

# Half Termly Update



Summer 2

Thursday 20th July 2023

## A note from the Headteachers

It's finally the end of term and what a term it's been! We are very proud of the children at GCA as they have all worked so hard and showed excellent learning behaviours. There have been some brilliant events this half term including sleeping under the stars for Y3 and Y5, a whole school trip to the splash park, Y4 hiking around Letchworth and Y6 went bowling on the train.

At the end of term, we also have to say goodbye and thank you to some of our wonderful staff team as well as welcoming new team members in September.

Firstly, Goodbye to our wonderful Y6 crew! We are so proud of them all and want to wish each and every one of them the very best of luck at their secondary schools. You have all been a pleasure to have at school and have really shone in the summer term. Always aim high and strive for the very best!

Mrs McCusker has been at GCA for 18 years! She has taught across the school, but her specialisms are Music and French. Mrs McCusker has accompanied many trips including the most recent French trip. She has been so involved in GCA for so many years and we will really miss her! Mrs McCusker is taking up a new post in middle school and we wish her every success.

Mrs Woolston has been at GCA for 2 years. She is a brilliant teacher and has gone above and beyond for all the children in her class. Thank you for all you have done at GCA. Mrs Woolston is semi retiring but we hope to see her back at GCA in the future!

Mrs Estes-Patel has worked in our Nursery for 6 years and has always shown kindness, compassion and enthusiasm for the children in her care, this year as the Class teacher. We will really miss her early years expertise at GCA.

Miss Thompson has been a class teacher at GCA for 5 years. Her musical expertise has really enhanced the curriculum at GCA and we have thoroughly enjoyed all of her singing assemblies. Miss Thompson takes up a new post in Hitchin in September.

Mrs Cook has been with Y3 for 2 years as their teacher. She has a real passion for teaching and has really developed our Forest School teaching along with Science. Mrs Cook always goes above and beyond! Mrs Cook is taking up a new post in Stevenage and we wish every success.

Mrs Schofield has been teaching and supporting KS2 for 3 years at GCA. She has taken many sports teams to festivals and tournaments and has been such a wonderful addition to the team. She has been a member of the PTA and has given her time so freely to support the school for which we are very thankful. Mrs Schofield is taking up a new post in Stevenage.

Miss Lawless has been with Reception all year and has shown kindness and patience when looking after and teaching the children in Reception. We wish her all the best in her new Teaching Assistant role at another local school.

Mrs Minson - joined us for a term teaching the children in Reception. She's been absolutely brilliant in the classroom, and I know the reception children will miss her energy and enthusiasm. Mrs Minson is returning to New Zealand with her family.

Miss Timms also joined us after Easter. She has been a great addition to Y6 supporting them through their SAT tests and beyond. She is starting her teacher training in September.

A big thank you to all departing staff members - we wish you all the very best for the future.

Staffing next year will look like the following:

Class	Teacher	TA
Nursery	Mrs Johal	Mrs O'Gorman
Reception	Ms Shaha	Mrs Sharpe / Mrs O'Gorman
Year 1	Mrs Coley	Mrs Forbes / Mrs Sharpe
Year 2	Ms Comerford	Mrs Pritchett (HLTA) / Mrs Cole
Year 3	Ms Turner / Ms Eddy	Mrs Morris (Mornings)
Year 4	Ms Kennington	Mrs Morris (Afternoons)
Year 5	Mrs Hokinson / Mrs Morey	Mrs Forbes (Afternoons)
Year 6	Mr Bryan / Mrs Pavlovic (Mornings)	

We are delighted to welcome, Mrs Ruck, as the new Headteacher who will be ably supported by Mrs Hopkinson and Mrs Doyle, Deputy Headteachers. Mrs Stevenson and I will still be involved with the school and will be supporting through the Autumn term.

I would like to thank you for your support over the summer term and it has been a pleasure to be back supporting your children and ensuring the school moves forward following a slightly turbulent period with regards to leadership.

We hope you have a lovely summer break and we look forward to seeing children back to school on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

**Mrs Jenny Redgrove and Mrs Rachael Stevenson**

**Headteachers**

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Memories of our visit to the splash park.



# What have we been learning this Half Term?

## Nursery

This term we have been thinking about people who help us and how we can help others as well as help look after our environment. We have been learning about measuring in lots of fun ways and positional language. We have been learning how words rhyme and making up our own rhyming words. We showed our great gross motor skills at Sports Day and enjoyed singing our favourite songs at our celebration picnic with our teddy's.



## Reception



What an amazing end of summer term Apple have had. We experienced all things "under the sea" and learnt about our wonderful beaches, sea creatures, and how to care for our oceans. We also became incredible artists during our whole school "Banksy Artist Day" where we learnt about how Banksy likes to share the message of love. The children have created an amazing piece of their own Banksy art which is now hanging on the wall for all the school to enjoy. Finally, we took the opportunity to visit our local Splash Park and had the most brilliant time playing in the park, picnic snacking and lunching before we had a very wet play in the water.



## Year 1

This half term, in Literacy, the children were inspired by Iggy Peck and created amazing and unique buildings out of a range of materials. In Maths, we learnt about British money system and how to tell the time.



In DT the children have been thinking about making a product out of fruit. They had to think about the fit for purpose and who for. It was decided that they would make a fruit



kebab and after tasting a range of fruit. Their fruit kebab had either melon, mango, strawberry or pineapple.

Finally, both Blossom and Bluebell have had many learning opportunities over the year which have enhanced their learning experiences. As they become Coconut Class, they will continue to enjoy many more learning activities which will help them to continue to flourish.

## Year 2



Year 2 have had a lovely week. We kicked off our week with our DT day where the children produced a pulley system

We also enjoyed hot chocolate, popcorn and a film after our splash park adventure!



## Year 3

Chestnut class have had a fantastic last half term. We have slept under the stars, toasted marshmallows over a campfire, sung songs together, danced the day away with Darcy Bussell. Met one of our favourite authors and visited Mrs Cook's favourite place in the town, Letchworth Library. We've learnt all about plants, counties and countries, telling the time, measuring mass, writing fictional stories and creating our own computer-generated music... Phew what a busy half term we've had.



## Year 4

Our hiking heroes' trip on Monday was a huge success. The children were incredible and showed great tenacity and resilience. They kept going and every single child achieved the challenge! There's been more fun this week with our trip to the splash park where the children created memories I hope will last forever.

Some amazing artwork has been created this term, with stencils inspired by Banksy on our Arts Day and recreating the beautiful Northern Lights.



The children also loved our recent English unit on Harvey Milk and the Gay Right's Movement.

It's been a fabulous half term and the children now deserve a well-earned rest!

## Year 5



In Peach class, we have been writing about the famous Philippe Petit, who walked along a tightrope between the twin towers before they were destroyed. We have also been learning about forces in Science - we made some 3-D clay shapes and discovered the cone shape sunk quicker than the cube because the cone was less resistant to water. In Geography we have been learning about farming across different climate zones and how weather effects how things grow. We also had a great time sleeping under the stars!

## Year 6

Year 6 have had an amazing and busy half term. Some children took part in a project at Garden House Hospice, learning about how the hospice works and meeting members of the hospice community.

We also sent some members of Team Cedar to a Rounders tournament, a skateboarding day, and we all had a trip to the splash park and the bowling alley. Mrs Woolston is retiring at the end of term. She has worked tirelessly for the past two years with Cedar, Pine and Peach and we wish her all the best. Mrs McCusker is moving to a new school to teach French after an amazing 18 years at GCA! Thank you for all your hard work. In addition, Miss Timms is going to do teacher training, so all Cedar staff send their best wishes and good luck to our wonderful year 6 children as they embark on the next chapter of their lives at secondary school.



## Celebration Assembly Awards

Summer 2	Class Champion	Pride and presentation	Manners and Helpfulness	Commitment to Reading	Outstanding Achievement
Nursery	Ivy	Noah	Chris	Madison	Isabella
Reception	Adrian	Hella	Tavgun	Theo	William
Bluebell	Tilly	Mark	Ava	Esmee	Rojan
Blossom	Olivia	Stanley-James	Nathaniel	Tristan	Gracie
Coconut	Louisa	Ollie	Harry	Peaches	Justina
Chestnut	Spencer	Cooper	Oliver	Ariah	Ruby
Lilac	Blake	Harry	Shayla	Jenson	Leah T
Peach	Jacob	Grace	Milla-Marie	Charley	Tyler B
Cedar	Gustas	Alfie	Tyler	Eliana	Rhys

## Dates for Your Diary

- Friday 1st September - Inset Day
- Monday 4th September - Children return to school
- Friday 20th October - Last day of Autumn 1 Half Term
- **Monday 23rd-Friday 27th October - Autumn Half Term Holiday**
- Monday 30th October - Children return to School
- Friday 24th November - Occasional Day (School Closed)
- Wednesday 20th December - Last day of Autumn 2 Half Term
- **Thursday 21st December 2023-Wednesday 3rd January 2024 - Christmas Holidays**
- Thursday 4th January - INSET
- Friday 5th January - INSET
- Monday 8th January - Children return to school
- Friday 16th February - Last day of Spring 1 Half Term
- **Monday 19th February - Friday 23rd February - Spring Half Term Holiday**
- Monday 26th February - Children return to school
- Thursday 28th March - Last day of Spring 2 Half Term
- **Friday 29th March - Bank Holiday**
- **Monday 1st April - Friday 12th April - Easter Holiday**
- Monday 15th April - Children return to school