



# Gaddesden Row JMI School

## Newsletter 16<sup>th</sup> May - 2025



**Good afternoon, friends, and families,**

What another busy week it has been here at school. Year 6 have completed their SATs, and all the papers have been sent off to me marked externally. The children have worked so hard, and we are incredibly proud of them.

### End of Half Term

A reminder that the children finish for the end of this half term on Thursday next week – 22<sup>nd</sup> May – as Friday is an INSET Day.

### Whole-School Enrichment Trip

Letters have come home with children today, and an electronic copy has been attached to this Parent Mail, with details about our whole-school trip to Woburn Safari Park. We are very excited to not only take the children to Woburn, but to link this trip to our science curriculum. The learning that will take place will help support the children the day after when they will be completing an animal-based science project.

### Gaddesden Wish List

As you know, this week we launched our 'Gaddesden Wish List'. Every purchase and donation made helps us to have an exciting, broad range and choice of texts in our school library or new resources and equipment to support learning in classes. Thank you so much to those who have made purchases so far, we are incredibly grateful for your help and support. If you are in a position to support the school in this way, please have a look at our wish list which can be located on the homepage of our school website.

### Our School Values – Listen

In our assembly this week, I introduced the first of our new, additional set of values. This week I have enjoyed seeing children following our chosen value of - **Listening**. We have seen examples of children listening extra carefully to instructions. Children listening carefully to each other both in and out of lessons and children listening to advise to help them make the best choices. Well done on your listening behaviour!



### Gold Badges

Well done to **Oliver, Leo, Denny, Oakley, Hetty, Annie, Lily, Oscar, Lois, Isabella and Raphy** for achieving your gold badge for 30 full weeks in school!

## Attendance



Class Rock 'N' Roll	Class Pop	Class Disco
97%	91%	100%

Attendance Matters



**Good attendance across the school again. Well done to **Class Disco** for getting **£10** in your attendance fund!**

# Stars of the Week

**Class Rock 'N' Roll: Oliver**  
**Class Pop: Eva-Mae**  
**Class Disco: Year 6**

## Curriculum News

### Class Rock 'N' Roll

In English, the children have concluded their work about 'Jack and the Beanstalk' by creating their own fairy tale based around the story. They began by identifying the key events from the original story and creating a story map. They then looked at elements of the story they could change to make the story their own. **For example, Jack having a different animal to sell or Jack stealing a different animal from the giant.** Finally, the children wrote their own fairy tale using their new ideas.

In maths, the children in Reception have been exploring the concepts of addition and subtraction. They began by exploring finding the answer to "How many are there now?" questions when two groups are combined. They then moved onto look at 'first, then, now' number stories where the 'then' part is missing. **For example, "There were 5 children on the bus, then we don't know how many more got on, but now there are 8 children on the bus."** They then built on their understanding as they explored the change structure of subtraction (reduction) by taking away and used 'first, then, now' stories to further embed their understanding.

The children in Year 1 have been exploring position and direction. They began by using the terms "full", "half", "quarter" and "three-quarter" to describe turns. Before moving onto describing position using the terms left and right. They explored describing the direction of movement as being to either the left or the right, then describing the position of one object in relation to another, **for example "The pencil is to the left of the scissors"**. They moved on to add more precision describing positions by introducing "forwards" and "backwards". To begin with, they moved their bodies in line with instructions to move forwards and backwards to understand what these terms mean in a practical context. Instructions then became more specific, such as "3 steps forwards".

In art, the children have been learning about self-portraits. They thought about different ways that a self-portrait could be created and began to explore the medium of collage. **The children then created a collage self-portrait using a range of different paper.**

### Class Pop

In English, the children have begun a new sequence of learning based around the text 'Stone Age Boy'. They began by becoming more familiar with the story by reading the book and discussing the events. The children had to offer their opinions about the book and talk about their favourite part. They moved onto explore the main characters from the story by looking at different illustrations from the book and coming up with ideas about what the characters could be saying. **For example, 'Who is that boy? He looks so different.'** Finally they moved onto explore direct speech and look at the structure and punctuation needed to present it correctly.

In maths, the children in Year 2 have been exploring their problem solving skills, using taught methods to solve a range of problems. The children recapped a range of methods for solving addition, subtraction, multiplication and division calculations, before applying this knowledge to solve a given problem. **For example, 'when you add two even numbers together, the answer is always even' and when you multiply an odd number, the answer is always odd'.**

The children in Year 3 have continued their learning about shape. They began by comparing different angles in 2D shapes and were introduced to acute and obtuse angles as well as recapping right angles. They then went on to measuring and calculating the perimeter of different 2D shapes. They learned that the **perimeter is the distance around the outside of a 2D shape and to calculate this, you must add together the length of all the sides of the shape.** Finally, they moved onto to explore 3D shape by looking at a range of shapes and recording the number of faces, edges and vertices.

In history, the children have been learning about the Stone Age. **This week, they were exploring the diet of a stone-aged person by dissecting their poo.** After establishing the diet they reenacted being hunters and gatherers to find everything they needed.

### Class Disco

In English, the children have continued their unit of work on myths and legends and have begun to write their suspense stories based on the plan they created last week. They started off by focusing on applying suspense features to set the scene in the opening of their story. **For example, 'The dense rainforest was cloaked in darkness.' Or 'The sound of the rain crashing into the canopy high above was deafening and the growl of distant Thunder could be heard.'** They then moved onto using dialogue to advance action and develop characters.

The children in Year 5 spent the first half of the week finishing their work on statistics before moving onto shape. Children explored two-way tables. Two-way tables show more than one piece of information about each variable, for example the number of adults and children in a school and how many do/do not wear glasses. They then went onto reading and interpreting timetables which are a type of two-way table. They then moved onto looking at shape with a focus on angles. First, they were introduced to degrees as a unit of measure for turn, including the degree symbol. **Children explored the fact that there are 360° in a full turn, and therefore 180° in half a turn, 90° in a quarter turn (or right angle) and 270° in a three-quarter turn.** They then moved onto classifying angles based on their size.

The children in Year 4 have moved onto exploring money. They started by writing money using decimals. They explored the use of pounds and pence notation and developed the understanding that the digits following the decimal point represent part of a pound, for example £4.25. They moved onto converting money, using the fact that **£1 = 100p to convert from pounds and pence in decimal notation to pence, and vice versa.** They moved onto comparing amounts, first in the same format before moving onto mixed formats. Finally, they moved onto estimating and calculating amounts of money such as £3.99 + £7.02.

In history, the children learned about Roman entertainment and the gladiators in the Colosseum. **They had to produce a poster to advertise an upcoming gladiator event at the Colosseum in Rome,** thinking about how they could encourage people to come to the event and explain what different events will be taking place, as well as which important people will be there.

Team Points for the end of this week are:



### Golden Book

Well done to **Tommy** for being a great friend. Well done to **Eva-Mae** for her fantastic work using direct speech. Well done to **Karolina, Joy, Harry, Kobi, Elizabeth and Noah** for their brilliant collage self-portraits. Well done to **Theo, Oliver, Karolina and Paisley** for their super alternative Jack and the Beanstalk stories. Well done to our super Year Sixes – **Arthur, Annie, Evie, Tory and Daniel** – for their amazing efforts across the week. Well done to **Chloe, Callum, Rupert, Tommy and Eva-Mae** for their excellent salt dough Stonehenge models. Well done to **Oscar** for being a fantastic first aider. Well done to **Lillie-Mai** for her super categorising of animals and their habitats. **Oscar** for his accurate work when estimating money.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and see you all next week.

Miss Smith

**G enerose A spirational D iscovery R esponsible O pen-minded 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.