



# Little Gaddesden C of E Primary School

Headteacher: Lorna Elkes

Newsletter 27nd January 2022

Dear parents and carers,

## Coming up...

7-11th February - Feeling Good Week

14th - 18th February - Half term

Monday 21st February - INSET day, school closed to pupils

Thursday 3rd March - World Book Day & afternoon tea

Thursday 17th March - Well-being visitor

Friday 18th March - Red Nose Day

Thursday 24th March - Class 2 trip to London - details to follow

Wednesday 30th & Thursday 31st March - Pupils progress meetings

### Class 1

As part of their learning about hot air balloons, the children have been making a large papier-mache hot-air balloon.

### Class 2

As part of science learning, the children are growing seeds, exploring the environments needed for germination.

### Class 3

Following on from their Shakespeare workshop, the children have been preparing their own playscripts for parts of the play.

### Class 4

The class is just beginning a piece of writing about a mouse called Hermalin who has an unusual habitat.

A reminder that the second payment for the Class 4 Isle of Wight trip is due by Monday (31st January). Please ensure payment is made via your Gateway account by Monday 31st as we are moving to a new payments system (see below).

### Arbor - new system for payments and communications

We have recently upgraded our school management information system to Arbor. One of the main benefits of Arbor is that as well as holding all our management information, we can use

the system to manage payments and administration for school meals, clubs and trips and also for parent communications.

### *Payments*

From now on, we will be using Arbor to collect all payments for school meals. Emails have been sent out today with details of how to log-into Parent Portal (the Arbor app). These may have gone into your junk folder so please check. We hope as many parents as possible will sign up to the app as there are many great features that we will introduce once we are up and running. If you have any difficulties logging into the app, please let the Office know.

For those of you whose children have paid school meals, you will be able to see your balance and top up your child's meal account. **Please don't make any further payment for school meals via your Gateway account.**

Future trips and clubs we will also be using Arbor to collect payments & consents.

### *Communications - school newsletter*

From next week, we will be using Arbor to send out our weekly newsletter. This week, we have sent the newsletter via both schoolcomms and Arbor. If you haven't received the email from Arbor (it may have gone into your junk folder), please let the Office know.

### **Governor nomination**

We have a vacancy for a parent governor, please see attached.

### **COVID**

The number of cases within our school is such that we are again in bubbles. Although we have had only a few cases since the start of term, they have been over a relatively short period of time. Guidelines require us to monitor cases in close contact over any 10 period.

The following guidance is from HCC

*For all pupils who live with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, reception age or above, it is recommended they should take an LFD test every day for 7 days. Anyone who develops COVID-19 symptoms should isolate immediately and book a PCR test. If pupils or staff are feeling unwell with other symptoms they should stay off school until well enough to return.*

### **Water Bottles.**

An increasing number of children are not bringing a water bottle to school. Previously we kept a small supply of water bottles in school, however in our efforts to reduce use of single-use plastics, we will not be offering these. Please make sure your child has a named water bottle in school.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Lorna Elkes  
Headteacher

### Message from the Friends of Little Gaddesden School

#### **Spring Ball at Ashridge House - Friday 22nd April** 🧑🏻‍🎓 🎉

Following the amazing success of the Leap Year Ball in 2020, we are delighted to announce that we will be holding a Spring Ball on Friday 22nd April at Ashridge House! Check out our save the date and email us at Friendsoflgschool@gmail.com for more information and to buy tickets!

#### **Class fundraising**

There are already some fab ideas floating around for each of the class fundraisers so a huge thank you for all of your enthusiasm!

Class 1 will be selling cakes and biscuits at school pick-up on Friday 11th Feb so do bring some change for some delicious treats 🍰 🍪!

They will also be holding a Mothers Day raffle with some amazing prizes including:

- \* Voucher for 2 for a Mothers Day roast at Ashridge House
- \* A Kawaii bouquet from Hanako
- \* a Graze Life graze box

Tickets will be on sale from 11th February, at the cake sale and will be sent home in book bags so do look out for them!

#### **Make your own pizza 🍕 and cookies 🍪 - Friday 28th January**

If you have ordered pizza kits, keep an eye out for Carly and Chandra in the school playground at pickup on Friday!

#### **Santa Sleigh - a special thanks** 🙏

Twas a cold christmas night In December when some FOLGS dads went to meet Santa as he journeyed around Berkhamsted, as part of the Berkhamsted's Santa Sleigh fundraiser organised by the Rotary Club. This yearly event raises in excess of £12,000 for a range of local charities, of which FOLGS are one of about 20 groups. The team ventured up and down some Berko streets, collecting cash and bringing much happiness to children and adults alike as The Man himself brought some festive cheer. In doing so, the dad team of Joe Wrigley, Jon Angel, Mark Beard, Sam Jonas, Simon Heath and Tom Langdown raised £460 as the FOLGS share of the total proceeds collected.

As always, thanks so much for your support!

*Dani, Carly, Claire B, Claire N and Hannah*

Friendsoflgschool@gmail.com

**Attached:**

- Nomination for Parent Governor.pdf
- FOLGS Spring Ball.pdf