



## Great Gaddesden Parish News : March 2020

We recently reviewed our Mission Statement to ensure that it reflects our school ethos. The children and staff have chosen a quote from the bible. St Luke's words will be our guide for all we do in school: "Treat others exactly as you want to be treated"

This half term has gone by in a flash. At the end of the week we said goodbye to Mrs Waites who has been at Great Gaddesden School for 13 years. She is a well loved and valuable member of our community. She will be missed, and not just for her amazing chocolate brownies! We wish her all the best in her new school.

### Winter Art Exhibition

At the end of January we used the church to display a range of art work inspired by our beautiful church of St John the Baptist. The children used a range of artistic forms, including collage, paint, drawing and natural objects to create work based on the church itself. These were all displayed to enable parents and friends to view the children's talents.

### Reading Challenge

We are always looking for ways to promote a love of reading in the children. We are lucky to have a well-stocked library for their use. We are now introducing a new 'Reading for Pleasure challenge across the school. There are 50 suggested books for each year group to enjoy, covering a wide range of genres and authors. Something for everyone! The book lists are on the school website under the curriculum tab. Great Gaddesden Parish Council generously gave us a donation to start equipping the school with the challenge books. Any donations of preloved books that are included in the challenge would be very gratefully received as we are still building our collection.

### Secret Readers in EYFS

Early Years children have been excited to welcome surprise visitors to the classroom who come to read a favourite story. We hope this will help the children to be excited about stories and books, and help to develop a love of reading. Last week Mr Leo Scarborough, one of our parent governors came to the Early years classroom. He read 'Superworm' by Julia Donaldson. The children were happy listening to the story and talking about it afterwards. "Who was the bad guy, who was the good guy." Reading and talking about are such important activities, whatever your age. If you would like to be a 'secret reader' for our youngest children and have a spare twenty minutes, please let us know. You will be most welcome. I would find it difficult to choose just one favourite!

### Football News



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More successes for our school team as reported by Yr 6 PE Leaders Aaron and Rowan. "Last week Great Gaddesden played against Reddings school and we won! ... The score was a fabulous 6-0. An exciting moment was when Luke Green scored on his first appearance for

the school team. Other scorers were Ollie, Lilly, Matthew and Aaron (who scored 2). Later in the week, we played again. This time against Brockswood school... we were so close to winning but finally drew 3-3" Well done to the team who play well and behave well, at all times living our new mission statement. Thank you as well to the organisers who make it possible for the children to take part in fixtures.

### Update of the outdoor area

At the week end the London Plane tree was carefully pruned in order to allow more light into the area beneath. We were able to use the cuttings to provide woodchip for some of the ground. FOGGS are still looking for volunteers to help clear the rest of the bark area on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February. It is still winter but it's good to look forward to better weather and outdoor activities.