

Owl Post

December 2022



Welcome

Dear Families

It has been a great start to a new academic year with so many successes to share and celebrate. The children have settled wonderfully into their new classrooms with their new teachers, particularly our Nursery and Reception children who have soon become accustomed to our school routines. The children have worked so very hard on their themes in the curriculum this term and have produced exceptional outcomes to be proud of in their Foundation Subject books. We hope you have enjoyed sharing their work at various points over this term including: Bring your Parent/Carer to School Morning, Parent's Evening and Book Drop Ins. We are very impressed with the knowledge the children can recall and talk about and I am sure you have seen this in their work and at home too!

Thank you for your support over the term with all aspects of school life, from ensuring the children are at school on time, to support with their reading and homework, to attendance at school consultation events and workshops such as the Online Safety workshop and our Parent Working Groups. Your contributions really do make a difference to the way we review policies and the partnership between home and school is vital ingredient in supporting our children to thrive.

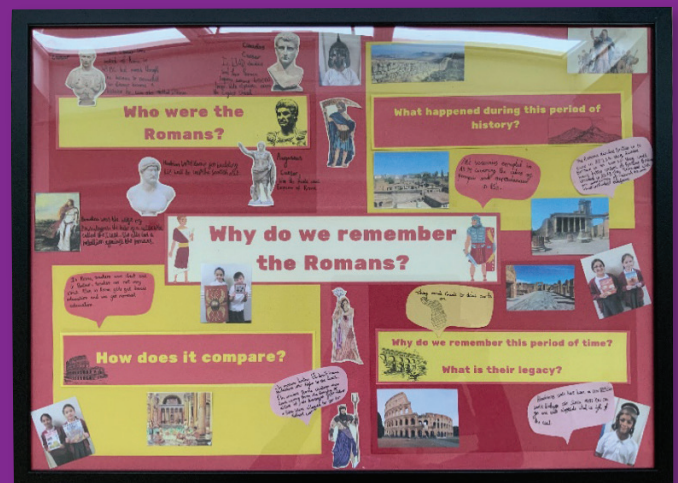
Finally, I would like to recognise the hard work of our staff team who, as always, go above and beyond to provide the children an exceptional educational experience. This includes their time and dedication to the learning experiences in the classroom, to the enrichment they offer through wider curricular activities and clubs. Sadly, next week, we say goodbye and good luck to Miss Smithurst and Mrs Broad. Miss Smithurst is travelling the world after Christmas; we look forward to hearing about her adventures. Mrs Broad will be retiring after 22 years at Gatley Primary School. We will miss her very much and thank her for all her years of commitment to our school. We also say goodbye and thank you to Miss Bainbridge as she embarks on a new career. Next term we are welcoming Mrs Field and Mrs Singh to our staff team and look forward to them starting with us.

I hope you all manage to have a lovely rest over the winter break, enjoy festive celebrations and family gatherings. I look forward to seeing you all in 2023!

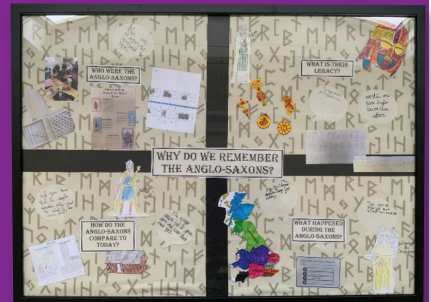
Gemma Norman, Headteacher

History Detectives

This term, to support the children's understanding of the concept chronology in History, the children became History detectives.



In the first few weeks, the children received artefacts in a bag. These were delivered to classrooms without any clues as to who they belonged to or what period of History they represented.



The children worked hard to use their prior knowledge to identify, 'who' did the objects belong to, 'what' period of History does it represent, 'how' does this period of History compare to today and 'what' legacy was left behind.

As a result of the children's great detective work, each year group put together a board to display this knowledge. This now forms the basis of our History chronology line displayed in the hall. As different periods of History are studied, classes refer to this or add to this in different ways, a good example being the reflections done during Remembrance Day.

Great detective work children!

Miss Marchi

Nursery

Superpowers

What a fantastic start to Nursery! This autumn term, the children have been busy exploring our learning question 'Does Everybody Have a Superpower?'

We enjoyed learning all about fictional superheroes and then we learnt all about real superheroes! We explored the people who help us and how they help us. We even had a very special visitor join us in nursery - it was the police! We loved trying on their uniforms and learning

more about how they help us in Gatley. After this, we explored a real superhero who really made a difference. We loved learning all about Florence Nightingale. We made medicines, explored our doctors' surgery in the Communication Hub and even went into the Forest Area pretending to be nurses.

All of this learning helped us to form a Christmas production called 'A Paddington Christmas Adventure.' This captured all of the children's learning in Nursery as Paddington went

on an adventure looking for a special person. He met lots of people who help us along the way. Everyone is so proud of the children and how well they performed. We were also very lucky to be greeted by an elf in our classroom on the 1st of December! The elf brought us a Christmas tree, some decorations and a new class text 'Dear Santa.'

We are very excited to begin our new learning in the spring term on 'How do things change?'



Reception

Who Are We?

Over their first term in Reception, the children have wowed us with how wonderfully they have settled into life at Gatley Primary School and how eager they have been to learn.

Delving into our overarching learning question, 'Who Are We?', we all got to know one another and enjoyed sharing about our families, values and beliefs. We built an understanding of how it is important to be unique and special, celebrating our differences together. Taking advantage of our brilliant local community and environment, the children have learnt about our Gatley community, considering the places and people they might find and the important role that they each play. We have been lucky to welcome so many visitors, including a dentist and a member of the local Islamic centre, as well as being able to venture out into the local community to Gatley Carrs, Elm Road URC halls and St James' Church.



Rounding off the term with a bang, we put together a spectacular performance of 'How the Grinch Made New Friends', accumulating all that we have learnt about ourselves, our friends and our journey so far at Gatley Primary. We are immensely proud of all that the children have achieved and cannot wait to see them shine in the New Year.



Year 1

What Makes Britain Great?

This term, Year 1 have been exploring the question 'What Makes Britain Great?'

We started the year by learning all about The Great Fire of London. We learnt all about Samuel Pepys and his secret diary, and even sang the song 'London's Burning'.

Through our Geography sessions, we learnt about the four countries in the United Kingdom and their capital cities, whilst finding out about what physical and human features were in each country. We then used our understanding of the countries and our new knowledge of materials to support our creation of some amazing landmark structures as part of our DT project. We loved designing and making Tower Bridge, Buckingham Palace, Edinburgh Castle, The Titanic Museum and the Principality Stadium.

We wanted to find out if all countries are the same, so we compared the countries in the United Kingdom to Brazil, where we explored the weather, the art, the language and many more things!

In our Computing lessons, we have been learning about algorithms and how these can be used not only on the computers but also in real life. We explored this when we wrote our own algorithm for how to make toast and then we even tried making and eating it!

Next term, we are very excited for our new topic "How Do We Grow?" and for our production that will take place in February!



Year 2

The Shape of the Past

This autumn term, Year 2 have been exploring the question 'How Have Events of the Past Shaped Us?'

We enjoyed learning about The Great Fire of London and we were very lucky to have a visit from both Greater Manchester Fire Service and our firefighter parent! Whilst learning about materials this term, we worked collaboratively to design our own Tudor houses. In Science, we experimented to see how long it takes fire to spread when setting alight a cardboard, wood and brick Tudor house to support us in answering our sub-question 'What Causes a Reaction?'

Later in the term, we enjoyed participating in our Social Responsibility project, where we completed a range of jobs at home in return for donations. We visited our local foodbank to learn more about how it runs and to ask about the items they most



needed; we then purchased these items from our local Tesco. We have also developed our artistic skills and created beautiful pencil drawings of some of London's most famous monuments. More recently, we have learnt how to travel from one place to another, using compass directions, an atlas and a key. This supported us in learning the different continents and oceans of the world in our Geography lessons. We are very much looking forward to our spring term topic and in particular, going on our trip!



*Have lots of
Festive Fun!*

*From us all at
Gatley Primary School*



Year 3

Stone Age Story

This term, Year 3 have enjoyed journeying back to the past and learning all about the Stone Age whilst thinking about the question, 'Can Rocks Tell a Story?'

Starting in the Palaeolithic Era, we learned about hunter-gatherers and cave paintings. Continuing with the Mesolithic Era, we explored the change in homes and ways prehistoric humans lived. Entering the Neolithic Era, we discovered the unusual houses of Skara Brae and even had the chance to design and build our own Stone Age shelters. Bringing our learning to life in our Forest School, we continued to develop our skills of building Stone Age shelters. In addition, we learnt how to light a fire and roast a very well-known sugary Stone Age sweet – marshmallows!

Our budding scientists have thoroughly enjoyed gaining knowledge about the different types of rocks and how they are formed. We have even questioned whether rocks can be magic through experimenting with crystals.

Our learning about Mary Anning, the world's greatest fossil hunter, inspired us to explore fossils in more detail. Our creativity has shone brightly when we learned how to print in art using ink and rollers. We produced beautiful fossil prints of ammonites.

We can't wait for our spring term topic answering the question "What Lays in the Rainforest?"

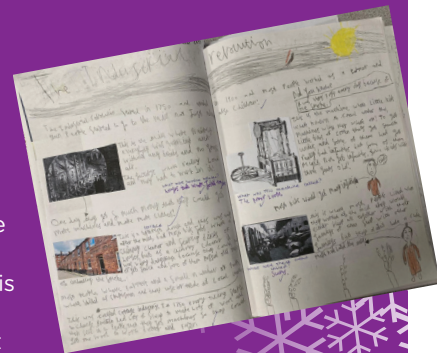


Year 4

Changing Technology

This term, Year 4 have been asking the question 'How Has Technology Changed over Time?'

To help us consider this, we studied the Industrial Revolution in our History sessions, learning about the significance of Manchester as the first industrial city. This led to a fantastic trip to Quarry Bank Mill at the end of term – the children represented the school incredibly well, and we were able to share what we had learnt at school as well as extending our knowledge. It was great to see our learning come to life in a genuine cotton mill!



In Science, we investigated electricity, creating our own complete series circuits using wires, bulbs, cells and switches. We then used this knowledge to design, create and evaluate our own Strictly Come Dancing-inspired torches, considering a range of design aspects including audience, functionality and innovation. We also used technology to create in other subjects – we learnt weaving skills in our Forest School sessions, and were introduced to the various programmes in Microsoft Office during Computing lessons.

We then rounded our topic off by asking the question 'Is Technology a Good Thing?'

We were inspired as we were introduced to the Earth Shot Prize 2022 nominees, and explored how they were using technology to positively impact the environment to reverse the changes brought on by the Industrial Revolution.



Governors

Dear Children, Parents and Carers,

Thank you for a fantastic autumn term! I say it every newsletter, but as a Governor it really is a privilege to walk round school and talk to the children, hearing about what they've been learning and how that connects to subjects/broader concepts, all the way through from Nursery to Year 6.

As a Governing Body, we've participated in a few School Self-Evaluation activities this term, but the one that sticks out for me

was the curriculum review for Humanities and Science subjects because the children were even more involved... Curriculum Leads and Governors always walk round and talk to pupils and staff, but this time, selected groups of children from each year group were given an iPad with the brief to take photos/videos of examples of the 6 Cs approach - could they spot an example of children demonstrating "Connectivity" or "Curiosity" and then present it back...?

The feedback from the Pupil Council was amazing! The different year groups worked so well together, with the older ones helping the younger ones. They were so perceptive and it was lovely to see them really think about what those broader concepts meant.

I hope you all have a fabulous festive break and look forward to whatever next year holds!

Lisa Dennis, Chair of Governors

Year 5

Respect Our Oceans

What a great first term we have had in Year 5!

Since September, we have explored our learning question, 'Why Are the Oceans Worthy of Respect?'

Within this, we have considered how our oceans support life, where in the world our oceans are, who has flown across them, and how we can protect them. The children have been so enthusiastic about this and shown their learning in many ways.

It has been wonderful to see the talents of the children in a range of subjects. From Music to Maths, RE to Geography, the children have all shown their unique talents throughout the year. A special treat for the children this term was our Christmas workshop visit at The Kingsway School, where we were able to decorate our own Christmas bauble and get a feel for life in high school - we know the children are excited to return there at later dates this year.



We must say a special thanks to yourselves for the support you have shown towards your child's learning this year and the support you have shown ourselves too as a staff team. The successes of the children this term are very much a combined effort and we thank you for providing the support that you do.

There is lots to look forward to in spring term and beyond, but for now, may we take the opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and successful 2023.

Year 6

Wonder of Change

Year 6 have had a fantastic autumn term exploring the question 'Is Change Inevitable?'

As part of this, we have delved into The Theory of Evolution in Science, discovered how civilisations have changed and grown over time in History and we even investigated how natural processes can affect the land in Geography.

As well as all of this rich learning, Year 6 represented Gatley Primary wonderfully in a number of community events, including



performing a range of Christmas songs at Bethany Church's Carol Service and visiting some of the elderly residents in our community at Elm Road's coffee morning.

We also attended a brilliant transition day at The Kingsway School, taking part in a range of arts

opportunities such as drama, dance and art.

Next term, we are looking forward to exploring Manchester's past in our topic 'Why is Manchester Well Placed to Influence?'

PTA

The PTA would like to thank everyone who came to support our Christmas Fair, which raised a total of £2,950!

After a couple of quiet years due to Covid restricting our activities, it was lovely that we could put on both a Spooky Disco for the children and a Christmas Fair for families this term.

The money raised will go towards activities at school, such as class trips and external visitors, which will benefit all of the children.

Events can only happen with the help and support of the teachers and parent volunteers. If anyone would like to help the PTA by volunteering in any

way, this will enable us to put on larger scale events that everyone can enjoy. Please contact the school office or email donations@gatleyprimarypta.co.uk for further information on how to volunteer.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our events in 2023!