



# Gaddesden Row JMI School Newsletter 1<sup>st</sup> March - 2024



Good afternoon, friends, and families,

Welcome back to a new half term and to the start of March. For those of you with Welsh family, like me, Happy St David's Day!

The children have settled back into the new half term very well and have been working very hard.

## World Book Day – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March



A reminder that next Thursday is World Book Day. The theme is 'Read Your Way' and the children are invited to come dressed as their favourite character from any book.

We look forward to celebrating this special day with the children and promoting the love of reading.

## Staffing Update

I wrote to all families before half term explaining that Miss Smith will be off work from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March to have surgery. I know we will wish her the best and Miss Smith has told me that she will keep everyone updated as to how she is doing and a return date to work.

A reminder that Mrs Thomas and I will be covering Class Banksy during the time Miss Smith is off work.

## Parent Consultations

Letters came home with all children this week with details as to how to sign-up for a time for parent consultations, which take place on **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March**. **There will be no after-school clubs or tutoring on this day.**

For ease, I have attached another copy of the letter to this parent mail. **Please could all forms be returned to school office by Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March.**

## Parkrun



Thank to all families that have signed-up for the 5km Parkrun at Dunstable Downs tomorrow morning. A reminder that I will meet all families by the main visitor centre at 08.30. It looks set to be very wet!

**Well done to Noah, Louie, Bobby, Demi, and Lillie-Mai for achieving your silver badge for 20 full weeks in school!**



## Attendance

Class Banksy	Class Blake	Class Wiltshire
<span style="background-color: #00FFFF; padding: 2px;">99%</span>	<span style="background-color: #00FFFF; padding: 2px;">93%</span>	<span style="background-color: #00FFFF; padding: 2px;">92%</span>



**Well done to Class Banksy for getting £5 in their attendance fund!**

## Stars of the Week

Class Banksy: Robin  
Class Blake: Isabella  
Class Wiltshire: Lois

## Curriculum News

### Class Banksy

In maths this week, the children in Reception have been building on their knowledge of numbers up to eight by finding one more and answering questions such as, 'What is one more than six?' 'What number comes after three?' The learning then moved onto 'What numbers are less than five?' The children in Year 1 have continued securing their knowledge of mass and volume and understanding that if a set of scales is balanced, then the objects have the same mass. The learning progressed onto the children investigating which items are heavier and lighter and comparing. In English, the children have continued securing their knowledge of adjectives (describing words) when designing and creating their own alien. 'Striped, scaly, huge, greasy and aggressive' have been some of the words used. In geography, the children have been learning about where they live, what area of the country, and then creating their own passport. In PE, the children have been learning how to move like dinosaurs. There have been some fabulous sequence of movements and techniques.

### Class Blake

In maths this week, the children have started learning about shape, position, and direction in 2D shapes. For example, how many corners (vertices) does a hexagon have? How many parallel lines are in a rectangle? What does the word perpendicular mean? In English, the focus has been how to write a set of instructions. The children started this learning sequence by guiding other children through a set of cones and following lines on the playground. The children then looked at different written instructions, discussed why we need them and understood the importance of imperative verbs. For example, turn, mix, hide, pull, follow, and jump. In D/T, the children have started the unit of work called, 'Light-Up Signs.' The children looked at different circuits and components used. The first task was to make light bulbs light up and discuss why makes this work. WE are all looking forward to seeing the children's finished designs and explanations as to how they work.

### Class Wiltshire

In English this week, the children in Year 4 have started to look at fractions and understanding part, part, whole. For example, what do we need to add to  $\frac{3}{5}$  to make one whole? The children in Year 5 have been securing their knowledge of calculating the perimeter of shapes and then progressing onto estimating and finding the area of shapes. The children in Year 6 have been learning how to multiply and divide numbers by 10, 100 and 1000. For example, what is  $4.4 \times 100$ ? What is 376 divided by 1000? In English, the focus has been explanation texts and using the text, 'Rhythm of the River.' The children started by looking at words to describe water: 'Gushing, Pounding, Torrential and Powerful.' The learning then progressed onto adding appropriate fronted adverbials to sentences. For example, 'As fast they could, they ran under the waterfall.' The focus in science has been gestation periods of different mammals and the children comparing.

Team Points for the end of this week are:

117



101



94



I met with the children in Team Sapphire yesterday and they voted for a movie and hot chocolate with marshmallows. This will take place over the next two weeks.

## Golden Book

Well done to Henry, Joy, Theo, Noah, Oliver, Elizabeth, Robin, and Karolina for excellent work in maths when looking at numbers that one less and comparing numbers to 10.

I hope you all have a nice weekend, and we look forward to seeing everyone on Monday.

Mr Merriman

**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.