Gaddesden Row JMI School
Newsletter 13th November - 2026

Good afternoon, friends, and families,
It's been another busy week at Gaddesden Row! Alongside our Remembrance assembly and Children in Need activities, our Year 1 and Year 2 children enjoyed taking part in a DSSN sports event at Berkhamsted Leisure Centre. We've also welcomed families into Class Kenny for our first Parent Open Morning and had an exciting trip to the bookshop with our School Council. Plenty to celebrate across the school!

A Fond Farewell to Mrs Kerry
We're sad to share that Mrs Kerry will be leaving us at the beginning of December. Kerry has been such a huge part of Gaddesden Row and has made a lasting difference to so many children and families. From welcoming children into breakfast club each morning to supporting pupils right across the school, she has played an important role in the lives of so many of our children. She fills our little school with laughter, creativity and so much personality, and we know she will leave a very big gap when she goes. We are incredibly grateful for everything she has brought to Gaddesden Row and will miss her enormously.

Children in Need
We had lots of fun supporting Children in Need today! The children looked fantastic in their spotty outfits and enjoyed taking part in our Children in Need activities. Thank you to all our families for their generous donations and for helping us support such a worthwhile cause. We hope the children enjoyed being part of it!

Remembrance
On Wednesday, we came together for our school Remembrance assembly to mark Armistice Day and remember those who have served and sacrificed so much. Some of our Year 6 pupils performed *In Flanders Fields*, and each class shared a piece of artwork they had created to mark the occasion. It was a thoughtful way for the children to reflect on the importance of Remembrance. Thank you to everyone who has supported the Poppy Appeal through their donations.

Parent Open Mornings
It was wonderful to welcome so many families into Class Kenny for our first Parent Open Morning this week. The morning focused on oracy, with activities linked to the children's *Fantastic Beasts* topic. It was lovely to see the children sharing their ideas, developing their discussions and showing their families how we use talk to support learning in the classroom. Thank you to everyone who came along and joined in – we really enjoyed having you with us.
There are two more Parent Open Mornings coming up, and we'd love to welcome more of you into school to see what learning looks like in your child's classroom:

- **Wednesday 18th November – Class Peacock**
- **Wednesday 25th November – Class Whitlock**

Both mornings run from 8:30–9:30am. We hope you can join us!

School Council Bookshop Visit
Our School Council had a wonderful visit to Berkhamsted Bookshop this week, where they helped choose new books for our school library using the £500 grant from the Siobhan Dowd Trust. We are incredibly grateful to the bookshop for making us feel so welcome and for supporting the school with a generous discount. The children absolutely loved choosing the books, and our library is now brimming with exciting new reads for everyone to enjoy!
We continue to encourage all families to make reading together part of their routine at home. Please do take the time to listen to your child read, share stories with them and talk about the books they enjoy. These moments are incredibly important in helping children become confident, enthusiastic readers, and your support at home makes a huge difference.

Christmas Tree Decoration Competition
Our annual Christmas Tree Decoration Competition is back! Children are invited to get creative at home and make their own Christmas tree decoration. The design is entirely up to them, and all decorations will be added to our school Christmas tree for everyone to enjoy. There will be prizes up for grabs, and we're really looking forward to seeing what the children come up with! Please see the attached information for full details, including the deadline of Thursday 26th November. Happy creating!

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity
A date for your diaries! Our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children will be performing their Nativity on Tuesday 15th December. We're looking forward to seeing the children take to the stage and sharing this special occasion with our families. Further details will follow soon.

Toys and Other Items from Home
A reminder that children should not bring toys or other personal items into school unless they have been specifically asked to do so by a member of staff.
This includes fidget toys, slime and other homemade items. While we understand that children are often keen to share things from home, we need to maintain control over what is brought into school. This is important from both a safeguarding and health and safety perspective, as we need to know exactly what children have access to during the school day.
Where a child would benefit from a fidget toy or similar tool to support their learning, this will be provided by school where agreed with the SENCo and class teacher. Please help us by keeping personal toys and other items at home. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Stars of the Week

Class Whitlock: Arthur
Class Peacock: Eva
Class Kenny: Bella-Rose

Our School Values

This week, we have been thinking about what it means to be Articulate. Being articulate isn't just about speaking clearly; it's also about having the confidence to share our ideas, explain our thinking, express our feelings and listen carefully to others. Across the school, children have had lots of opportunities to put this into practice, whether sharing their learning in class, contributing to discussions, performing during our Remembrance assembly or talking through their ideas with friends. We want all our children to feel that their voice matters and that they have the confidence to use it. It's been lovely to see so many children doing just that this week!

G enerous L isten
A spirational E njoy
D iscovering A rticulate
R esponsible R esilient
O pen-minded N urture Relationships
W elcoming E ncourage
R emember More and Know More



Attendance



Class Whitlock	Class Peacock	Class Kenny
97%	99%	100%

Well done to Class Kenny for getting £10 in your attendance fund!

Team Points for the end of this week are: 1,285 1,236 1,166

Golden Book

Well done to **Bella-Rose** for going above and beyond in her spellings and showing an incredible attitude to learning. Well done to **Leighton** for working really well in the classroom with his new classmates. Well done to **Bella, Lily, Hetty, Daniel** and **Ameerah** for their ongoing focus on presentation in mathematics. Well done **Lola**, **Ameerah**, **Hetty**, **Izzy**, **Eva** and **Amy** for the focus and detail when designing their own Ancient Greek Gods and Goddesses.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Miss Smith

Gaddesden Wish List

If you are in a position to support the school, please have a look at our wish list which can be located via this link: Amazon.co.uk This can also be found on the school website, in the top right-hand corner, quick links section.

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.