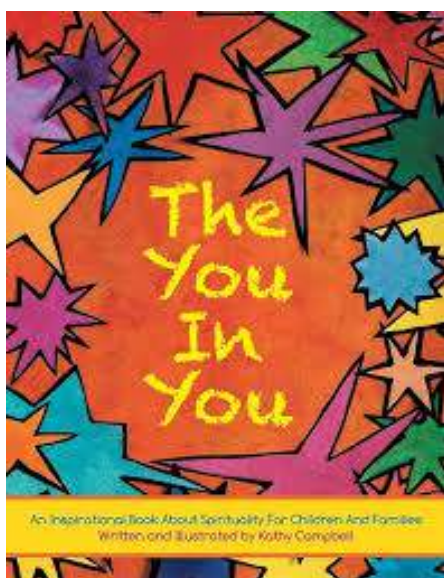
It involves the realisation and revealing of something innately within, a profound understanding that goes beyond the material world.

It encourages individuals to become aware of the world in all its wonder, embracing the interconnectedness of the world and our place within it.

Central to spirituality is empathising with others and cultivating inclusivity, recognising the shared humanity that binds us all together.

We provide opportunities for spiritual, moral and cultural development across the curriculum, through our collective worship and also providing space and time to reflect spiritually throughout school life as well as ask and answer 'big' questions.

We continued this work with the children this week and in collective worship, I read 'The You in You' by Kathy Campbell. Our Big Question this week was 'What does spirituality mean to you?'



Last term, we completed our annual pupil voice looking at the impact of being a Church School has and I am pleased to share the following headlines which relate specifically to spirituality:

- **100% agree that collective worship is an important part of the day**
- **100% feel there are enough moments to be still and reflect at school.**

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



During our survey, we also asked the children the following:
What do you think of the weekly 'Big Question'?

Here are some of their reflections:

*"It allows us to think more about the story we heard
at the start of the week"*

*"I get to share my thoughts and how I feel. I enjoy
writing reflections"*

"I think it is good for people to share their opinions"

*"I think it is good as it engages our minds and recaps
what we have learnt in collective worship"*

EYFS Farm Trip



Early Years had a wonderful time today visiting the Humbert's farm.

They got to see Black Welsh Mountain sheep with young lambs, miniature goats, donkeys and Kune Kune pigs. They also got to sit on a tractor!

We would like to say a big thank you to the Humbert family for letting our children come and visit your farm again this year!

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



Key dates

April	29th Year 6 SATs Parent Information Session 3-3:30pm
May	1st Y1/2 Forest School (afternoon) 8 th Y5/6 Forest School (afternoon) w/c 12 th Y6 SATs week 20 th EYFS Forest School (afternoon) w/c 26 th Half Term
June	3 rd June Y3/4 Forest School (afternoon) 13 th EYFS Forest School (afternoon) 16 th Y5/6 Forest School (afternoon) w/c 23 rd Small schools week 24 th Whole School Trip (More information to follow) 26 th Sports Day (Weather Dependent) 27 th INSET Day (School closed for Pupils)

July	1 st Soiree (Evening/Time TBC) 2 nd Y3/4 Forest School (afternoon) 7 th Early Years Stay & Play/Welcome Meeting (for new families joining Nursery & Reception) 2-3:00pm 8 th Y1/2 Forest School (afternoon) 18 th End of Year Reports sent out 22 nd Y6 Leavers Service at 9am (St John's Church) 22 nd Term Ends @1:30pm 23 rd Occassional day
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