

April 2019

Great Gaddesden Church of England (VA) School

For Children Age 3-11

It is lovely to see the signs of Spring around the school grounds, and to have slightly better weather; thankfully no further snow days were required. We've had a very busy month with lots of special events and activities, I expect the children (and staff!) are ready for the Easter holidays this month. All of these activities enhance the curriculum and give children a wide range of practical and exciting experiences, and help bring learning 'to life'.

Our value for March was Responsibility, and we've been hearing lovely examples of how the children have been demonstrating this important value, particularly with responsible attitudes to aspects of school life.

At the beginning of the month a delicious smell was drifting round the school. It was coming from Y3/4 as they were creating their own flavour of bread, as part of their Technology Investigation. Their creations included onion flavoured bread, as well as rosemary, olive, cheese and sundried tomato bread. This followed their previous bread tasting investigation, in which the Jewish bread, 'Challah' was voted the clear winner.

Continuing on the cooking theme, all children enjoyed making (and eating) pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. This was followed by learning about Ash Wednesday and the meaning of Lent. The children reflected on the way in which they are going to prepare themselves for Easter, during the preparation period of Lent. On the wall in the school hall is a display of coloured in palm leaf pictures, and some of the children have written down on those the things they were planning to give up for lent, plus some things that they might like to try for the first time. I had a read of these, and was surprised to see the number of children who pledged to give up chocolate – I hope that went well! It was also inspiring to see what new things they would like to try.

World Book Day

Children were invited to come to school dressed as a character from a book, and we saw some super costumes, including Willy Wonka, Mary Poppins, and many Harry Potters. We held buddy reading sessions where junior children buddied up with infant children to read to, and also to help them to read a book.

Science Day

We held a whole school Science day, which was another opportunity for the children to come to school dressed up. This time they were invited to dress as scientists, and we had some very exciting costumes, and I'd like to specially mention Grace and Lottie Hurrell who came dressed as Dame Jane Goodhall (primatologist and conservationist) and Katherine Johnson (physicist and mathematician). Children researched, planned and carried out a number of experiments and investigations, and there was great excitement in the Year 5 and 6 when a member of staff from Watford Hospital brought in a (fake!) arm filled with blood that the children then used to learn how to inject a needle and take a blood sample. Each child got to have a go and take home a vial of fake blood!

Red Nose Day

The school supported Comic Relief day by selling red noses at school on the day. The members of the School Council had the responsibility of organising the sale and counting the funds raised on the day. This was supported by class based research of the charity to give the children an awareness of how their action of giving has helped the common good. The sum of approx. £100 was raised, which is a fine amount for our small school with 76 pupils.

Sports Events

Lilly, Phoenix and Jamie from year 5 and 6 have written this account of their football match: *“On Wednesday 27th March, ten children from Year 5 and 6 played in a football match against Flamsted school. Even though the final score wasn’t in our favour, we all played our best and it was a fun match. It was great to be able to represent our school by playing as part of the school football team.”*

Well done to all children who took part, demonstrating excellent sportsmanship which can be very hard when the result isn’t going your way!

Children in year 4 took part in a Speed Stacking Festival at Ashlyns School. The children did extremely well in this competition, with the girls’ team finishing in an impressive 11th place, out of 52 teams. Our school team as a whole finished 16th out of 56 schools. A great result for our small school. Robyn and Finlay said *“It was a great experience and gave us the opportunity to get active and use our hands. We had lots of support and it was really fun to be able to compete against other schools.”*

Nursery Applications

Although the deadline for the first round of nursery applications has passed, we can still accept late applications for children due to start in nursery from September 2019. We invite you to get in touch with our school office on 01442 255 734 and arrange a visit to have a look around our fantastic small village school.

With very best wishes,
Carli Wall
Foundation Governor