

**December 2018**

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

**For Children Aged 3-11**

**Courage & Peace**

Our monthly value for November is **Courage** followed by the value of **Peace** in December. These are values that are easily attributed to those that have fought and those that have fallen in the two World Wars so that we and our Children can live in relative Peace. Throughout the start of November, throughout the school we have been remembering the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of the first World War. Year 1 & 2 imagined the challenges faced by soldiers in the trenches, Year 3& 4 worked on Art activities and discovered war-time songs, whilst year 5&6 composed some beautiful prayers.

On Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> November school started with Collective worship at the War Memorial presided by Reverend John Russell. This was followed by Mr McCarthy from the Royal British Legion visiting the school to talk about life 100 years ago.

**Singing**

The School also played host to the Gaddesden Singing Festival. It was lovely to have the three Gaddesden village schools including Little Gaddesden and Gaddesden Row, coming together for such a joyful event. We hope that this may become an annual event.

Our school has also been invited to join the Aeolian Singers to perform at St. John's Church in Boxmoor on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December.

**Yoga**

Children in Infant classes have started yoga sessions – research has shown that as well as relaxation, benefits for children include an increase in confidence as well as improving concentration.

**Thank yous**

On behalf of the Board of Governors I would like to thank our fabulous Friends of Great Gaddesden School (FoGGs) committee who work tirelessly to fundraise for the school and for the benefit of our children both from our community, as well as “corporate” sponsors.

I would like to thank the Boxmoor Trust for their generous donation as a contribution to the roofing window works. The Boxmoor Trust was established in 1594 and offers small grant funds to be used for capital projects by local not- for-profit organisations.

I would also like to thank Tesco, who in their six Hemel Hempstead stores have included Great Gaddesden School in their Bags of Help grant scheme for November and December. With every shop, Tesco give customers a token for them to place in one of the three appeals held at that time. The appeal that gets most tokens receives the largest donation from Tesco – so if Tesco is your store your token will make a difference!

It is also opportune to also say a thank you to Miss Ayres our EYFS teacher for her years of service to the youngest in our school, as she leaves us at the end of the year to go travelling. We wish her all our very best wishes and safe travels!

### **As the Festive season approaches**

Excitement fills the air in the classrooms as we reach this part of the year. December is one of those busy months of the year with lots of activities going on with that hint of Christmas getting near.

The month will start with an Afternoon Tea for past pupils (Yr 7 – Yr 9) on the 6<sup>th</sup> December.

Following on will be lots of rehearsals for carol services, carol concerts, EYFS nativity service as well as the annual pantomime trip, all this on top of the regular curriculum!

Christmas is a time for family, with children our prime focus. Great Gaddesden School to me has always had a very family feel about it through our children, staff, parents, extended families as well as our local community within this idyllic setting. On behalf of the school I would like to invite our neighbours to join us at some of the Christmas events we have coming up:

#### 12<sup>th</sup> December

- 9:15                EYFS Nativity Service – held in school
- 14:00                Carol Service – at St John the Baptist Church
- 18:30                Carol Service – at St John the Baptist Church

#### 14<sup>th</sup> December

- 15:30 -17:00      FoGGs Christmas Fair – held in school

#### 20<sup>th</sup> December

- 14:00                Christingle Service – at St John the Baptist Church

I would like to take the opportunity on behalf of our Governors to wish all our children, staff, parents and our wider community a very special Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

*Andrzej Gaudyn*

*Chair of Governors*