

APRIL 2018

Great Gaddesden CofE (VA) School

For children aged 3-11

Science

We celebrated British Science Week by hosting our annual Science Day. This is a chance for the whole school to come 'off curriculum' for a whole day to focus on Science. The Staff plan hands-on science activities in each classroom, and we also invite a professional science teacher to do experiments with each class. I enjoyed tasting the sherbet made by Years 5&6, and was assured that the home made lemonade was a little less sour on the tongue! What a great way to bring the concepts of sweet, sour, bitter and salty to life. Everyone also came to school dressed as scientists (mad or otherwise) - Mrs Waites' pink hair was particularly striking!

Our off-curriculum days are an important part of our school calendar as we seek to really inspire the children to love learning, and to be curious about the world. In this regard, I was inspired by the words of Professor Stephen Hawking, who sadly passed away during British Science Week:

"Remember to look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see and wonder about what makes the Universe exist. Be curious. And however difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do and succeed at. It matters that you don't just give up."

Writing

This year we are focused on improving the quality of writing across the whole school. I hope that by the time you read this article, the sun will be shining and there will be a gentle warming breeze. However, I would like to share some writing that was inspired by the recent wintry countryside in Great Gaddesden.

*Above the tree, the clouds were as fluffy as a sheep. The majestic white snow was falling in between the thick dark branches. The tree was shivering as a human would do. On the grass, emerald green leaves were coated in frost by the snow. The leaves on the tree had been blown away by the wind. Frosty wintery ice was spreading across the grass. Little flakes were falling on the ground. **By Simeon***

*The reflection of the leafless trees in the water made it look as if they were upside down. I saw the puffy clouds burst with joy as they shimmered on the river. A strong Arctic breeze blew in my face. The grass was as green as a frog on a summer's day. You could see the water shivering in the coldness of the winter air. There was a shadowy reflection of the thin winding trees. Submerging into the river, the squelching mud piled up on the river bank. **By Immy***

Sports Premium

At our Curriculum & Standards Meeting we had a presentation from Mrs Todiresei who leads PE across the School. All Schools receive Sports Premium Funding as part of the London 2012 legacy to make "additional and sustainable improvements to the quality of PE and sport". The Governors were hugely

impressed by the work that Mrs Todiresei has done to drive the quality and range of sporting opportunities across the school.

- The School actively seeks out partnerships with other local schools and clubs to increase the range of activities on offer. As part of the Dacorum School Sports Network, children have attended Sports Fayres and a Tag Rugby event. We have arranged for all junior children to have swimming lessons at Beechwood Park in the summer term. There is an inspiring range of after-school sporting clubs on offer (dodgeball, football, basketball, athletics, BMX, tennis) – many run by outside professional coaches.
- We give children experience of more unusual sports ('WOW PE') and recent examples include BMX riding, Karate and Scootering. This might be the one time that having a playground on a hill is an advantage! The BMX teacher also gave an inspirational assembly to the children about following your dreams
- We also seek out opportunities for children to experience competitive sport, be that through the popular inter-house tournaments or through matches against other schools. A great example of this is the village football league which is organised by Mrs Todiresei.

I hope that the professional athletes who inspired us all in London 2012 would be delighted to see their legacy coming to life in our village school.

With warm wishes,

Alison Wilkinson
Chair of Governors

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