



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

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

Autumn Newsletter: 3

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Headteacher Appointment - January 2018:** I am really delighted to let you know that we have appointed a new Headteacher to lead the School from January 2018. Following a very thorough and professional recruitment process, the Governors are confident that the new Headteacher has the right skills and values to lead our school community.

As the successful candidate is a current Deputy Head at a School in Hertfordshire, we are coordinating the announcement of her appointment with her current school. I hope to be able to formally communicate more details by the end of the week.

Many thanks for your understanding.

With best wishes,

Alison Wilkinson  
Chair of Governors

**Values:** Our value for September has been **Sharing**. Last week, Eleanor was nominated by her sister Olivia for sharing her toys at home; Dexter was nominated by Luke and Paul for sharing during a game of football and passing the ball to his team-mates and Sienna was nominated by Reece for sharing the skipping rope on the playground **and** by Mrs Waites for sharing the role-play clothes. Next month our value is **Caring**. Please do let us know if you identify this value at home.

**Secondary Transfer:** Just a reminder that 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 **31<sup>st</sup> October 2017**.

**Forest Schools:** Later this week, we will write to you to let you know when your child's class will participate in Forest Schools this term. Please ensure that you return the reply slip provided to give your child permission to participate in our Forest Schools activities.

**School Dog:** You will soon be receiving a letter regarding a new school pet! Mrs Jessop is going to be bringing her dog, Donut, into school every Thursday. The letter will detail the arrangements as well as the safeguarding measures we are taking to ensure that all children (and the dog!) stay safe. If your child has any allergies/anxieties about dogs, we would ask that you communicate on the reply slip

going out today. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Jessop or myself.

**Donations from Mr Presence:** This term, we have had a number of generous donations from Presence Interiors (a local curtain and blind specialist) in the form of samples that we can use for various arts and design & technology projects. Sincere thanks to Presence Interiors (07977 411197/neil@presenceinteriors.com) for their kind donations.

**Harvest Service:** On Friday 29th September we will be celebrating Harvest at the church at 9:00am. As in previous years we would welcome donations for DENS (Dacorum Emergency Night Shelter) charity. Please see <http://www.dens.org.uk/get-involved/food-donations> for suggested donations. If your child could bring their donation into school on Friday 29th September, they will be able to add it to the Harvest display at the church. Parents and Carers are welcome to join us for our Harvest Service.

**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.

**School Council:** Last week, our new School Council representatives were elected. Huge congratulations to Mollie, Dexter, Emily, Grace D., Grace H. and Harrison. The School Council have already taken on a huge responsibility by participating in the Headteacher recruitment process. The children designed excellent questions and then interviewed the candidates. I know that they will be a wonderful team for the year ahead and I look forward to working with them.

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.

**NEW!** Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October – Recycling Workshop, Years 3 – 6

**NEW!** Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October – Years 3 & 4 Cross Country event (more information to follow)

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October – Parents Evening, 5:00pm – 8:00pm

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October – Parents Evening, 3:30pm – 6:00pm

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October – Year 6 with school nurse re: online questionnaire (see previous letter for information)

**NEW!** Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October – Restart a Heart Workshop (Years 5 & 6)

**NEW!** Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October – Years 5 & 6 Cross Country event (more information to follow)

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October – FOGGS Cake Sale, 3:15pm

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

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October** – Deadline for Secondary School Applications (Year 6 only)  
**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November** – Year 4 Tag Rugby Festival (more information to follow)  
**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November** – Individual/Sibling Photos  
**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November** – Last day for shoe-box appeal  
**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November** – Years 3 – 6 Inter-house Football Competition  
**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November** – British Legion Assembly (Poppy Appeal)  
**NEW!** **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November** – Years 1 & 2 Inter-house Football Competition  
**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November** – Nursery/Reception Class Assembly (Parents/Carers welcome)  
**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November** – Years 7 – 9 Afternoon Tea, 4:45pm – 6:15pm  
**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November** – Year 3 & 4 Trip to Milton Keynes Theatre – Awful Auntie (more information to follow)  
**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November** – Reception/Year 1/2/3/4 Nasal Flu Jab (see previous letter for information)  
**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November** – Reception Reading Open Afternoon (speak to Miss Ayres for more information)  
**NEW!** **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November** – Writing Week (more information to follow)  
**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November** – Years 5 & 6 Class Assembly (Parents/Carers welcome)  
**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November** – Years 1 & 2 Class Assembly (Parents/Carers welcome)  
**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December** – After school clubs finish.  
**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December** – FOGGS Film Night/Disco (more information to follow)  
**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December** – Science Day (more information to follow)  
**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December** – Nursery/Reception Nativity, 9:15am (Parents/Carers welcome)  
**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 (tbc)  
**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December** – Whole School Trip to Panto at Watford Theatre (more information to follow)  
**DATE CHANGE!** **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**