

Thursday 11th February

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope that you and your families are well. Thank you, as always, for all of the positive feedback and for sharing your child's learning with the class teachers – we are missing the children so much! As you will probably be aware, during the half-term break the school will not be providing critical childcare and the teachers will not be setting remote learning. However, we will continue with some activities and challenges to encourage pupils to carry on reading and to be active.

Golden Tickets and Secret Reader

Golden Tickets will go ahead as normal. When your child has read at home five times during the week, please send a photo of the completed page in their planner/reading record to golden.tickets@gadevalley.herts.sch.uk

Please add their name and year group in the subject line. Their golden ticket will go into the weekly prize draw and, if they win, a special Wonka bar will be posted/delivered to them!

<https://www.gadevalley.herts.sch.uk/golden-tickets-1>

The widely popular 'Secret Reader' will also continue as normal. This is where a member of staff will read a book while keeping their identity hidden. Once the children have watched the video (usually more than once), they can try and work out who it was and submit their guess to secretreader@gadevalley.herts.sch.uk

The video will be posted next Tuesday and pupils can submit their guesses by 10am on Thursday. <https://www.gadevalley.herts.sch.uk/secret-reader-1/>

The winners of the Wonka bars and the pupils who guessed correctly for the secret reader will be announced in the virtual assembly on Monday 22nd February.

Step Challenge

Following feedback from parents and recent school activities, to encourage pupils to be more active and get some fresh air, a steps challenge has been set. In the most recent assembly, which was inspired by Captain Sir Tom Moore, the children were set a challenge to see how many steps they can complete during half-term as a school community. With a mile being roughly 2500 steps, a very achievable combined target of 100 miles was set!

Pupils/parents can e-mail their class teacher with their weekly total.

Next Half-term

At this moment in time, the school will continue to be closed until at least 8th March. Therefore, we will be continuing with the same provision for the first two weeks after half-term. On Monday 22nd February we will send you further information about the remote curriculum.

It is hoped that pupils will return to school from 8th March and that in the week commencing 22nd February, further clarity can be given by the Government as they intend to publish a plan for taking the country out of lockdown. We can't wait to open fully again: the joy of the children, the buzz of school and positive interactions will all return hopefully in the near future.

Finally, the latest staff video has been uploaded on our website – we hope it makes our Gade Valley community smile!

<https://www.gadevalley.herts.sch.uk/staff-message-1/>

Best Wishes,

Mr Barron