



Gaddesden Row JMI School

Newsletter 10th January - 2025



Good afternoon, friends, and families,

Welcome back everyone and here I am writing my first newsletter to you.

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas break and enjoyed seeing friends and family. The children have settled back into the new term very well and have enjoyed beginning their learning on their new topics.

I would personally like to thank everyone for the kind words and support I have received this week. It feels like my feet haven't quite touched the ground just yet but I am extremely excited about continuing to work with our amazing school community in my new role.

Swimming Lessons

A reminder that swimming lessons begin next Thursday (16th January) for all children. The coach will be leaving school at 10.15 to take us to Hemel Hempstead Leisure Centre and returning to school at 12.15. Any parents or carers that would like to come and watch are very welcome.



Clubs and Tutoring

All after-school clubs and tutoring start next week and they all finish at 16.15. We still have some limited availability at some clubs – please contact the school office to see what places are available.

Cold Weather

The weather has turned extremely cold this week. We have had some children coming to school without suitable coats this week. Please ensure all children are dressed appropriately for this winter weather.



Term Dates

I have attached the term dates for the remainder of this academic year as well as for 2025-26. These documents are also on our school website.

Attendance

Class Rock 'N' Roll	Class Pop	Class Disco
100%	88%	84%

Well done to Class Rock 'N' Roll for getting £10 in your attendance fund!



Attendance Matters



Stars of the Week

Class Rock 'N' Roll: Sammy
Class Pop: Rupert
Class Disco: Raphael

Curriculum News

Class Rock 'N' Roll

Class Rock 'N' Roll have enjoyed starting their new topic - Superheroes.

In English, the children have begun the learning sequence with their text, 'Supertato.' They have explored the story, identifying the main characters and events. The children acted out their favourite part for others to guess and wrote a description of Evil Pea. **The children have enjoyed using the supermarket role play and making a paper plate Evil Pea.**

In maths this week, the children in Reception have been exploring mass and capacity. They have been exploring the concepts of heavier and lighter and using scales to explore finding a balance, answering questions like **'Which side needs more to make the scales balanced?' 'What does it mean when the scales are balanced?'** The children then progressed onto exploring and comparing capacity. **For example, 'The container holds more coins than cubes.'** The children in Year 1 have started to explore addition and subtraction within 20. The children have worked on adding by counting on and have begun to identify number bonds within 20 and numbers bonds that make 20. The have answered key questions including **'What is the same and different about 4 and 14?' 'How do you know you have found all the number bonds?'**

In geography, the children have been looking at living in a city. **For example, the children have learned what a city is and have explored identifying some major capital cities around the world.** The children enjoyed sharing where they had travelled to in the world.

Class Pop

Class Pop have enjoyed starting their new topic - One Planet, One World.

In English, the children have begun their learning sequence based around 'A Lion in the Meadow' by Margaret Mahy. The children have begun to explore the story and the settings and characters within it. **For example, 'the children took on the role of the three main characters and asked each other questions to get to know them better. The lion was asked, 'What do you eat in the meadow?'**

In maths this week, the children in Year 2 have started to learn the concept of multiplication through recognizing, making and adding equal groups. **The children used different objects (cubes, bears and counters) to make groups and find the total within the groups.** The children in Year 3 have been building on their knowledge of multiplication by learning to make arrays to help solve multiplication questions. **The children used playdough balls to make an array to solve multiplication calculations, for example 4×3 means making 4 rows with 3 playdough balls in each.**

In science, the children have been learning about fossils. This included illustrating the stages of fossilization, ordering fossils based on age and drawing what they thought the animal or plant would have looked like when it was alive based on its fossil. **The children enjoyed sorting fossils into plants and animals.**

Class Disco

Class Disco have enjoyed starting their new topic - Saxons and Vikings.

In English, the children have started their new class text - How to Train - and part of the focus has been to create and describe their own dragon. **For example, Wrecking Ball, the fierce spotted dragon with a spikey tail and The Belch Blaster, a very territorial sea dragon.**

In maths this week, the children in Year 6 have been learning about ratio and using relevant language. **For example, 'For every 2 red counters, there are 3 blue counters.'** children linked this to their knowledge of dividing by a common factor and their understanding of simplifying fractions. The children in Year 5 have continued to build on their understanding of multiplication by multiplying 4-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers using partitioning and base ten. **They also answered key questions such as, 'How does multiplication link to addition?'** The children in Year 4 have built on their understanding of multiplication by being introduced to factors.. They have learned that when they multiply two whole numbers to give a product, both the numbers that they multiplied together are factors of the product. **For example, $3 \times 5 = 15$, so 3 and 5 are factors of 15. 3 and 5 are also referred to as a "factor pair" of 15.**

In history, the children were introduced to the topic - Vikings and Anglo Saxons. They explored what Britain was like before the first Viking invasions and made predictions about what life was like in Britain in the 8th century. **The children had the opportunity to write both the Viking and Anglo-Saxon alphabets.**

Team Points for the end of this week are:

44



56



55



Golden Book

Well done to Nell, Harry, Luna, Kobi, Primrose and Sebby for their excellent listening and great understanding of mass, comparing heavier and lighter and using scales to find out.

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

Miss Smith

G enerosity 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.