



Great Gaddesden C of E (Voluntary Aided) Primary School

Telephone 01442 255734

Email head@greatgaddesden.herts.sch.uk
admin@greatgaddesden.herts.sch.uk

Website www.greatgaddesden.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs N. Comer
Great Gaddesden
Hemel Hempstead
Herts
HP13BT

Autumn Term Newsletter: 2

Monday 18th September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

A message from the Chair of Governors re: Headteacher Recruitment

The recruitment process for a new Headteacher for the School from January 2018 has been ongoing over the summer. The role has been advertised on the Teach in Herts website as well as The Guardian Online, and the Governors will be holding interviews on Monday 25th September. These interviews will last all day and will include a variety of in-school tasks, as well as formal interviews and presentations. I am confident that the process will allow us to get to know the candidates very well.

The Governors are committed to running a rigorous and professional process, and to appointing an outstanding Headteacher for our school; we are also committed to being as open as possible with staff, parents and pupils. I will communicate further after the interviews have taken place, but please do not hesitate to contact me in the meantime if you have any questions.

With best wishes,

Alison Wilkinson
Chair of Governors
awilkinson@greatgaddesden.herts.sch.uk

Congratulations to new children (and staff!): This year, we have welcomed a number of new children to Great Gaddesden and we are really enjoying getting to know them. In Nursery, we have welcomed Archie, Charlie, Daisy, Dottie, George, Isla, Jack, Leo, Olive, Sophie and Tory and in Reception, we have welcomed Evan, Harley and Harriet who have joined Harrison, James, Jaydon, Poppy, Sienna, Sophia, and Zack to make a wonderful Early Years group! In Year 3, we have been joined by Abigail who has quickly been welcomed by her class-mates. All children have made a super start to their time at Great Gaddesden and we look forward to sharing their future successes. Finally, Miss Carty has joined the Great Gaddesden team this term as our Year 1 & 2 class-teacher and is already a super asset to our school. Miss Carty is enjoying getting to know children in Years 1 & 2 as well as children across the school.

Values: Our value for September is **Sharing**. Last week, Hannah in Year 2 was nominated by Mrs Botschin for displaying this value outside of school at Harry B's party. Rebecca and her brother George were nominated for sharing their toys at home; Alexander in Year 2 was nominated by Dexter for sharing some class responsibilities and Holly was nominated by Hannah for sharing toys outside of school. Sophia was selected to put her hand on the Values board as she was nominated by her sister Hollie for

sharing the skipping rope on the playground with her friend Jenna. It has been excellent to see the children demonstrating this value so frequently – keep up the super work!

Secondary Transfer: If your child is in Year 6, the online system is now open for you to make applications to secondary schools. The deadline to apply for a secondary school is **31st October 2017**. You should have received a Secondary Transfer 2018 leaflet which explains the process to you – please contact the school office if you have not received the relevant information.

New Website: We are excited to share that we now have a brand new website: <http://www.greatgaddesden.herts.sch.uk/> We will be keeping the school website up to date with school news, dates, letters and important information. Please do keep looking back to see any updates. Huge thanks to two members of our Governing Body - to Carli Wall, for liaising with the website company and to Clare Rudd, for the significant amount of time spent over the summer getting the content set up – it really does look fantastic!

Silver School Games Award: You will see on the logo at the bottom of the page, that we have been promoted from a Bronze School Games Award to a Silver School Games Award! This promotion is due to the consistent efforts from Mrs Todiresei, our P.E. subject leader, in ensuring children have opportunities to take part in a wide range of sports. Once again, across the course of this year, we will be encouraging children from all year groups to partake in competitive sport either through inter-house competitions (led by our formidable house-captains) and/or inter-school events through local competitions/festivals. We look forward to sharing the results of these events with you over the coming weeks and months. Sincere thanks to Mrs Todiresei for all of her efforts in ensuring that children are enjoying competitive physical activity.

Parking: We really appreciate the efforts that are being made by parents/carers to park and drive sensitively in the village as we know how difficult it can be. You may have seen members of the police force during drop off and collection times who are supporting the school in ensuring that residents and parents/carers are working to keep children safe. One final request we would like to make is to ask that parents/carers do not reverse/drive into drive-ways to turn around. Some of our neighbours have young children and there is a significant risk that they may be knocked over. A reminder that Wyevale Garden Centre are happy for parents/carers to park there to ease the flow of traffic in the village.

Office Reminders: If you are yet to return your Home/School Agreement or your data collection sheet (along with a copy of your child's passport and birth certificate), please pass these to the school office as soon as possible.

If your child is in Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 or Year 4, you will have received a letter last week about the Nasal Flu Jab; please complete and return the form to the office as soon as is possible.

Sickness Bug: Unfortunately, we have already been hit by a sickness bug this term. We continue to remind children about the importance of washing their hands throughout the school day and we are grateful for your communications regarding any ill-health at home as well as adhering to the school's 48-hr non-return policy following any sickness/diarrhoea.

Dates: Please see below for important dates for this term. Should there be any changes, we will communicate them in future newsletters as well as on our website.

Nursery Lunch Reminder: If your child is in Nursery and you would like them to stay for lunch, please just communicate this to Miss Ayres in the morning and send them in with a packed lunch (no sweets/chocolate or nut products please). The cost to stay for lunch each day is £3.50 and children

should be collected at 1:15pm *from the school office*. Please do not send money into school with your children, the school office will bill you at the end of each half-term.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs N. Comer
Headteacher



Dates for this term:

As you will see below, there is much to look forward to in the term ahead! Please make a note of all dates that are relevant to your child/ren. Any edits or additions will be in future newsletters. Please see below for term dates for this academic year.

Tuesday 19th September – FOGGS EGM, 7:30pm

RE-ARRANGED – new date tbc Thursday 21st September – Year 5 & 6 Trip to Buddhist Monastery

NEW! **Wednesday 27th September** – Years 5 & 6 Football Match vs Kensworth School (additional letter to follow)

Friday 29th September – Harvest Service, 9:00am (Parents/Carers welcome)

Tuesday 10th October – Parents Evening, 5:00pm – 8:00pm

Wednesday 11th October – Parents Evening, 3:30pm – 6:00pm

NEW! **Thursday 12th October** – Year 6 with school nurse re: online questionnaire (see previous letter for information)

Friday 20th October – FOGGS Cake Sale, 3:15pm

Friday 20th October – Break up for Half-Term, 3:15pm

NEW! **Tuesday 31st October** – Deadline for Secondary School Applications (Year 6 only)

NEW! **Wednesday 1st November** – Year 4 Tag Rugby Festival (more information to follow)

Friday 3rd November – Individual/Sibling Photos

Friday 3rd November – Last day for shoe-box appeal

NEW! **Friday 3rd November** – Years 3 – 6 Inter-house Football Competition, 1:15pm

Monday 6th November – British Legion Assembly (Poppy Appeal)

Wednesday 8th November – Nursery/Reception Class Assembly (Parents/Carers welcome)

Wednesday 8th November – Years 7 – 9 Afternoon Tea, 4:45pm – 6:15pm

Friday 10th November – Year 3 & 4 Trip to Milton Keynes Theatre – Awful Auntie (more information to follow)

Wednesday 15th November – Reception/Year 1/2/3/4 Nasal Flu Jab (see previous letter for information)

NEW! **Friday 17th November** – Reception Reading Open Afternoon (speak to Miss Ayres for more information)

Tuesday 21st November – Years 5 & 6 Class Assembly (Parents/Carers welcome)

Wednesday 29th November – Years 1 & 2 Class Assembly (Parents/Carers welcome)

Friday 1st December – After school clubs finish.

Friday 1st December – FOGGS Film Night/Disco (more information to follow)

Monday 4th December – Science Day (more information to follow)

Thursday 7th December – Nursery/Reception Nativity, 9:15am (Parents/Carers welcome)

Friday 8th December – FOGGS Santa Sleigh event with Berkhamsted Lions (tbc)

Wednesday 13th December – Years 3 & 4 Class Assembly (Parents/Carers welcome)

Wednesday 13th December – Years 3 – 6 carol singing in the village, 3:30pm – 5:30pm

NEW! **Thursday 14th December** – Herts Catering Christmas Lunch

Thursday 14th December – Carol Service, 2pm and 7pm (Years 1 – 6 required at both services)

Friday 15th December – FOGGS Family Christmas Event (tbc)

Monday 18th December – Whole School Trip to Panto at Watford Theatre (more information to follow)

Tuesday 19th December – Christingle Service, 9:00am

Tuesday 19th December – End of Term, 1:30pm

Children to return to school on **Thursday 4th January 2018**

Term Dates for academic year (2017/18):

AUTUMN TERM: Wednesday 30th August – Tuesday 19th December

Children to return on Monday 4th September

HALF-TERM: Monday 23rd October – Friday 27th October

SPRING TERM: Wednesday 3rd January – Friday 30th March

Children to return on Thursday 4th January and break up on Thursday 29th March

HALF-TERM: Monday 12th February – Friday 16th February

SUMMER TERM: Monday 16th April – Friday 27th July

Children to return on Tuesday 17th April and break up on Friday 20th July

HALF-TERM: Monday 28th May – Friday 1st June

Please make a note of the following INSET days and Occasional Days when children will *not* be at school:

Wednesday 3rd January – INSET DAY

Monday 16th April – INSET DAY

Friday 15th June – INSET DAY

Monday 23rd July – Occasional Day

Tuesday 24th July - Occasional Day

Wednesday 25th July – Occasional Day

Thursday 26th July – Occasional Day

Friday 27th July – Occasional Day