

Owl Post

Issue: 25 - December 2020



Welcome

Hello Parents and Carers

Welcome to the Owl Post Autumn 2020!

This term we have made a change to the way we let you know about the wonderful things that have been going on. Rather than by year group, you will find a section on each of our 'School Values' and how we have embraced them through our Re-Grounding Curriculum.

There have been so many changes to the way we operate this term but one thing has remained constant and that is the capacity of our children and staff to adapt, and keep learning at the forefront.

We would like to say a very big thank you to some members of staff who are sadly leaving us on Friday. Our wonderful Nursery assistant Mrs Reeve will be retiring. She has seen so many of our families through Gatley Primary ensuring our children have always got off to the best possible start and we thank her for that vital contribution to our school. Mrs Ali will be in the Nursery in January and we know the children all love her. Mr Jenner will be finishing also and has worked wonderfully with our Year Six children this term - we will miss him. Finally Mrs Power will be moving across to one of our other Trust schools (Meadowbank Primary) to teach Year One. Thank you and good luck to all in their new adventures.

Finally, we would like to thank the entire Gatley Primary community for all the support you have given us this term. Your positive comments have been so valuable and energised us throughout.

Have a wonderful holiday together.

Mrs McManus, Mrs Norman
and Mrs Kitchen

Re-Grounding Curriculum



The Rationale for a Re-Grounding Curriculum

In the summer second half term, the children worked hard on our Recovery Curriculum to focus on their physical and mental health.

This continued to be a key focus of the autumn first half term. We moved forward with an aim to re-ground learning behaviours to support the children to use the learning environment successfully and as a result, gain in independence and life skills which would support them to achieve.

We used our school values as a backdrop to the curriculum to support the children's transition back into school, developing effective learning strategies and

supporting them to enjoy learning and achieving together.

Over the seven weeks, the children were given a range of activities to develop these values including how to be reflective and what it feels like to try, but not always succeed on the first go.

There are lots of outcomes on the school website if you would like to see how our values are developing.

**Festive greetings
to everyone at
Gatley Primary
School and best
wishes for 2021**





Independence is one of our key skills. This term in EYFS, we have worked hard to become independent learners. As part of our learning, we looked at each of the key skill areas and what they meant. This helped children to understand how these skills support our learning and to understand how the skills help us to learn in different ways.

For children starting in Early Years, the value of independence is an important skill to develop. We encourage the children to take ownership of daily routines such as putting their coats on, looking after their own belongings (such as pencil cases), getting changed for P.E. and knowing the key areas of the learning environment such as where their work goes, and where we wash our hands etc.

It was also important for the children to understand that they can 'choose' the activities they wish to complete and to know that this choice is made independently and that it has an impact on their learning outcomes.

As part of our work within the area of 'People and Communities', the children worked hard

to develop their independent skills by sharing information with their peers about who is in their family and what they celebrate. The children used the key skills areas to work independently in presenting this in different ways, as well as understanding how to share information with each other.



During our 'Life Skills' week, each curriculum team adopted a key skill and created an activity that enhanced the children's understanding of this skill. For example, the maths challenge focused on developing the children's application skills through designing a new playground on a budget.

The children were given a catalogue of equipment with a strict budget of £1000, and they had to demonstrate, using the written methods, how they planned on spending this budget.



Brief

The school has been awarded £1000 to spend on new playground equipment. Look through the catalogue and decide which pieces of equipment we should buy. Add up the prices to work out how much the equipment would cost. Will there be any money left?

I liked this activity because it linked to our maths work and it's was also really fun picking out different things for the playground.
Archie Year 3

We look forward to seeing the children's designs as we develop the premises over the next twelve months.



One of our Core Values is the value of achievement. In order to explore our understanding of this value further, each year group took part in a very special 'lottery' where we all picked something brand new to learn to see what we could achieve!



Mrs Kitchen's class were set a challenge to improve their running!

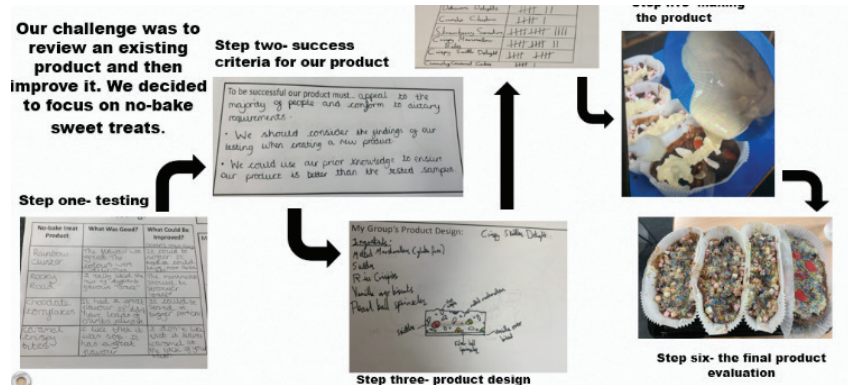
When asked how it feels to achieve, Toby from Year 5 explained that: 'I learnt that you can do basically anything and you feel proud of yourself if you practise and learn with your friends.'

At the end of the week, we all shared our achievements together as a school through a virtual assembly.



Throughout the week, we focused on developing the skills needed to support us to achieve and discussed these skills in our classrooms. Collaboration, practise and applying our learning supported us to succeed.

Mr. Dunn's class learnt how to program, Mr Butt's class learnt to speak in Mandarin Chinese, Miss Marchi's class reviewed a product and collaborated to improve it and



One of our school key skills is Social Responsibility. Social responsibility means the way that we can help others around us. Olivia said, "Social responsibility is being kind to everyone around us".

During the week we looked at social responsibility in depth. We looked at our area of Gatley and the world beyond.

In Key Stage 1, we all shared what we liked about where we lived, and thought of ways that we could make it even better. Frankie said that he loves Gatley because he has nice neighbours and he loves our school. To make Gatley an even better place he would pick up rubbish and help the elderly people of Gatley.

As part of our homework we came up with a way of demonstrating how we can be socially responsible in our homes. We had a brilliant range of activities from hanging out the washing to sweeping up the leaves! We also considered where we belong in our community and how we can help others in our community.

What wonderfully socially responsible children we have in our school!





During Choice Week, to support the children to create their own topics, the children considered three things:

- What they are inspired by
- What they have always wondered
- What they are passionate about

As a result, the children have worked as a year group to plan their own topics. Here is a list of the exciting topics the children have created:

	Philosophical question
Nursery	What makes a superhero?
	Where would I rather be?
Reception	Is the world alive?
	What does it mean to build?
Year 1	Does the world need...?
	What came first?
Year 2	Does the land need the sea?
	What is living in the ocean?
Year 3	Are we heading for extinction?
	How powerful is the earth?
Year 4	Can Civilisations come together?
	Do animals need human?
Year 5	How do we measure success?
	Are we the decision makers?
Year 6	Should all voices be heard?
	Can the world change?

We can't wait to share some amazing outcomes with you. Look out for ClassDojo posts to see the children's work.

Governors

Hello to all parents! It's been a whirlwind of a term and I can't quite believe we're at the end of it already.

When I joined as a governor in September, I had no idea what to expect but even in these short few months it's been the most incredible learning experience. I have a little boy in Year 4 at the moment so I've seen the school through his eyes over the last few years, and was intrigued to see the other side. From understanding how the school is handling staggered start times and socially distanced lunches, to getting a broader understanding of how the Trust is bringing schools together to collaborate and share ideas - and learning a hefty number of new acronyms in every meeting!

Your school governors come from all sorts of backgrounds and bring a breadth of knowledge and experience, and getting to know the journey the school has been on in the last few years, through them and the teaching staff, has been fascinating.

I took on this role for a number of reasons, but predominantly because I think the school is at the heart of the Gatley community. I love the way the children are involved in the running of the school and how their choices inform how they learn.

I look forward to speaking to you all again soon - enjoy the Christmas break!

Lisa Dennis
Chair of Governors

A Real Community Effort!

The support of our community over this past term has been nothing but incredible in helping to prevent the spread of the virus in our school and local community. It has been the support for the travel safety protocols which has been of upmost importance, in particular the use of the waves of entry and different collection points.

Our recently travel survey outlined the support for these measures with 96 % commenting positively on the waves of entry and 92 % commenting positively on the use of the different entrance points. Issues raised in the survey has resulted in

the school taking some immediate actions, such as increasing markers to improve social distancing at Lime Green and Purple, as well as developing a one way system at Turquoise so that parents can come into the school playground via the Turquoise gate and can then exit through the gates at the staff car park. Our staff continue to wear masks at these collection points and we ask for your continued support and commitment to social distancing at the gates and leaving these collection points promptly so that others can comfortably pass by.

We also received a number of comments which highlighted what an important service our Chaperone Service is to families. The investment in this initiative is supporting the community's ability to effectively social distance around school due to reduced parking. We ask that if you do drive to school, and you are currently not using a Chaperone Service, please contact the

school office who will signpost one which is available to you.

In the New Year, our Young Gatley Village Partnership will be redesigning the banner at the front of school and will be delivering leaflets to promote this important service. The school will continue to invest in developing this service, including looking to develop employed positions as Chaperone Supervisors to escort the children to and from their meeting points safely. Look out for these roles which will be advertised shortly!



“
We drop at Gatley Hill and
it's an excellent option.
Less congested and quicker ”
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