Gaddesden Row JMI School
Newsletter 20th November - 2026

Good afternoon, friends, and families,
As we head towards the end of November, the Christmas excitement is beginning to build around school! We've had another busy week, with lots of fantastic learning, opportunities and achievements to celebrate. It's been lovely to see the children throwing themselves into our Maths Week activities, and we're looking forward to the many festive events and activities coming up over the next few weeks. As always, thank you for your continued support and for being such an important part of our school community.

Bronze Attendance Badges
Today, we are awarding our first bronze attendance badges to children who have completed 10 full weeks of school this academic year! This is a fantastic achievement and recognises the commitment and consistency shown by these pupils. Well done to **Sebastian, Annabelle, Arthur, Aubree, Tommy, Denny, Louie, Rylee, Leyton, Theo, Eva, Lily, Isabella, Amy, Eva-Mae, Leo and Callum** for receiving their bronze badge – a brilliant milestone to celebrate!

Maths Week
This year's Maths Week theme was **'Maths on the Move'**, and we certainly embraced it at Gaddesden Row! We explored the links between maths, movement and physical activity, taking learning beyond the classroom and getting everyone involved. The children enjoyed a range of practical challenges, outdoor maths activities and problem-solving games, including our lunchtime maths challenges and scavenger hunt.
A particular highlight was seeing our Year 5 and 6 children take on the role of activity leaders, planning and running their own maths challenges for the younger children. It was a brilliant opportunity for them to develop their leadership skills while encouraging others to enjoy maths. It was fantastic to see so much enthusiasm, teamwork and mathematical thinking across the school!

Parent Open Mornings
A big thank you to all the parents who joined Class Peacock for their Parent Open Morning on Wednesday this week! The children enjoyed an oracy activity all about pizza, linking to their current Roman topic. There was plenty of discussion, sharing of opinions and some lively debate as the children put their speaking and listening skills to the test. It was lovely to welcome families into the classroom and give them a glimpse of the learning taking place.
A reminder that **Class Whitlock's Parent Open Morning is next Wednesday, 25th November**. We look forward to welcoming you!

GRAFT Christmas Fayre
A quick reminder that our GRAFT Christmas Fayre will take place on **Friday 4th December, from 3.15pm–4.30pm**. We hope you'll be able to join us for an afternoon of festive fun, with stalls, treats and plenty of Christmas cheer!
If you are able to donate a suitable prize for the raffle, please bring it into school by **Tuesday 1st December**. Children will also be bringing home raffle tickets for families to purchase, with the draw taking place at the fayre.
Please note that there will be **no after-school clubs** on this day. We look forward to seeing lots of you there!

Opera Workshops
We're delighted that, following on from last year, we have once again secured a series of five opera workshops to help prepare the children for the Big Sing at Watford Palace Theatre in June. The workshops will give the children the opportunity to develop their singing and performance skills in preparation for this exciting event.
Our first workshop will take place on **Wednesday 25th November**, with separate sessions for KS1 and KS2. We're looking forward to getting started!

Key Dates – Rest of the Autumn Term

- **Monday 23rd November:** Non-Uniform Day – Bring a Bottle
- **Wednesday 25th November:** Paper Chains Sent Home
- **Wednesday 25th November:** Class Whitlock Parent Open Morning
- **Thursday 26th November:** Christmas Decoration Competition
- **Friday 27th November:** Occasional Day – School Closed
- **Monday 30th November:** Non-Uniform Day – Gifts and Chocolate
- **Friday 4th December:** GRAFT Christmas Fayre
- **Wednesday 9th December:** Christmas Dinner
- **Thursday 10th December:** Whole-School Pantomime Trip
- **Friday 11th December:** Class Kenny Warner Bros. Studio Tour
- **Tuesday 15th December:** Class Whitlock - Nativity
- **Friday 18th December:** Last Day of Term

Stars of the Week

Class Whitlock: Indie
Class Peacock: Robin
Class Kenny: Chloe

Our School Values

This week, our school value is **Resilient**. At Gaddesden Row, we want our children to feel confident having a go, taking on new challenges and recognising that it's okay if things don't always go to plan! Resilience is something we see in our classrooms every day: it's the child who finds a tricky maths problem frustrating but takes a deep breath and tries a different approach; the child who makes a mistake in their writing but happily edits and improves it; or the child who feels nervous about speaking in front of others but finds the courage to stand up and share their ideas. It's also about how we support one another – encouraging a friend who is finding something difficult, accepting when we don't win a game and having another go next time. We want our children to understand that feeling frustrated, disappointed or unsure is perfectly normal. What matters is how we respond to those feelings. We love seeing our children develop the confidence to say, "I can't do it... yet!" and keep going. Those small moments of perseverance make a big difference!

G enerous
A spirational
D iscovering
R esponsible
O pen-minded
W elcoming

L isten
E njoy
A rticulate
R esilient
N urture Relationships
E ncourage
R emember More and Know More



Attendance

Class Whitlock	Class Peacock	Class Kenny
97%	89%	95%

Attendance Matters
Every Day Counts....

Well done to Class Whitlock for getting £5 in your attendance fund!

Team Points for the end of this week are: 1,443 | 1,406 | 1,386

Golden Book

Well done to **Noah Mi** for his super independent mark making in English. Well done to **Luna, Fredrik, Denny, Theo, Harley, Louie, Callum, Hetty and Amy** for their beautiful paper plate hanger designs. Well done to **Rupert** for challenging himself and going above and beyond in maths. Well done to **Hetty** for supporting younger pupils in our lunchtime maths. Well done to **Rupert** for his beautiful handwriting in geography. Well done to **Sebastian** for his amazing attitude and effort this week. Well done to **Bella** for her concentration and beautiful presentation in English. **Tommy** for being the first person to solve Mr B-G's 'Farmer in a Fix' problem. **Bailey** for being so polite and helpful.

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.