



Great Gaddesden C of E (Voluntary Aided) Primary School

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Autumn Term Newsletter: 1

Tuesday 5th September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

A warm welcome back to 2017/18 academic year! We are looking forward to another fantastic year, with learning taking place in and out of the classroom.

We have dedicated time during our INSET days to plan activities for this week to support staff in really getting to know each and every child – their likes/dislikes, interests and capabilities and are looking forward to finding out more about them. Over the coming weeks, each class-teacher will also have dedicated 1:1 time with every child in their class to get to know more about them.

Values: Our value for September is **Sharing**. Children can nominate one another for this value as and when they see it in action. If you observe this value at home, please do let us know.

House-Points: As was the case last year, children will earn house-points for hard work across the curriculum – this could include homework or class-work. Certificates are presented on the achievement of 10 and 20 house-points and badges for 30, 40, 50 and 60 house-points. Last year, we started this initiative part-way through the year and Fenella (now in Year 5) was the first to achieve 30 house-points for her hard work. Congratulations Fenella! We are looking forward to further celebrations of academic achievement across the school this year!

Year 3 & 4 Classroom: During the summer holidays, there was building work carried out in our Year 3 & 4 classroom to expand the space available for teaching and learning. This piece of work was funded through an application the governors put forward to the Diocese and we are delighted with the result. Huge thanks must go to Andrzej Gaudyn who led the project from start to finish – thank you so much for all of your efforts Andrzej.

Bark Area: As you may remember, we were planning to have some new equipment installed in the bark area over the summer holidays. Unfortunately, we were let down at the last minute by the company who were due to complete the works. In light of this, we are hoping to ensure that the new equipment is installed later in the term – we will keep you informed of any developments.

New Website: We will soon be going live with our new and improved school website! This update has involved a huge amount of work from two of our governors, Carli Wall and Clare Rudd – thank you both for the time, effort and energy that has gone into setting up and creating our new website. We look forward to sharing it!

Parking: We are really pleased that pupil numbers continue to grow – this impacts positively on teaching and learning and social interaction for children across the school. However, the increase in children, leads to an increase in cars which can make parking in the village challenging. We are very keen to be good neighbours to the residents in the village and we ask that parents/carers park sensitively (i.e. not over drive-ways). Wyevale Garden Centre are happy for parents/carers to park there to ease the flow of traffic in the village.

Office Reminders: If you have any monies owing for after school clubs, dinner money, etc. please contact the office at your earliest convenience to organise payment.

Our Home/School Agreement is coming home today with your child. Please take some time to read this with your child; once you have done this, please sign and return to the school office. Similarly, please check the data collection sheets that are coming home today and follow the instructions attached to the sheets.

Please be aware that from Monday 18th September, Mrs Sutherland will be in the office on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8:30am – 3:30pm. The office will be covered by Mrs Stevenson on Wednesday mornings.

Church: On Friday mornings, the whole school have Collective Worship (Assembly) at the church with Mr Russell from 9:00am – 9:15am. Parents/Carers are always welcome to join us at this time – we would love to see you there! This coming Sunday, 10th September, is the first Family Communion service of the new school year at the church. The service is at 10:30am and all are welcome.

After School Clubs: A quick reminder that after school clubs will begin from next week (Monday 11th September) and run until Friday 1st December (please make a note of this date now to avoid confusion at the end of term). Letters were sent out at the end of last term to confirm the clubs that your child will be attending. Please ensure that your child attends chosen clubs *each week*, unless ill, and please contact the school office if your child is not attending a club for any reason.

Dates: Please see below for important dates for this term. Should there be any changes, we will communicate them in future newsletters. Please note that the Autumn Term ends on *Tuesday 19th December at 1:30pm, **not** Wednesday 20th December as previously suggested.* Apologies for any inconvenience.

Coats: Please ensure your child comes to school with a coat – if the weather is wet, we try to get outside if we can, but if children do not have a coat in school, they are not able to go outside in wet weather.

Nursery Lunch: 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. Please do not send money into school with your children, the school office will bill you at the end of each half-term.

Attendance: We would like to remind all parents/carers that excellent attendance has an *extremely* positive impact on academic achievement – this is clearly evident in our progress and attainment data. If your child is ill, we appreciate that they must not be in school (and if they have had sickness/diarroahea, please ensure that they are not in school within 48 hours of their last bout). We saw huge improvements in attendance at the end of the last academic year and really appreciate your support in this matter.

As always, if you have any concerns about anything to do with your child's learning/school life, please speak to your child's class-teacher in the first instance.

We are excited for a super year ahead and look forward to working with you.

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.

- Monday 11th September** – After school clubs start
- Tuesday 12th September** – Year 3 & 4 Parents Meeting, 3:00pm
- Wednesday 13th September** – Nursery/Reception Parents Meeting, 9:00am
- Thursday 14th September** – Year 1 & 2 Parents Meeting, 3:00pm
- Friday 15th September** – FOGGS Film Night, 3:15pm – 5:15pm (more information to follow)
- Tuesday 19th September** – Year 5 & 6 Parents Meeting, 3:00pm
- Tuesday 19th September** – FOGGS EGM, 7:30pm
- Thursday 21st September** – Year 5 & 6 Trip to Buddhist Monastery (tbc)
- Friday 29th September** – Harvest Service at church, 9:00am (Parents/Carers welcome)
- Tuesday 10th October** – Parents Evening, 5:00pm – 8:00pm
- Wednesday 11th October** – Parents Evening, 3:30pm – 6:00pm
- Friday 20th October** – FOGGS Cake Sale, 3:15pm
- Friday 20th October** – Break up for Half-Term, 3:15pm

- Friday 3rd November** – Individual/Sibling Photos
- Friday 3rd November** – Last day for shoe-box appeal
- Week Beginning: Monday 6th November** – British Legion Assembly (Poppy Appeal)
- Wednesday 8th November** – Nursery/Reception Class Assembly, 9:00am (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 (more information to follow)
- Tuesday 21st November** – Years 5 & 6 Class Assembly, 9:00am (Parents/Carers welcome)
- Wednesday 29th November** – Years 1 & 2 Class Assembly, 9:00am (Parents/Carers welcome)
- Friday 1st December** – After school clubs finish.
- Friday 1st December** – FOGGS Film Night (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, 9:00am (Parents/Carers welcome)
- Wednesday 13th December** – Years 3 – 6 carol singing in the village, 3:30pm – 5:30pm
- 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
- DATE CHANGE! 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