

**October 2018**

**Great Gaddesden Church of England (VA) School**

**For Children Age 3-11**

### **New School Year**

Last month we welcomed everyone back for the start of our Autumn term, and it was great to see all the children looking well and impeccably dressed in our school uniform. We gave a warm welcome to new pupils James, Lucille, Dolly, Elliot B, Elliot S, Alex, Erin and George who have started in nursery, Adam and Euan who joined us in reception class, and John who joined us in year one.

Rev. John Russell held a blessing in the playground where he blessed our school, the grounds, and the children and staff. The children took great delight in being sprinkled with holy water from a sprig of rosemary! It was lovely to see some of our families joining us in the playground. Following this, each classroom was also blessed, and the children had the opportunity to reflect on their hopes and aspirations for the coming year.

### **Summer Art Challenge**

Over the summer holidays, the children were set a challenge to use their artistic skills to create a piece of artwork. This could be a painting, a drawing, a photograph, a model made from boxes, the only limit was their imaginations! We received some fabulous pieces of work, and all the creations were displayed in an Art Exhibition for parents and carers to view. Well done everyone who took part!

### **New Chair of the Governing Body**

At our first Full Governing Body meeting of the school year Andrzej Gaudyn was elected as Chair, with Mick Bell as Vice Chair. Andrzej succeeds Alison Wilkinson who was our Chair for 8 years. All the school governors would like to express our sincere thanks to Alison for her time on the governing body, she dedicated a large amount of time to her role each year and was an excellent Chair.

### **Harvest Festival**

On Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October at 9:00am our school Harvest Festival will be held at St John the Baptist Church. All parents, carers and friends of the school are welcome to join us for this service, it's always lovely to

hear the children singing some of their favourite hymns from this time of year, including their rather enthusiastic rendition of 'Conkers'.

### **Visits for Prospective Parents**

If you have a child due to start school or nursery in 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 school. We will be offering visits with prospective parents throughout this term, to show what a fantastic village school we are. Please pass this information on to anyone who might find it helpful.

We also still have spaces in our nursery and reception classes for this year's intake, please get in touch if you would like to visit the school with a view to transferring into an existing class.

### **Do you have a special skill or interesting hobby?**

We are always keen to introduce our children to new activities and involve the local community in our learning, and we have heard that some people in the local area have some interesting hobbies and skills. If you would like to come and talk to the children about (or demonstrate) something you have a passion or flair for, or show a collection of something, or talk about an interesting job perhaps, we would love to welcome you into the school to do so. Alternatively, if you live close to the school and have something of interest the children could come and see, we could bring a small group of children to visit. Please contact the school office to discuss this further.

With very best wishes,

Carli Wall

Foundation Governor