

June 2019

Great Gaddesden Church of England (VA) School

For Children Aged 3-11

Great Gaddesden Primary School are the champions of the 2019 penalty shoot-out competition! The final was played on Sunday, 12th May, at half time at Vicarage Road stadium, during Watford v West Ham Utd, giving the home supporters something to cheer about. Our school had taken part in the previous qualifying rounds. The final was between Great Gaddesden School and Harvey Road Primary School. The children all held their nerve and scored an amazing 5 out of 6 successful penalties. We had two amazing goal keepers who saved a record 5 out of 6 of the oppositions' shots. What an incredible achievement for our small school. Many congratulations to all who were part of the winning squad – Jayden, Jack G, Harvey, Maxwell, Rowan, Lilly, Jamie, Lucy, Fenella, Grace, Aaron and Phoenix.

Our aim at Great Gaddesden is to prepare all our children for the world in which we live, encouraging individuality and guiding them to be true to themselves. In May, our Year 6 children took their SATS in Reading and Maths. These statutory assessments are an opportunity for our children to demonstrate their learning over their primary years.

In other news, the annual May Day celebrations took place with a display of traditional May Day dances and Maypole dancing. It was lovely to welcome so many friends, neighbours, families and Governors, despite the challenging weather! The children were fabulous as they danced enthusiastically and persevered to the very end. Careful preparations by the pupils and teachers meant the day was enjoyed by all.

Sports day was held in The Penfold in May. This year, Nursery were included in the teams and spent all day at school. The sun was out and fun was had by all – teachers and parents included! The children compete in their house groups, and Ash were the winners this year. Governors and teachers received wonderful feedback from the parents and carers in attendance that it was lovely to see a competitive yet encouraging event. The children cheered from start to finish for each competitor in every race, and the support from all spectators, especially those who were struggling, was brilliant.

All of our EYFS children were recognised for showing understanding and forgiveness recently when Donut (the school dog) 'helped' out with the edible art work!

The various classes have been considering 'Under the Sea' learning, The Hundred Acre Wood, Anglo Saxons and Vikings and numeracy games. We are also hoping to extend the range of instrumental lessons available to the children from the next academic year.

We are still looking for volunteers to help at the Inter-Village Sports event on 9th July, from around 4pm at the cricket pitch. Each year the school competes against other local village schools in this event, and we take it in turns to host, this year being our turn. It is usually our biggest fundraiser, but also a chance to show the local villages the support for the school and demonstrate the Great Gaddesden hospitality. As a small school we would appreciate as much assistance as possible, so if anyone could donate a few hours of their time on the day to help run the refreshment stalls, BBQ or help with parking, please contact Friends of Great Gaddesden School (FOGGS) on 07784 952 011.

As our minds start focussing on the summer holidays and what is store for the pupils next academic year, it is worth reflecting on the success the school had enjoyed over this year, and we look forward to the school continuing to attract and nurture children from nursery age up. Early pupil intake indications for 2019/20 are very promising, and the school financial position is healthy.

We were sad to lose Andrzej as chair of the governors, but we have a strong team of governors with a wide skill set and a wealth of experience, which all bodes well for 2019 and beyond!

Mick Bell

Governor