

**March 2019**

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

### **For Children Age 3-11**

As a Governor at Great Gaddesden School I attend meetings on education and oversee the School Curriculum, helping to maintain our excellent standards. I also get to share in the many fun and exciting activities of the school. I can recommend being a School Governor!

Our monthly value for January is Ambition. We will all be working to achieve our goals and celebrate when others achieve theirs. One of my ambitions is to join in with Disco Dough with our youngest pupils!

We have welcomed a new teacher to Early Years, Mrs Chloe Benson. Each week our younger pupils base their work on a book, making learning fun. Last week they were keen to share their puppets, singing, writing and number work based on The Three Little Pigs.

Miss Carty gave some of the Governors a talk on IT teaching and development in the school. We have updated the curriculum in line with "Switched on Computing" units. We will have more focus on coding as the children move through key stage 2. All children at all levels do coding. It is a useful skill and both boys and girls enjoy it. We hope to introduce an afterschool Code Club in the near future. Staff are using Espresso as a cross curricular online teaching tool, especially good for Computing and Maths. We have introduced digital class registers which will mean more teacher and pupil time to spend on learning and fun in school.

#### **Chocolate Day, Year 5 and 6**

Years 5&6 started their Ancient Maya topic with a hot chocolate day. They made a Mayan drink with cacao nibs, honey, vanilla and chilli. Then they designed their own drink. They had great fun experimenting and discussing the different drinks they made. Some were tastier than others, but all were very chocolatey. The chocolate gave them a lot of energy which made the Knitting after school club very lively. Aaron Wall in year 5 commented "My least favourite flavour hot chocolate drink I tested was chilli, because it made my mouth tingle. I enjoyed creating my own hot chocolate drink flavoured with honey, whipped cream, chocolate sauce, marshmallows and cinnamon. It was scrumptious!"

#### **Chinese New Year**

The Library is dominated by a splendid Dragon to mark Chinese New Year. This fabulous beast was made by a whole school effort, each class contributing. It is a great and colourful creation made of paper plates and cereal boxes. Cookery Club have made and shared a Chinese meal which smelled delicious and Hannah Burfoot in year 3 confirmed it also tasted delicious.

#### **Special Activities**

Special activities this month have included a Superhero drama workshop, a skipping challenge and NSPCC talks and workshops based on their Speak Out. Stay Safe programme.

Two of our older children became Scientists for the afternoon at Watford Hospital. They were sponsored by the charity, Harvey's Gang, who help increase understanding of the work carried out in

blood laboratories, and one of the staff will be returning to school to work with the older children during our Science week.

At the Year Two Athletics Festival our girls were 7<sup>th</sup> place and our boys 11<sup>th</sup> place out of 36 schools. This is a great achievement for such a small school. Well done to everyone who took part.

To date we have had one Snow Day and hopefully Spring is just around the corner. We have Wow Forest School days planned, and are looking forward to Easter with our much loved Egg rolling competition. Our Easter church service will be at 9am on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Gill Edwards,  
School Governor