



Great Gaddesden C of E (Voluntary Aided) Primary School

Telephone 01442 255734

Email head@greatgaddesden.herts.sch.uk
admin@greatgaddesden.herts.sch.uk

Website www.greatgaddesden.herts.sch.uk

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

Autumn Newsletter: 4

Friday 6th October 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

Headteacher Update: I am really delighted to announce that Mrs Sarah Wickens has been appointed as our new Headteacher, starting in January 2018.

Mrs Wickens is currently Deputy Headteacher at St. Albert the Great Catholic Primary School, where she has worked in a variety of teaching and leadership roles for over 15 years. She brings a wealth of experience across the primary age range, both inside and outside the classroom.

Outside of school, Mrs Wickens' passions are for the performing arts, particularly music, and the outdoor life. She is very excited about sharing these passions with children, staff and parents at Great Gaddesden.

Mrs Wickens will be meeting with Mrs Comer and other staff members over the coming weeks to organise a smooth transition. All Staff and Governors will also be working together to welcome Mrs Wickens and I know that she is very much looking forward to meeting our wonderful families and children.

With very best wishes,

Alison Wilkinson

Chair of Governors

awilkinson@greatgaddesden.herts.sch.uk

Values: Our value for October is **Caring**. This week, Hollie in Year 5 was nominated for being a caring big sister and James, in Reception, was nominated (twice!) for being fantastically caring towards the other children in his class. Finlay, Frankie and Immy were also nominated for September's value of **Sharing**.

House-Points: Last week, three more children reached the first mile-stone for house points – congratulations to Eleanor in Year 6, Aaron in Year 4 and Lottie in Year 1 for their continued hard work across the curriculum achieving 10 (or more!) house-points. Keep up the super work!

Staffing Update: As of Monday 16th October, Mrs Waites will be off school for six weeks as she is having an operation. I know you will join the staff and governors in wishing Mrs Waites a speedy recovery. We look forward to welcoming her back in the run-up to Christmas! We are in the process of organising cover arrangements and will communicate these arrangements when they are finalised.

Reception applications: Across the course of this term, our 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 completing a supplementary information form, which we will send out next week – these can be returned to the office.)

Secondary Transfer: A quick 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 **31st October 2017**.

Church Services: It has been really lovely to see an increasing number of families attending services at the church, both on a Friday morning and for our additional services, such as Harvest. If you are joining us at the church with younger children, we would politely ask that they be taken out if they are making noise so that the school children can concentrate on the service and be heard when they are speaking.

Play-Leaders: Over the last week, children in Years 5 & 6 have been under-taking their play-leading training to ensure that they are ready to lead the rest of the school in play activities during lunch-times. We have been very impressed with the calibre of play-leaders this year and know that the rest of the school are looking forward to the play-leading sessions that will be occurring in the weeks to come. Well done to all in Years 5 & 6!

School Family Worker: Our School Family Worker, Lisa MacGovern, is available to meet with parents/carers on Tuesday 11th October at Ashlyns School. Lisa works with families to support them through any difficulties they might be having. If you would like to meet with Lisa, please call her on 07780 114079 to make an appointment.

FOGGS Update: Thanks to the hard work of the FOGGS team, they now have a thriving committee who host a wide range of events throughout the year. In the last meeting the following roles were assigned: **Co-chairs:** Kasia Albinska, Rachel Makepeace; **Vice-Chair:** Kim Hurrell; **Treasurer:** Louise Scarborough; **Secretary:** Fionnuala Walravens; **Nursery/Reception Class Rep:** Beth Graves; **Years 1 & 2 Class Reps:** Nicola Doe/Annabel Holland; **Years 3 & 4 Class Rep:** Colleen Fitzgerald; **Years 5 & 6 Class Rep:** Kim Hurrell.

Office Reminders: If you are yet to return your child's permission slip for either Forest Schools or Donut (the School Dog), please can you return these to the office asap.

A reminder that next week, **there will be no after school clubs on Wednesday 11th October due to parents evening.**

Donut (our school dog!): Donut was in school on Thursday to get used to his new surroundings. He has quickly become the most popular member of our school community! Donut will now be in school every Thursday and children across the school will get the opportunity to walk him and play with him.

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.

Tuesday 10th October – Years 3 & 4 Cross Country event for selected children (see additional letter for information)

Tuesday 10th October – Parents Evening, 5:00pm – 8:00pm

Wednesday 11th October – Parents Evening, 3:30pm – 6:00pm (no clubs on this day)

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

Monday 16th October – Restart a Heart Workshop (Years 5 & 6)

Tuesday 17th October – Years 5 & 6 Cross Country event for selected children (see additional letter for information)

Friday 20th October – FOGGS Cake Sale, 3:15pm

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

Tuesday 31st October – Deadline for Secondary School Applications (Year 6 only)

Wednesday 1st November – Year 4 Tag Rugby Festival (more information to follow)

Friday 3rd November – Individual/Sibling Photos

Friday 3rd November – Last day for shoe-box appeal

Friday 3rd November – Years 3 – 6 Inter-house Football Competition

Monday 6th November – British Legion Assembly (Poppy Appeal)

Tuesday 7th November – Years 1 & 2 Inter-house Football Competition

Wednesday 8th November – Nursery/Reception Class Assembly (Parents/Carers welcome)

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 (see previous letter for information)

Friday 17th November – Reception Reading Open Afternoon (speak to Miss Ayres for more information)

Monday 20th November – Friday 24th November – Writing Week (more information to follow)

Tuesday 21st November – Years 5 & 6 Class Assembly (Parents/Carers welcome)

Wednesday 29th November – Years 1 & 2 Class Assembly (Parents/Carers welcome)

Friday 1st December – After school clubs finish.

Friday 1st December – FOGGS Film Night/Disco (more information to follow)

DATE CHANGE! **Wednesday 6th December** – Years 7 – 9 Afternoon Tea, 4:45pm – 6:15pm (invitations to follow)

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

DATE CHANGE! **Monday 11th December** – Science Day (more information to follow)

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

Wednesday 13th December – Years 3 – 6 carol singing in the village, 3:30pm – 5:30pm

Thursday 14th December – Herts Catering Christmas Lunch

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)

Monday 18th December – FOGGS Santa Sleigh event with Berkhamsted Lions

Tuesday 19th December – Christingle Service, 9:00am

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