



# Great Gaddesden C of E (Voluntary Aided) Primary School

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Autumn Newsletter: 8

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Values:** Our value for November was **Tolerance**. Last week, Emily was nominated by her sister, Grace, for demonstrating this value outside of school. This week William was nominated by Dexter for showing this value in class. For December, our value is **Joy**.

**House-Points:** Over the last two weeks, even more children have been awarded their first certificate for achieving ten house-points. Congratulations to Harriet, Dexter, Ethan, Reece, Olivier, Holly T., Alexander, Ryan, Abigail, Emily, Jamie, Olivia R., Robyn, Sebastian, Caden and Jack R. – your hard work is really paying off. Congratulations also to Jack B., Lottie, Rebecca, Aaron, Lucy and Fenella who have now achieved twenty house-points!

**Winter Weather:** Now that the colder weather is upon us, we would like to remind you of the school's procedure should we need to close at short notice. Whilst we make every effort to remain open, many families and staff members travel reasonable distances to school so the need to close will be out of concern for the safety of pupils and staff. Should we have to close, we will aim to do the following as promptly as is possible:

- i) Send an email to all parents/carers.
- ii) Post an update on the school website.

Over the coming weeks, please ensure that your children come to school dressed appropriately for the weather – all children **must** wear a coat to school.

**Online Payment System:** Following parental feedback, we are in the process of setting up an online payment system. Initially, this system will be for dinner money (for Years 3 – 6 only) and trips, but over time it will include clubs (including Breakfast Club). We really appreciate your feed-back and are hopeful that the new system will make payments to the school more efficient. You will soon be receiving details about how to sign up for this system.

**Christmas Post-Box:** As of next week, we will have a Christmas Post-box in the hall. If your child/ren would like to send Christmas cards to their friends, please ask them to post their cards in the post-box and children in Year 6 will then sort them at lunch-time. (Please encourage your child to write either the child's year group and/or the initial of their surname on the envelope, i.e. **James P. Year 1** to avoid confusion over who receives the cards!)

**Travelling Crib:** As in previous years, we are supporting the church's Travelling Crib this year. The idea is that the crib, which includes Mary, Joseph (and donkey!) travels from family to family during each day of advent, representing the journey made to Bethlehem. If you would like to host the crib for one night during Advent, please speak to me on the playground before school.

**Panto:** A quick reminder that we have our whole school pantomime trip on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December. The coaches are due to leave school at 9:00am, in light of this, ***we are asking for all children to arrive at school no later than 8:30am on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December***, in order that we can ensure they have all been registered and gone to the toilet before we depart. Please ensure any permission slips and contributions are returned to the office asap.

**After School Clubs:** Please be aware that *after school clubs are now finished for this term*. Next week, we will be writing to you regarding the after school clubs on offer for the Spring Term. Please be aware that if there are any outstanding club debts for your child, ***we will not be able to allocate them any clubs for the Spring Term, including Breakfast Club***.

**Penalty Shoot-Out:** On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November, a group of children from Years 5&6 visited Watford Football Club to take part in a penalty shoot-out at half-time during a match between Watford vs West Ham. Whilst not victorious on this occasion, the children had a fantastic afternoon and got to play in front of thousands of fans! Many thanks to Mrs Todiresei for organising.

**Writing Week:** Last week, Miss Ayres organised a Writing Week to inspire and enthuse writing across the school and we are really delighted with the results. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experiences they had to support their writing. In addition, it was lovely to see so many parents join us on Friday afternoon to see the work that had been produced. Sincere thanks to Miss Ayres for organising such a super event!

**Winter Art Exhibition:** On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December, Mrs Lilley has organised a Winter Art Exhibition in the hall. Parents are invited to come into the hall (via the office) and see the work that the children have produced. In order that the hall is not over-crowded, we are suggesting that parents of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 come in at 3:00pm and parents of children in Years 3 – 6 come in at 3:10pm. (If you have children in both groups, please come at the earlier time.) If your child is in Nursery, you are welcome to either pop into the classroom at 11:45am to see their work, or join us at 3:00pm for the exhibition in the hall. Your children will be able to leave with you, once you have enjoyed all there is to enjoy at the exhibition!

**Christmas Tree Festival:** This weekend, the church are hosting a Christmas Tree Festival with a great number of Christmas trees! Children across the school have contributed to a 'Forest Schools' themed tree. Huge thanks to Mrs Waites for designing the school's entry and for Mrs Edwards (one of our governors) for her support.

**Christmas Jumper Day:** On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December, FOGGS are inviting all children (and staff!) to come to school in non-school uniform. Everyone is encouraged to bring in a donation for the raffle in return for wearing their favourite Christmas jumper! (If your child does not have a Christmas jumper, please do not feel the need to buy one for this occasion – any non-school uniform will be absolutely fine!)

**FOGGS Film Night:** Just a quick reminder to **collect your children from the office at 5:15pm** if they are staying for the FOGGS Film Night this afternoon.

**Reception applications:** Across the course of this term, our excellent Year 6 children are hosting tours for prospective parents of children who will be in Nursery or Reception in 2018. If you, or someone you know, is looking for a school place for September 2018, please contact the school office. *If your child is in Nursery, you will still need to apply online for a Reception place as well as complete a supplementary information form.* If your child is in Nursery and you are yet to receive a supplementary information form, please contact the school office. The deadline for Reception applications is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

**Dog Bite Prevention:** You will be aware that Donut, our school dog, has become a popular feature in school on a Thursday! The children are really enjoying his presence in the school and have enjoyed taking him for walks and visiting him in the library and office. We have invited Karen Tonge, a local dog-trainer into school to carry out dog bite prevention workshops for the children. The purpose of this work is to ensure that all of the children know how to stay safe around dogs. Donut has a lovely temperament and we are really noticing the positive impact he is having on the children.

**Office Reminders:** Please be aware that the deadline for uniform orders for this term has now passed. The deadlines for uniform orders for the Spring and Summer terms are 5<sup>th</sup> March and 11<sup>th</sup> June respectively.

**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.

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.

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December** – After school clubs finish.

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December** – FOGGS Film Night (see previous letter for further information)

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December** – Choir/Drumming Performance, 2:45pm (For Parents/Carers of children in Years 3–6 and/or choir)

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December** – Years 7 – 9 Afternoon Tea, 4:45pm – 6:15pm

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

**NEW!** **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December** – Winter Art Exhibition in the hall (see above for more information)

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Jumper Day (Please bring a donation for FOGGS' Christmas Hampers)

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Science Day (please see previous letter for more information)

**NEW!** **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December** – Dog Bite Prevention – Years 1 – 6 (Nursery and Reception to follow – see above for more information)

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

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December** – Years 3 – 6 carol singing in the village, 3:30pm – 5:30pm

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December** – Herts Catering Christmas Lunch

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

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December** – FOGGS Family Christmas Event, 3:15pm – 4:30pm

**UPDATE!** **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December** – Whole School Trip to Panto at Watford Theatre (**Please ensure your children are at school no later than 8:30am on this day.**)

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December** – FOGGS Santa Sleigh event with Berkhamsted Lions

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December** – Christingle Service, 9:00am

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December** – End of Term, 1:30pm

*Children to return to school on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018***

**Term Dates for academic year (2017/18):**

**AUTUMN TERM:** Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December

*Children to return on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September*

**HALF-TERM:** Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October

**SPRING TERM:** Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March

*Children to return on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January and break up on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March*

**HALF-TERM:** Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February

**SUMMER TERM:** Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July

*Children to return on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April and break up on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July*

**HALF-TERM:** Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June

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

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January – INSET DAY

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April – INSET DAY

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June – INSET DAY

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July – Occasional Day

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July - Occasional Day

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July – Occasional Day

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> July – Occasional Day

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July – Occasional Day