



Gaddesden Row JMI School

Newsletter 22nd May - 2025



Good afternoon, friends, and families,

We've made it to the end of this short, yet busy, half term and I know from speaking to the children, they are ready for a break. When we return to school Monday the 2nd of June, our final half term of the academic year will begin.

Sports Day

We would like to remind all families that our annual Sports Day will take place on Friday 20th June from 09:30 until 11:45. More details to follow after half term, but please put the date in your diary.

Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check and Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

After half term, the school will be carrying out the Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check and Year 1 Phonics Screening Check as per statutory requirements. Parents for the children in these year groups have been provided with relevant information and guidance.

Gaddesden Wish List

Another thank you to those who have made purchases so far, we are incredibly grateful for your help and support. Having spoken to a few people, I know there have been some issues accessing the wish list through the website therefore I have attached the link below to allow another route to access it.

[Amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk)

Our School Values – Enjoy

In our assembly this week, I introduced the second of our new, additional set of values. This week I have enjoyed seeing children following our chosen value of - **Enjoying**. We have seen examples of children enjoying and engaging with the space workshop. Children enjoying new challenges within their learning and children enjoying interacting with different people across the school. We are delighted to see you enjoying school.



Gold Badges

Well done to **Henry, Sebby, Callum and Bella** for achieving your gold badge for 30 full weeks in school!



Attendance

Attendance Matters



Class Rock 'N' Roll	Class Pop	Class Disco
95%	97%	100%

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: Robin
Class Pop: Denny
Class Disco: Arthur

Curriculum News

Space Workshop

On Monday, the children in Year 1-6 took place in a Space Workshop. The children in Y4, 5 and 6 took part in a session about astronauts and rockets. They began by discussing what space is and what you find there, including satellites. They moved onto look at spaceships and watched footage from a moon rover landing. They talked about what spaceships are made from and then Robin Mobbs, our workshop leader, used a Bunsen burner to heat up a small piece of the material spaceships are made from. He (carefully!) allowed a child to feel the difference in temperature between the outside and inside of the material once it had been heated - outside very hot but inside still cool.

They examined examples of a piece of the moon, a piece of Mars and a fossil from the meteorite that hit Mexico millions of years ago causing the dinosaurs to become extinct before moving onto look at astronauts and how they train - Tory was then dressed up in an astronaut suit. **They finished by making rockets - the children were taught how to safely create a chemical reaction between household products which caused a small rocket to launch.**

The children in Y1, 2 and 3 took part in a session answering their own pre-prepared questions about space such as: **How are the planets made and why are they the colour they are? What are the Northern Lights and why can you see them? How do spacemen poo in their suits?** They then got to see a visual representation of the distances between the sun, moon and Earth, and they got to see lots of different artefacts from space. They held part of the moon, part of an asteroid and part of a satellite! They also enjoyed watching Mrs McCormick get dressed up in a Space suit. The children loved learning more about Space and found the workshop very valuable.

Class Rock 'N' Roll

In English, the children have begun to look at the genre of instruction writing, using the book 'How to Catch a Dragon'. They looked at different instructions and what you might need to write a set. **They then followed a set of instructions to make a fire breathing dragon.** They learned about the importance of instructions being ordered correctly.

In maths, the children in Reception have been exploring shape. They have looked at recognising shapes when they are rotated. **They moved onto looking at manipulating shapes to create a picture** before exploring and describing an arrangement of shapes.

The children in Year 1 have continued looking at position and direction. Children extended their directional language to include "above" and "below". They used this language to describe the position of objects in relation to each other, for example, **"The red cube is below the blue cube and the green cube is above the red cube".** They moved onto look at ordinal numbers; recognising numbers used to describe the position of something such as 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

Class Pop

In English, the children have finished their sequence of learning based around the text 'Stone Age Boy'. They began by looking at using descriptive language, such as adjectives, adverbs and prepositions, to describe a setting. For example, 'The water is cold and moving slowly.' and 'The trees in the forest are swaying.' They went onto plan and write their own version of 'Stone Age Boy'.

In maths, the children in Year 2 have moved onto learning about fractions. They started by recapping what we mean by part and whole before moving onto exploring the key questions, **What does equal mean? and What do you think equal parts are?** They then moving onto recognising a half and a quarter in different shapes.

The children in Year 3 have also been learning about fractions. They began by recognising unit and non-unit fractions. They used counters and cubes to represent and describe different fractions. **For example, the tower has 6 cubes. 2/6 are red, 3/6 are blue and 1/6 is yellow. The yellow part represents a unit fraction.** They then looked at how to find and make a whole.

Class Disco

In English, the children have concluded their unit of work on myths and legends by completing their suspense stories. They continued to look at using dialogue to advance action and develop characters to conclude their writing before going onto edit their work. The children, with support, identified a section of their story to explore ways of uplevelling to improve their work, **for example, using more adventurous vocabulary choices or different sentence lengths to build suspense.**

In maths, the children in year 6 have been looking at area and perimeter. They began by finding the areas and perimeters of rectangles and rectilinear shapes. They then moved onto finding the area of more complex shapes such as triangles and parallelograms. They used formulas to calculate the area of these shapes, **for example, area = 1/2 × base × perpendicular height and area = base × perpendicular height.**

The children in Year 5 have been continuing their work on angles. They began by classifying angles. They used visual classification to identify an angle as acute, obtuse or reflex by comparing them to right angles and straight lines before moving onto classifying angles numerically, **for example, that 23° is an acute angle because it is less than 90°.** They then moved onto estimating and measuring angles using a protractor.

The children in Year 4 have concluded their work on money. They started by continuing their work on calculating money by exploring multiplication and division as well as addition and subtraction, answering questions such as, '£1.20 divided by 4.' They then moved onto apply their calculating skills with money to solve problems using all four operations in real-life contexts, including multi-step problems. **For example, Ron has £48 He spends one quarter of his money. How much money does he have left?**

Team Points for the end of this week are:

263



274



292



Golden Book

Well done to **Denny** for his excellent writing describing Stone Age settings. Well done to **Lola** for being a fantastic support to her classmate. Well done to **Hetty** for her super Minion creation during building club. Well done to **Noah** for his amazing performances for his rugby team. Well done to **Evie** for her brilliant understanding of area. Well done to **Lillie-Mai** for her great understanding of estimating angles. Well done to **Louie and Denny** for their super work on recognising a half.

I hope you all have a lovely half term break and see you all on Monday 2nd June.

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.