

Owl Post

Issue: 22 - December 2019



Welcome

Hello Parents and Carers,

I hope you enjoy the newsletter and finding out about all the things your children have been doing this term.

There have been many moments when I have felt very proud of the children and staff; it is a privilege every day to see their learning and conduct in school, but there have also been opportunities to see our children perform outside school at events such as the lacrosse tournament, singing at Bethany Church and performing as part of PTI. Developing our links with the community is something I am keen to continue to strengthen. Recently, Elm Road Church allowed us to use their new stage for the Christmas Production/Nativity and to see our youngest children get up on the stage in front of such a large audience was testament to how much our children grow up in just one term. We look forward to seeing all of our future productions on this stage for every year group.

The new pathway into the playground is being well used and, along with the earlier opening of doors and Reception class pick up area, this is serving to ease congestion at drop off and collection times. The chaperoned service into school is now running at an average of 15 children and is a wonderful assistance to our parents who drop off by car. We are also looking to open a new gateway on the other side of the playground. This will mean parents can park at the Scout Hut/Gatley Hill carpark and children will enter the school via the allotment pathway.

My final note is about our wonderful staff. We have had a number of new staff this term who have joined us and quickly adapted to our unique curriculum and approach to learning with the fantastic support of the rest of the team. Sadly, however, Mrs Platt who has taught in the school for over 14 years will be leaving us to go and take some well-earned time with her beautiful grandchildren, who visit Gatley Primary regularly. She has been an immense support to the pupils and staff at the school and we hope that 'knit and knatter' club will continue in her absence.

I would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas together.

Mrs McManus
Head of School

Young Gatley Village Partnership



The Young Gatley Village Partnership council have been busy monitoring traffic around school and promoting use of the 'Walking Bus' service by handing out leaflets at the front of school.

They have worked with our local PCSOs to run patrols in the morning and afternoons, and have reminded drivers about responsible parking as well as the restrictions outside the school gates during certain hours.

The PCSOs also delivered assemblies to all the children about the importance of traffic safety.

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Nursery

Marvellous Me

What a wonderful first term we have had in Nursery. Through our topic, "Marvellous Me", some of the activities the children have enjoyed are creating paper plate faces, re-enacting the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears, describing characters and sequencing stories.

During the term, we have also learnt about different festivals and events and welcomed visitors into Nursery to show artefacts and share information. Activities have included: making our own clay Diwali lamps, chalking Rangoli patterns, as well as creating colourful bonfire paintings.

Recently, the children have enjoyed learning about Christmas and putting on a wonderful performance for parents and families. The children sang with enthusiasm, and performed their roles extremely well.

The Nursery staff are very proud of all the children and we would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.



Year 1

What are toys made of?

The children have had a fantastic first term in Year 1. They have enjoyed writing lots about Toy Story and making their Forky, Alien and Mr Potato Head using a range of different materials.

They then explored old and new toys and what they are made of. They thoroughly flourished during our trip to Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery, where they were able to develop their learning further and share what they already knew. This term, Year 1 also planned and performed their assembly. The children made us so proud, sharing their learning of toys and inventors, phonics, predictions and much more. More recently, the children have become excellent with their understanding of routes and algorithms in computing. It has been such a busy term but we have loved it!



Reception

What would it be like to be...?

The children have settled in really well! They have made lots of new friends and have thoroughly enjoyed looking at many different occupations; from a farmer to an actor, and a mermaid to a chef, which inspired them to make their very own pumpkin soup!

We have been lucky enough to have special visits from a real-life ballerina, a scuba diver and one of our dads who talked to the children about Judaism.

Our topic made us wonder what it would be like to be an actor, and this is where our production was born. We were all inspired by the kindness



of Edgar the Dragon so the children decided to design our Christmas production around him. The children all showed off their fabulous acting skills and produced a show that was truly amazing!

We are so proud of all they have achieved this term and feel very lucky to have such a wonderful group of children who work well to collaborate and achieve.

Year Groups

Year 3

Travelling Back in time



What a term we have had! Year 3 have travelled back in time to Ancient Egypt, and have enjoyed exploring all about the Egyptian way of life, including mummification, gods and Pharaohs, and Howard Carter's ground-breaking discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb.

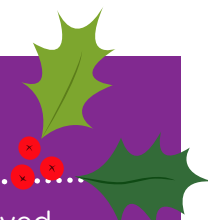


This was all topped off with our trip to Bolton Museum, where the children's learning came to life and they were able to impress our amazing tour guide, Rob, with all of their knowledge!

This term we have also been busy learning about light and shadows, and how a shadow's size changes depending on how close it is to a light source. In PHSE we have discussed the importance of sharing our feelings and emotions and how these can change depending on the circumstances we find ourselves in. We were so proud of the children for sharing a personal challenge they have faced in the past and what strategies they used in order to overcome the challenge.

Year 4

Horrible Histories



This term, Year 4 have really enjoyed learning about our Topic 'Horrible Histories: The Remix'.

We started our fact gathering on our trip to the Palace Theatre, where we watched 'Horrible Histories: The Terrible Tudors, live on stage'. This was a fantastic opportunity for the children to use this as a springboard to further their understanding and harness their love of History and all things Tudor.

We have created some fantastic portraits of ourselves as Tudor Kings and Queens and become our own architects by designing our own Tudor homes that rival the grandeur of Bramhall Hall!

Year 4 have really enjoyed the opportunity to work on some Tudor dance, looking at various dance styles, from a Tudor Tango to a graceful waltz. We are looking forward to sharing all that we have learnt in our Topic with you at our Year 4 production in January.



Year 2

Just One More Chapter



Year 2 have had a wonderful first term! Everyone has thoroughly enjoyed diving into lots of books with our topic 'Just One More Chapter'. The children have especially liked exploring famous illustrators for books and we have seen plenty of their own beautiful illustrations too in the style of Quentin Blake! We loved our visit from a real life illustrator too!

The children have really impressed us with their perseverance skills and developing their confidence in our PHSE lessons. We have been particularly busy in science; investigating properties of materials and learning about food chains. Year 2 have been very lucky to have had family visitors in too; we enjoyed learning about coding and learning about Hanukkah!

We are very excited for our next topic - Man vs World!



Year 5

Where in the World?



Year 5 have had a brilliant first term and have shown buckets of enthusiasm towards their learning. Our topic, 'Where in the World?' has inspired the children to discover many interesting things about Mexico and learn all about the country's history, location and traditions. This was a fabulous theme to base our autumn assembly on, and it was clear to see the amount of work the children have done and the knowledge they have gained.

This term, we have also visited The Kingsway School and worked with their art department to decorate Christmas baubles. The children had a wonderful afternoon, and we have arranged for more visits over the coming terms as part of our transition sessions.



Next term, our topic will be, 'Flashback to the Past' and we will be looking at the Victorians and the impact they still have on our lives today. As well as all of this, we will be starting our swimming sessions on a Monday!

Finally, thank you so much for your support this term; we wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

PTA

Thank you for your on-going support



The PTA would like to thank all parents, students and staff for their on-going support towards our fundraising events. It's only by your kind donations to our weekly requests that enable their continued success.

You may have read through ParentMail that the Christmas fair achieved £3,055 which we're thrilled to announce is a rise on last year's event, and funds which will go towards learning opportunities and Dojo rewards for the children throughout the year. These funds are greatly needed by the school and the PTA plan to host regular events throughout 2020 with the help of your support.

This term you may have noticed the recent development of the quad area which has been newly landscaped, along with the introduction of wooden teepee structures. These structures have been added to the quad area for the children to utilise as an outside space for learning and development. The teepee structures, which were only made available due to the money raised by your support, were greatly received by the children who were very excited



with the new addition and are already putting them to great use.

The PTA is run by parent volunteers who have children in school. We always welcome new parents who would like to help. There are lots of ways to get involved in the PTA; should you have experience that could help with running school disco's or cinema nights for the children, or add new stalls to our Christmas or Summer fairs we'd like to hear from you.

On behalf of the PTA I'd like to wish everyone a merry Christmas, and if you would like to find out more about the PTA, you can contact us via the school website or at office@gatleyprimary.com

Thank you

Phil Charlton, PTA Chair

Year 6



Theory of Evolution

We have had a very busy term in Year 6! As well as learning about early man and the Theory of Evolution, we also looked at politics, the voting system and Human Rights.

In our assembly, we discussed The Big Bang Theory, Creationism, What Makes Humans Unique? and we even spoke some German!

As part of our transition, we visited The Kingsway School where we danced to 'The Greatest Show', and performed it for our parents and carers at the end of the day. We also designed posters to advertise a circus, which we based on the film The Greatest Showman! We had lots of fun and really enjoyed working with the teachers there.

Back at school, we painted Dreamscapes which we used to inspire a piece of our own descriptive writing.

In the run up to the election, we looked at Brexit, parliament and democracy. We also looked at other countries and their political systems. We learned about how voting works in the UK, and how governments are elected, including a hung parliament and how coalitions can be formed.



As part of our democracy lessons, we learned how to code using Scratch, and how Alan Turing cracked the Enigma Code. We used the Caesar Cipher Code to decode messages and to write our own secret messages. We also discussed ways in which Gatley Primary School is democratic:

“Choice is displayed everywhere in our learning environment: this gives us more freedom in what we learn about and choose to do.”

“We hold elections for school councils; we vote for the person we want to represent our class. We do this because then the vote is fair and everyone has a say.”

“At the end of each term, we have a dojo treat to celebrate our achievements. Our ideas are put forward and we do the one which gets the most votes.”

“We get to choose. This has a big impact on us as the choices we make bring responsibility.”



Next term, we are looking forward to our next topic, 'Righting our Wrongs', where we will be researching subjects such as plastic pollution and renewable energy.

Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

The Year 6 Team.

School Term Dates

SPRING TERM 2020

Term 1	Monday 6 January (9.00 am) – Friday 14 February (3.30 pm) 2020
Half Term Holiday	Monday 17 February – Friday 21 February 2020
Monday 24 February 2020	In-service day for Staff – School Closed to Pupils(3)
Term 2	Tuesday 25 February (9.00 am) – Friday 3 April 2020
Spring Break	Monday 6 April – Friday 17 April 2020

Governors

From strength to strength

It's the end of another very busy term. The term has seen the opening of the new Upper Key Stage 2 learning area and the outdoor dining area, both of which I know the children love to use. We've also seen the new format of the Star of the Week assembly and I know parents (and children) have enjoyed being able to share this important celebration together.

Everyone associated with the school should be immensely proud of the continued excellent work of the school and it's staff, which enables

children to become engaged and independent learners. The data shows the school to be the 82nd best in the whole country (out of nearly 21,000) in terms of results of Reading, Writing and Maths combined at the expected standard at Key Stage 2. This means it is in the top 0.5% of primary schools in the UK. Similarly, the 2019 outcome data identifies that "pupils in the school achieve consistently above national average benchmarks in all subjects". During this term, the school has also commissioned a review of leadership and management with a former Ofsted HMI inspector

who has, through their visit to the school, confirmed that the school continues to be outstanding. A great achievement for the school, not only in terms of results, but in the recognition of the high quality education and curriculum the children receive here.

Finally, I'd like to wish all the children, parents, staff and governors a happy (and restful!) Christmas and New Year.

Mike Chow
Chair of Governors

THE SUNDAY TIMES
Schools Guide 2020
Our 27th edition of Parent Power identifies the highest-achieving schools in the UK, ranked by their recent examination results

We were thrilled to see our school listed as the 101st school nationally in The Sunday Times Schools Guide 2020. Whilst this is based on scores in tests, we see it as a culmination of the outstanding education and care every member of staff gives to our school and its children. Of course, none of this would be possible without the support of our pupils, and you as their parents and carers, so a big thank you to all of you as well!

THE SUNDAY TIMES
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 23 2019

HOME SEARCH FEATURES SCHOOLS

Gatley Primary School

101 st= NATIONAL RANK	110 READING SCALED SCORE	111 MATHS SCALED SCORE
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