



Great Gaddesden C of E (VA) Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs S.M. Wickens

Curriculum Newsletter – Spring Term – January 2019

Firstly, I would like to welcome everyone back to school after the Christmas holidays. We hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable break.

I have had a lovely first week at Great Gaddesden school getting to know all the children. They have all been very keen to share with me what they know and how things work in their classroom. The children have been very accommodating to having a new teacher and learning new routines and songs.

This term we will be using Talk for Writing which will support the children's **literacy and communication** development. During the first half term, we will be focusing on Traditional Tales including The Three Little Pigs, The Gingerbread Man and The Enormous Turnip.

We will be learning actions and signs supported by a story map to help us retell the story. We will also be recreating our own whole class books of the focus texts and the children will have lots of reading and writing opportunities to practise their mark making and phonics. We will be making stick puppets and using role play masks to help develop story language as well as using our imagination to make up our own versions of the stories and learning songs.

We will also be using big books and Guided Reading teaching to support the children with their reading, modelling strategies to help them apply what they are learning in their phonics sessions.

We will be continuing to develop the children's **Personal, Social and Emotional skills** through activities and opportunities where the children are able to take turns and build their self confidence. We will support and teach the children to feel good about their own successes and achievements. We will also look at dealing with the children's own emotions and those of others.

In **Physical Development**, we will continue to develop the children's fine motor skills with daily 'Busy Fingers' time using peg boards, threading, construction toys, cutting, weaving and tweezers. We will also include 'Disco Dough' where the children manipulate playdough in time with music, for example by pinching, squeezing, patting and rolling it - the children are really enjoying this as part of our morning routine. We will continue to develop the children's pencil and scissor grip and control as well as their letter formation. The children will have many opportunities to develop their gross motor skills during planned PE sessions and child initiated activities including ball control, negotiating space and having confidence on climbing equipment.

In **Understanding the World** we will look at the signs of Winter and how the natural world changes. We are planning to do lots of outdoor learning, so please ensure your child has some named wellies in school and they wear suitable warm clothes if needed. We have waterproof outer clothing so the children will be protected and dry. The outdoor environment provides fantastic learning opportunities: for example, looking at similarities, differences, changes over time, growth and decay to name a few. In RE, the children will look at the story of Noah's Ark and the Creation story, as well as other festivals celebrated including Chinese New Year.

The children will be learning lots of new **songs and rhymes** to develop their repertoire. They will be able to experiment with different materials and learn new techniques to create imaginative art. The children will be exposed to music from around the world and will be encouraged to dance and move in different ways to the sounds they hear. The children will learn to create constructions with a purpose in mind and shown how to plan creations and adapt their work if needed. We provide opportunities and time for the children to talk and share what they have done, encouraging others to share their thoughts and ideas.

In order to keep the children motivated and interested in **Show and Tell**, we will not have a regular Show and Tell 'day', instead the children are welcome to bring something in if they are particularly proud of it, (something they may have made or a photograph of an adventure they went on, a special trip they have been on, something that is significant in their lives, something they have done for the first time). Please talk your child about what information they might like to share with the class so they have spoken about it first.

We would like to **cook** regularly with the children as it provides many learning opportunities, including language development, observing similarities and differences, changes, mathematical development, cultural awareness to name a few. In order for us to provide such valuable experiences, we would be grateful if you are able to contribute £3 per half term. Please send this in an envelope marked with your child's name on.

The children will have opportunities to practise and develop their **mathematical knowledge** continuing to develop their number recognition, counting, learning addition and subtraction strategies and representing numbers and number problems as well as continuing to look at shape, 2D and 3D. We will also be looking at comparing weights, heights and lengths in a variety of fun and exciting ways.

A couple of reminders:

- If your child has new uniform or shoes, please remember to label it to avoid any pieces being lost.
- PE day will be Monday and the children will be encouraged to change independently.
- The children will all change their library books once a week on a Friday and reading books will be changed on a Wednesday, so please ensure they bring the books into school on those days.