



Little Gaddesden C of E Primary School

Headteacher: Lorna Elkes

Newsletter 25th March 2021

Dear parents and carers,

I have almost completed my first year as Headteacher and would like to thank you all for your support and welcome over the last, extraordinary, twelve months. Together we have successfully navigated two complete lockdowns and several partial openings / closures. I am also incredibly grateful to the excellent staff team who have worked tirelessly to provide learning for our pupils. The children of course have been amazing throughout!

As lockdown restrictions ease, I am hopeful that we will at last be able to invite you into school and Church more for events and celebrations.

Next term

We recognise that Covid restrictions have limited some of the activities the children would normally enjoy, therefore we have a wide range of events and visits (hopefully) planned for next term. Full details will be shared once we return on the 12th April, however the list includes; an animal workshop, BMX resilience workshop, health and fitness fun, visiting poet and circus skills.

Class 1

The pupils in class 1 continue to learn their phonic sounds and are encouraged to bring in items to represent them. If you are ever stuck for ways to represent the trigraph 'ure' just ask class 1!



'ure' as in *manure*...

Class 2

As part of our cross-curricular DT/Science topic, the children will be creating their own habitat. Could your child please bring in a shoe box (or similar) by Tuesday 13th April.

curious thinkers - confident individuals - independent learners - excellent results 1

PE enrichment hockey day

The children looked fantastic in their range of colours and it was great to see such a wide range of sports represented. All the money raised has been added to our Red Nose collection giving a total of £252.72 for Comic Relief.

National Day of Reflection

On Tuesday as well as observing a minute silence at midday, the children in class 4 went to Church to share some of their own reflections on the last twelve months. Despite the difficulties we have all faced, they were able to be very positive. A sample of their very thoughtful comments are below.

*I spent more time with my family, more time with my brother and being outside.
I became more organised.*

The environment is cleaner than before, pollution has reduced.

Spending more time with my family and having time to bake.

My family and I have been getting together a lot more

The environment is cleaner and we have noticed more birds.

I learned a lot more about myself, I baked more and started learning how to touch-type.

I got more sleep, became more organised and got better at gardening.

I bonded with my family.

I started learning about wood carving and learned more about using technology to help my school learning.

I know how to cook pancakes and lasagne.

I have been cycling a lot more and taught my younger sister, Sadie, how to ride a bike without stabilisers.

I have been baking a lot more, including chocolate cake.

I learned how to use my new chromebook, ready for Secondary school and to help my learning now.

I discovered a new footpath in the village.

We got a new puppy and I was able to spend time playing with it.

Swimming

As you are aware use of swimming pools has been impacted throughout the Covid pandemic. This has obviously impacted our ability to offer swimming for our pupils. We have spoken at length to the local swimming pools regarding what they can offer but as we have still not received adequate guidance around use of swimming pools I have made the difficult decision that swimming will not take place during the summer term.

Swimming will be arranged for the autumn term and we will include pupils who have not yet achieved the required standard.

Residential visits

Sadly, due to Covid restrictions, our planned visit to PGL last year was cancelled and rescheduled for this year. Our booking is for after the 21st June - the earliest date the Government has indicated for lockdown restrictions to be removed. Therefore we are hopeful

that this year it will be able to go ahead. This is of course with the assumption that residential trips are permitted and that we are all satisfied with the Covid-safe measures in place.

In order for us to plan the next steps for our residential visit it would be very useful if you could indicate [here](#) whether you would like your child to participate. Should we be able to offer this trip, full details will be shared with you and there will be opportunities for specific queries to be addressed.

Parent Survey - message from the Governing body

Many thanks to the families that completed the parent survey a couple of weeks ago. It is an important opportunity for us to hear your feedback, the Governors have reviewed the responses and have discussed with the results of the survey with Mrs Elkes. As a next step we will be preparing some feedback to you all in our Spring Newsletter which will come out next term.

Easter celebrations.

The children have all been involved in Easter celebrations around the Easter Story. We are in the process of making these available for you online , as we did for our Christmas production. Final access details will be shared with you once the final edits are complete.

Message from the Friends

As we near the Easter break, we'd like to remind you of the Friends' Easter Trail! Our aim is only to give you a fun wander around the village over the Easter weekend. If you'd like to take part, simply complete the form on School Gateway, pay the £5 and we will email a map to you and riddles for each clue. Alternatively, please drop us an email at friendsofsgschool@gmail.com and we can arrange payment and maps. There is a special Easter treat at the end, kindly donated by our amazing Village Shop! We will be setting up the clues ready for Good Friday and you can go at any time until 4pm on Easter Monday. Enjoy hunting 🐰!

We are very sad to announce that Jane has resigned as co-chair, effective from the end of this term on 26th March. She has loved every minute but new demands on her time have brought her resignation forward from the end of the summer term as originally planned.

Jane, we'd like to thank you on behalf of the Friends! You have injected a huge amount of fun, laughter and candy floss to the committee! You will be very much missed from the team but we know you will continue your fantastic support for the school!

This brings us to send another reminder about our chair vacancy. Dani will be leaving the committee at the end of the summer term and so far we haven't heard from anyone - so even if you may be a tiny bit interested, please come and chat to us!

As always, we welcome any ideas for future fundraising events or ideas so do drop us an email or come and chat to us!

Happy Easter!

Jane Levy, Dani Bailey, Claire Beard, Hannah Jarvis & Claire Naylor

End of Term

Quick reminder that school finishes tomorrow at 1:30pm.

Lost item

An adult bracelet was found in the playground, please contact the school office if you think it is yours.

Wishing you all a lovely Easter break and plenty of chocolate.

Lorna Elkes
Headteacher

Attached:

[PGL](#)

[Communication for Parents & Carers - 24.03.2021.pdf](#)

[Dacorum Online Parenting Course Brochure - Summer 2021.pdf](#)