



Gaddesden Row JMI School

Newsletter 7th February - 2025



Good afternoon, friends, and families,

I hope this newsletter finds you well.

We are now officially over halfway through the school year and fast approaching the half term holiday. The lighter mornings are most definitely a welcome sight!

Team Sapphire

The children in Team Sapphire enjoyed their reward yesterday afternoon for being last half term's winning team. They voted an extra hour's playtime – half indoors, half outdoors - with snacks. All children thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon!



GRAFT Valentine's Celebrations



Next Friday, 14th February, Valentine's Day, GRAFT have organised a non-uniform day. The theme is 'Wear what you Love and Crazy Hair Day' in exchange for a donation of £2. A letter with further information will be sent out on Monday. There will also be a Valentine's Post Box at school next week for children to leave a nice note for a friend to make them feel appreciated.

Children's Mental Health Week

The children have enjoyed having the opportunity to take moments out of the day to reflect, to help get to know themselves and to perform acts of kindness to help grow themselves. We have all had great success in our mental health activities. The children especially enjoyed the non-uniform day and having the opportunity to wear something that makes them feel good about themselves.

Our School Values – Aspiration

We are continuing to recognise children showing behaviours linked to our chosen value of **Aspiration** this week. We have seen examples of: Children talking about future jobs and life in secondary school; Children pushing themselves to reach the challenge in maths; Children reflecting on what to do to make themselves happy.

Well done on your aspirational acts! Next week, we will be focusing on our new value of Discovery.



Well done to Annie, Francesca, Oscar, Lois, Zephyn, Eva-Mae, Leo, Louie, Denny and Luna for achieving your silver badge for 100% attendance in school the last 20 weeks!



Attendance

Class Rock 'N' Roll	Class Pop	Class Disco
94%	98%	93%

Attendance Matters



Well done to **Class Pop** for getting £5 in your attendance funds!

Stars of the Week

Class Rock 'N' Roll: Oliver
Class Pop: Bailey
Class Disco: Cassie

Curriculum News

Class Rock 'N' Roll

In English, the children have concluded their new learning journey based on 'Traction Man' by exploring diary entries. The children looked at diary entries and learned about what they are for and the features within them. The children then identified the key events of Traction Man's day, exploring how he would feel during each one. **Finally, the children had to imagine they were Traction Man and write a diary entry to describe their day, thinking carefully about what had happened and how they had felt.** In maths, the children in Reception continued their learning on 'Length, Height and Time'. They compared length using specific vocabulary to describe an object, such as 'longer than' or 'shorter than'. **They moved onto exploring and comparing height, and the understanding that height is a type of length.** Children became familiar with the language of both 'short' objects and 'tall' objects and 'tallest', 'shortest', 'taller' and 'shorter' to make comparisons. Finally, they further explored time answering key questions such as: 'What is happening this evening/tomorrow/next week/at the weekend?' The children in Year 1 continued to explore Place Value within 50. Children used the number line to explore numbers between 0 and 50, using different start and end point values and were able to find the position of given numbers on unlabelled number lines. **They recapped the idea of an estimate being a "best guess" and explored the process of finding a midpoint on a blank number line by asking what number is halfway between the start and end point numbers.** Finally, they revisited finding 1 more and 1 less.

As part of Children's Mental Health Week, the children have enjoyed exploring what is special to them. They have created a drawing of themselves to show how they were feeling and **explored their emotions, thinking about What makes them feel excited? What makes them feel worried? When do they feel safe? What do they love learning about? What new things would they like to try?**

Class Pop

In English, the children have continued their work on letter writing. They began the week by exploring and creating the correct layout for an informal letter. They moved onto identifying the different sentence types; commands, questions, statements and exclamations before writing a reply to Mr. Merriman using different sentence types such as: **'I hope your new school is going well.'** **'Have you made any new friends?'** **'You must visit us soon!'** Finally they began to research information about Christopher Columbus in preparation for the letters they will write next week.

In maths, the children in Year 2 have explored the 5 and 10 times tables and related division facts. Children used multiple representations to show the 5 times-table and manipulatives to support their understanding. They then used their understanding of the 5 times-table to divide by 5, helping them to become more fluent with the times-tables facts. They answered questions involving grouping and sharing and chose efficient strategies for calculating both types of problems. **Finally, children looked at both the 5 and 10 times-tables to explore the connection between the two and to spot patterns.**

The children in Year 3 have explored multiplying and dividing by 2, 4 and 8 and the connections between them. They linked multiplying by 4 to doubling then doubling again, and multiplying by 8 to doubling three times. They recognised that dividing by 4 is the same as halving then halving again, and dividing by 8 is the same as halving three times. **Children are able to apply their knowledge of known facts to support them; for example, to work out 7×8 , children can do $7 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2$, or to calculate $56 \div 8$, they can do $56 \div 2 \div 2 \div 2$.**

As part of Children's Mental Health Week, the children have enjoyed exploring mindfulness breathing and relaxation to help with big emotions. **They completed an affirmation craft activity where they had to think about the positive personality traits and what they are good at.** They spent lots of time exploring what makes them happy using mindfulness activities to support the process.

Class Disco

In English, the children have explored more of 'How to Train Your Dragon'. **This week, the children learned what a "singing supper" is and composed their own song or poem in tribute to their favourite food including; heavenly chocolate brownies, mouthwatering cheesy pasta and scrumptious chips.** They became better acquainted with the Isle of Berk by drawing a labelling a detailed map. Finally, inspired by the work of William Shakespeare, the children created a list of insults designed to infuriate a sea dragon.

In maths this week, the children in Year 6 have continued learning about algebra and began to form algebraic expressions using letters to represent numbers. **Children learned that phrases such as "2 more than a number" can be written more simply as, for example, $x + 2$ or $y + 2$.** They moved onto find values of expressions by substituting numbers in place of the letters, understanding that the same expression can have different values depending on what number is substituted into it. Children then moved on to substituting numbers into abstract algebraic expressions such as $3a + 1$. The children in Year 5 are developing their knowledge of fractions. Children encountered multiplication number sentences with fractions, multiplying unit fractions by an integer, non-unit fractions by an integer and mixed numbers by an integer. **They made links to multiplication as repeated addition to support them to avoid the common misconception of multiplying both the numerator and the denominator by the integer.** The children in Year 4 explored division by dividing 3-digit numbers, using place value counters to support them to make sense of exchanges needed. Children consolidated their understanding of correspondence problems, using multiplication to work out the number of possible combinations of sets of items. Finally, children began to make decisions regarding the most efficient or appropriate multiplication methods to use in a range of contexts. **Children looked at times-tables facts, a range of strategies for multiplying a 2-digit number by a 1-digit number and using arrays.**

As part of Children's Mental Health Week, the children have enjoyed journaling their feelings and how this can be used as a technique to clear our minds. They have kept a daily calendar to work on knowing and growing themselves. **They have answered questions about themselves to understand and explore self-awareness to help us embrace what is different about ourselves and build resilience, to grow and develop as people.**

Team Points for the end of this week are:

396



470



377



Golden Book

Well done to **Elizabeth and Theo** for their fantastic work on what is special to them and their helpful behaviour towards others. Well done to **Daniel and Alexia** for their amazing breakdancing.

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

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.