



Gaddesden Row JMI School

Newsletter 14th February - 2025



Good afternoon, friends, and families,

I hope this newsletter finds you well.

Welcome to the end of this half term! It seems like a long time ago since we returned to school on Tuesday 7th January for our first school day of 2025. I would like to thank everyone for the support they have shown during my first half term as your Headteacher.

When we return to school on Monday 24th February, spring will be around the corner and hopefully longer days and some warmer weather awaits.

World Book Day

We will be celebrating 'World Book Day.' On Friday 7th March due to swimming being on the official date. We are all looking forward to celebrating this special day with the children. A letter will be coming home upon our return to school after half term with details of the day's events. The children will be coming home today with book tokens.

Clubs and Tutoring

A reminder that clubs and tutoring will continue with the same arrangements as this half term when the children return to school on Monday 24th February.

GRAFT Valentine's Celebrations

A huge thank you to GRAFT for organising our non-uniform and crazy hair day today. The children have thoroughly enjoyed wearing the clothes that they love and showing off their crazy hairstyles. Thank you for all the money that we raised for our school!

Our School Values – Discovery

We are continuing to recognise children showing behaviours linked to our chosen value of **Discovery** this week. We have seen examples of: Children discovering a new skill in art lessons, children discovering new information about their friends and children discovering new confidence to be brave and present in front of the class. Well done on your valuable discoveries! After half term, we will be focusing on our new value of Responsibility.



Well done to Oliver, Noah, Oakley, Lily, Isabella, Hetty and Raphy for achieving your silver badge for 20 full weeks in school!

Attendance



| Class Rock 'N' Roll | Class Pop | Class Disco |
|---------------------|-----------|-------------|
| 91% | 89% | 91% |

Attendance Matters



Unfortunately, no money this week.

Stars of the Week



Class Rock 'N' Roll: Nell
Class Pop: Leyton
Class Disco: Alexia



Curriculum News

Class Rock 'N' Roll

In English, the children have been writing acrostic poems about Superheroes. They began by learning how to write an acrostic poem - the first letter of each line spells out the poem's theme vertically - by working as a class to write a poem about fireworks. They then worked in groups to create a word bank for each letter in our key topic word - superheroes. Finally, they used the word bank to write their own acrostic poem.

In maths, the children in Reception used simple strategies to discuss time and then progressed to ordering and sequencing simple events. **They used calendars to mark off the days leading up to special events to help to show the passing of time.** They acted out stories that follow a sequence of events to support children to them to sequence time in simple ways. The children in Year 1 explored learning based around length and height. **They compared lengths and heights of objects using language such as "longer than", "shorter than" and "taller than".** Children understand that height is a type of length and that the language they use changes, depending on what type of length they are describing and comparing. They moved onto measuring the length of an item using both standard units of measure (centimetres) and non-standard units of measure (cubes or counters).

As part of Safer Internet Day, the children looked at what is meant by a scam - where someone tries to trick somebody else to get something from them. **They then looked at different scenarios and discussed what clues they could find that tell us it is a scam and how to respond in each situation.** They explored how being scammed might make you feel and the emotions you could experience.

Class Pop

In English, the children have concluded their work on letter writing. The children used the research they had gathered last week along with the information they had learned from their history topic to create a plan for a letter from Christopher Columbus back to his family about his voyages. They had to think carefully about how he would have been feeling. **Once they had completed the plan, they turned it into an informal letter, imagining they were Christopher Columbus, writing to his family.**

In maths, the children in Year 2 have been exploring position and direction. They started by describing the position of objects using left and right, discussing methods for remembering which way is left and which way is right. **They then thought about other language to describe position, such as above, below and between.** Then then used their understanding of position to describe movement. **Children then started to describe turns, learning about quarter, half, three-quarter and full turns, as well as using clockwise and anticlockwise.** The children in Year 3 used their knowledge of times-tables to explore calculations related to known facts. **Children explore scaling facts by 10, for example using $3 \times 4 = 12$ to derive $3 \times 40 = 120$ and $30 \times 4 = 120$.** They went on to explore the relationship with division, for example using $12 \div 3 = 4$ to derive $120 \div 3 = 40$. Children used the symbols and = to compare groups using multiplication and division structures, for example, $6 \times 3 \times 2$ can be done without doing any calculation by recognising the relationship between the calculations.

Class Disco

In English, the children are coming towards the end of 'How to Train Your Dragon'. The children had to make their own plan to defeat the gigantic sea dragon using time connectives, maps and drawings to help get their ideas across. They then had to imagine being trapped in a dragon's mouth and use their senses to write a detailed description; for example, 'I fell into the dragon's mouth - a traumatising experience.' 'It smells like blue cheese.' and 'I could hardly breath, it felt like suffocating.' Finally, they looked at how Toothless displays an act of bravery to save Hiccup. They talked about some common fears and strategies for over-coming them before discussing the positive effects of trying something new and developing a new skill.

In maths this week, the children in Year 6 have begun to form equations from diagrams and word descriptions. They have looked at the difference between an algebraic expression and an equation, **understanding that an expression, such as $2x + 6$, changes value depending on the value of x , whereas in an equation, such as $2x + 6 = 14$, x has a specific value.** They then moved onto solving 1-step and 2-step equations formally for the first time.

The children in Year 5 calculated a fraction of a quantity, identifying the relationship between dividing by the denominator and multiplying by the numerator. **They moved on to find fractions of amounts, initially using times-table facts, then moving on to solve calculations that go beyond these.** Children then used a fraction of an amount to find the whole. They started with finding the whole from a unit fraction, before moving on to finding the whole from a non-unit fraction.

The children in Year 4 have moved onto exploring length and perimeter. They were introduced to kilometres and the abbreviation "km" and the idea that kilometres are greater than metres and are used to measure greater distances. **They then identified the fact that 1 km is equal to 1,000 m to derive related facts using numbers up to 10,000.** The children built on their previous learning to explore perimeter further with a focus on rectilinear shapes, where all sides meet at right angles. They looked at labelling the lengths of the sides and marking off each side as they add the lengths together. They also explored drawing different shapes with a specified perimeter.

Class Pop and Class Disco

To celebrate Safer Internet Day, the children participated in the BBC Safer Internet Day live lesson. **They learned about the importance of keeping personal information private, how to keep safe online, where and how to report concerns and understand that people sometimes behave differently online.** The children also participated in some follow-up activities, including looking at emails and deciding whether they are likely to be phishing emails or not, and creating the strongest possible passwords.

Team Points for the end of this week are:



Golden Book

Well done to **Hetty, Annie, Daniel and Raphy** for their excellent description of being inside a dragon's mouth. Well done to **Lillie-Mai** for her good reading during guided reading. Well done to **Daniel** for this thoughtful and constructive comments on the class blog. Well done to **Raphy** for his excellent recall of reading during English.

I hope you all have a lovely half term and see you all on Monday 24th February.

Miss Smith

Generosity **A**spiration **D**iscovery **R**esponsibility **O**pen-mindedness **W**elcoming

At Gaddesden Row JMI School, we are fully committed to the safeguarding of pupils and take E-Safety very seriously. With the support of parents, we pro-actively teach our pupils how to keep themselves safe, including online.