



## Newsletter 2

17th September 2018

### Message from the Head

#### **BLESSING OF OUR SCHOOL**

On Friday morning, Revd. John Russell visited our school to bless our grounds and classrooms. It was a very special service, held outside the playground. Revd. Russell explained to the children that he was putting salt in the water to purify it and then he blessed the water, making it sacred. He then blessed our children, staff and parents, using a sprig of rosemary, dipped in the holy water. Revd John Russell then visited each classroom, where he blessed the doorway and a class prayer was read.



The scene in our breakfast room on Friday morning, with our EYFS parents sharing tea and cake following a 'Stay and Play' session, was a true reflection of our school ethos, where all are welcome and valued as part of the Great Gaddesden family.

#### **MINDFULNESS**

This term, KS2 children will be following a 6 week programme in Mindfulness. Research shows that Mindfulness not only helps us to appreciate what is going well but also to respond more skilfully to life's inevitable challenges .

The 6 sessions will be delivered by Ms Chris Michael, a qualified Mindfulness leader. She will lead an information session for parents on Thursday, 27th September at 2:45 p.m.

#### **SUMMER ART EXHIBITION**



The children's art work from the Summer challenge will be on display at the end of the day on Thursday, 20th September. It would be great to have a few more works of art to display. If there are any at home that have not yet found their way into school, please send them in by Wednesday.

#### **September value:**

##### **Respect**

This week, Harry (Y5) and Mylo (Y3) were both nominated for showing **respect** to others. Both



boys had their hand prints pegged onto our 'values tree'. This year, we have a new 'Values tree', which Mrs Collier has kindly made us. Each branch represents one of our core Christian values, which we use to guide us in our lives.

#### **House Points**

Our house points are awarded for outstanding effort and excellent work . It is great to see that the House Points tubes have now begun to fill up.



The first certificate is awarded for receiving 10 house points.

### **Prayer for the blessing of our school and grounds.**

Thank you for the lovely school grounds that we have. Please help us to respect it and enjoy the trees, wildlife and beautiful views. Please help us to be safe and happy both during lesson time and our break times as we start our new school year.

## DIARY DATES

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### Monday 17th September

- 2:40 Curriculum Information Y5/6

### Wednesday, 19th September

- 2:40 Curriculum Information Y1/2

### Thursday, 20th September

- Summer Art Exhibition
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### Monday, 25th September

- 2:40 Curriculum Information Y3/4

### Wednesday, 26th September

- Safe dog handling training

### Thursday, 27th September

- 2:45 Parents introduction to Mindfulness

### Friday, 28th September

- FOGGS disco/film evening
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### Tuesday, 2nd October

- Diocese Harvest Festival at St Albans Abbey

### Thursday, 4th October

- World Poetry Day

### Friday, 5th October

- Grandparents' Open Afternoon



## CURRICULUM INFORMATION SESSIONS

In the next 2 weeks, all classes will be holding a curriculum information session for parents. Please note that there has been a change for **Y3/4**. This is now on Tuesday, 25th September.

## PERSEVERANCE AWARD

At the beginning of term, we looked at how we all have the opportunity to make a new start and how we need to be determined to keep going. This was followed by an assembly focussing on 'Perseverance'. The children were encouraged to think how important it is to keep going, even when we are faced with challenges. Having followed the story of Derek Redman who finished the 400 metre race in the 1992 Olympics, despite being injured, we looked at our very own inspirational story.

As a whole school family, we celebrated the successful completion of Rowan's treatment and awarded him his very own 'Perseverance' award. A fine example to us all.

Rowan will be selling hair accessories in the playground at 3:15 p.m. on Monday, 17th September, to raise funds for GOSH.

## GRANDPARENTS OPEN AFTERNOON

To celebrate National Grandparents Day, which is on Sunday, 7th October, we would like to extend an invitation to Grandparents (or special relative of the same generation) of our pupils to join their grandchildren in class on the afternoon of Friday, 5th October. A letter will follow, giving further details with a return slip, to give us an idea of the number of visitors.

## Prayer for the blessing of our school and grounds.

Thank you for our classroom all the areas we learn in. Help us to respect this room, our teachers and fellow pupils. Bless our class as we progress through the year ahead.

Y5/6