

**MAY 2018**

**Great Gaddesden C of E (VA) School**

**For Children Aged 3-11**

At the end of the Easter Term we held the Great Gaddesden's Got Talent competition which was great fun for the performers, the audience and the judges. The Year 5 & 6 children held auditions in the days leading up to the big day, and the competition itself was a gala of different entertainments: Alex played guitar, Fenella danced, Lily sang, Robyn did magic tricks, Reece did a fitness demonstration and James sang. Congratulations to all the children who took part, and special congratulations to the winning act of Lottie, Layla, Jenna, Hannah and Rebecca who sang and danced to 'Fight Song' by Rachel Platten. They demonstrated great showmanship and great teamwork.

As we begin the summer term the children have the opportunity to sign up for extra curricula after school and lunchtime clubs. This term the following clubs are on offer:

Choir, Drama, Rounders, Computer Coding, Tennis, Multi-Sports, Athletics, Maths, Art, Lego, Drawing, Knitting

I am thrilled that the children have the opportunity to try so many different activities, some of which build on work done in school as part of the curriculum and some of which give the children the chance to try something completely new.

Our daily breakfast club is also very popular. The children arrive at 8am and have cereal and toast for breakfast before having time to play with their friends either on the playground or inside school.

**Religious Art in the Environment**

We recently organised a Religious Art in the Environment Day as part of our Forest Schools programme. The children went into the Churchyard and decorated crosses made of calico using the Japanese method of 'Hapa Zome'. This involved collecting grasses and leaves, then using a mallet to hammer the green dye from the leaves onto the material. The children had great fun, and the end results were very striking.

The children made crosses of sticks and decorated them with leaves and daisies, and also looked around for crosses in the environment – as part of buildings or gates for instance. Year 1 and 2 were delighted to see the vapour trail of two aeroplanes making a cross in a perfect blue sky above the Church. Mylo from Year 2 said: "My favourite part was realising that you can make art from nature".

At the end of the session the children sat and used a 'reflective dice' to talk about what they had learnt, what they felt, what was the worst part and the best part, and what they would do next.

The children are busy practicing for May Day celebrations on **May 1<sup>st</sup> 1:30-3:00**. Please do join us if you are able to – watching the children doing traditional dancing on the playground around the Maypole is one of my favourite days in the school calendar.

Alison Wilkinson

Chair of Governors