



**Gaddesden Row JMI  
School**  
**Newsletter 19<sup>th</sup> January - 2024**



**Good afternoon, friends, and families,**

What an extremely cold week it has been! Thank you to all families for ensuring that children have had warm coats for this cold snap.

The cold weather has not got in the way of the children’s hard work, resilience, and perseverance. I have seen excellent work, presentation, children pushing themselves to better and increased independence.

**Icy Weather**

The cold weather, according to the weather forecast, looks set to end at the weekend, but please allow extra to travel to and from school as the lanes may still be icy. When I left school on Tuesday and Wednesday this week, the temperature was -5 degrees.



**Maths SMARTIE Day**

What a fantastic day we had yesterday! The children got so much out of the day and from taking pupil voice over the course of the day, the day was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Maths is everywhere in our lives and a skill that stays with us all. **I am always saying to the children that maths is fun, maths is cool, maths is something we all need, and maths is nothing to fear.** Well done to all our children for being motivated by maths. There are lots of photographs on our school Facebook Page.

**Staffing Update**

I am pleased to inform all families that Mrs Scott will be returning to school after February Half Term. Mrs Scott has been on maternity leave since February last year, and she will be coming back to Gaddesden Row on a part-time basis.

Mrs Scott will be teaching Class Blake on a Monday and covering Class Wiltshire and Banksy on a Tuesday. I am sure you will all come and give her a lovely welcome back.

Miss Braybrooke has also joined our school on a permanent basis and will continue to teach Class Blake four days a week - Tuesday to Friday. We are delighted to welcome her permanently to our team.

**Niamh and Aiysha will be getting their bronze badge in assembly this afternoon for 10 full weeks’ attendance in school – well done!**



| <b>Attendance</b>   |                    |                        |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Class Banksy</b> | <b>Class Blake</b> | <b>Class Wiltshire</b> |
| <b>92%</b>          | <b>98%</b>         | <b>95%</b>             |



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

## Stars of the Week

Class Banksy: Oakley  
Class Blake: Lily  
Class Wiltshire: Arthur

## Curriculum News

### Class Banksy

In maths this week, as well as our SMARTIE Day, the children in Year 1 have been learning to subtract single-digit numbers. For example, 'There are 7 ducks in a pond and 3 ducks fly away, how many ducks are left in the pond?' The learning then progressed onto solving calculations using  $<$   $>$  and  $=$ . For example,  $17 - 5 > 12 - 5$ . Is this correct? Explain. The children in Reception have been representing the numbers 6, 7 and 8. This has involved using cubes and numicon. The learning then progressed onto answering questions like, 'How many are there altogether?' and 'What number is after 7?' In English, the children have been learning to re-tell a familiar story. The book focus has been 'Whatever Next.' The children have been writing suitable captions and sentences to match each picture. In RE, the children have been learning 'What did Jesus teach us?' The focus was finding out about the parable of the lost son.

### Class Blake

In maths this week, as well as our SMARTIE Day, the children have continued to look at division and using their knowledge of times tables to help them calculate. For example, if  $8 \times 5 = 40$ , 40 divided by 8 is 5. In addition to this, the children have been solving a range of mathematical problems using trial and improvement to find the answer. In English, the children have been learning to punctuate direct speech with inverted commas (formally known as speech marks). For example, "I must escape," exclaimed the witch. As well as this, the children have been using their prediction skills to see what may happen next. The focus has been the children using cause and reason to explain their reasons and predictions.

### Class Wiltshire

In maths this week, the children in Year 4 have started dividing numbers by 10, 100 and 1000 and describing the effect. For example, 'What is 6200 divided by 100?' The children in year 5 have been learning to use short division to calculate. For example, 375 divided by 3. In Year 6, the focus has been scale drawing and scale factors. For example, if a square has a length and width of 3cm, how big would the square be if it was increased by a scale factor of 3? In English, the children have continued looking at the mythical story of 'Kai and the Monkey King.' The focus has been looking at photographs from the story and making predictions, inferences, and deductions about what might happen and why. The children then progressed onto looking at qualities of a hero and using precise adjectives to explain why.

Team Points for the end of this week are: 200



199



196



TEAM RUBY'S REWARD WILL TAKE PLACE ON MONDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY. THE CHILDREN HAVE VOTED FOR FREE TIME WITH A HOT CHOCOLATE.

### Golden Book

Well done to Samuel for using precise language when explaining about the plural use of apostrophes. Ava, Joseph, and Megan showed excellent enthusiasm superb expression during reading buddies. Leyton was a role model for his partner during reading buddies – well done. Louie showed excellent maturity during an RE lesson when predicting someone's feelings and emotions – well done.

We would like to wish all families a happy and pleasant weekend and see you all on Monday for a new week.

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.