

# Owl Post



Issue: 23 - April 2020



## Fantastic Year 6!

What a fantastic term Year 6 have had! We have all thoroughly enjoyed our topic, 'Righting Our Wrongs' and have become so passionate about saving the planet!

**Year 6 have particularly enjoyed finding out about global warming- even performing a science experiment to prove this is happening- and about the issue of plastic pollution. We were so inspired to try and make a difference, we even went on a hunt in local shops for items with excess packaging and wrote letters to businesses in Gatley asking them to reduce the amount of plastic they use.**

More recently, Year 6 have shown great maturity when learning about animal conservation, and in particular the 'hot topic' of palm oil, and why this is not a simple issue to fix. To contribute to our learning about this, we went on a trip to Chester Zoo where we saw the orang-utans and were given a talk by the Zoo's Education Team, who explained what they are doing to help.

This trip was excellent and we all really enjoyed finding out about the role zoos play in the conservation of animals, whilst considering some of the threats that face wildlife and what we can do to make a difference.

As if that wasn't enough, this term we have also really enjoyed taking part in 'Make Your Mark'. 6JM chose to continue in the theme of our topic, creating, in collaboration with 3RR, a foodbank drop off station and holding a cake sale to raise much needed funds to support those less fortunate than ourselves. We were overwhelmed by everyone's donations and we raised over £100 in just one afternoon. 6CK joined forces with RRS to consider what makes a community and to explore some of Gatley's most iconic buildings and landmarks. Working with a local craft group, they produced two incredible 'community chairs' which proudly display some of Gatley's most famous places, including Gatley Primary, Piccolos and the skate park - to name a few.

**Well done Year 6 - you have all worked so hard all term and we have achieved so much!**



## Welcome

**We have had a truly unbelievable Spring Term! Who would have thought when we returned after Christmas that we would be in this position now?**

The main highlight has most certainly been Making our Mark and the staff have all included articles in this newsletter for you to hear even more about it! We started planning the event in January and I am so pleased we managed to squeeze it in before closure as it has made a huge difference to the way we connect with our locality. The school and its staff had suffered through negativity, particularly on social media, and it was what our team needed to buoy our spirits and remind us how valuable we are to the community.

Currently, we find ourselves in a difficult and unnerving situation. However, there

are always a great many positives to find in everything and the success of the home learning partnership we are engaging in has bowled me over. At Gatley, we take pride in the achievement of our children and how this continues to progress, and it looks like we are in this for the long haul at the moment. This has meant that learning at home took up where it left off at school and parents have managed to do this whilst working at the same time - you truly are an amazing bunch. I am also very proud of the children still coming in to school every day as their wonderful parents are key workers. Everyone in the community is doing their thing; whether that be educating at home or working to keep our essential services going.

I would also like to thank our staff for the wonderful job they are doing both at home and in school to try and maintain normality, and for their

contribution towards keeping our children happy and settled. I would also like to say thank you and goodbye to Mrs Hudghton, who is leaving us in order to spend more time with her family. Mrs Hudghton started with us as a parent volunteer almost 18 years ago and very quickly became part of our Gatley Primary family. She has been a great support and the children and staff will miss her dearly.

I hope that, like me, you have been able to take time to see how clever and independent your children are, and have been able to reflect upon what is really important in life- them!

Please look after yourselves and keep active on Dojo.

**Mrs McManus,**  
Head of School





# Nursery

## Wild and Wonderful

**It has been another busy term in Nursery! Through our topic, 'Wild and Wonderful', we continued to use the children's ideas to plan exciting learning opportunities. The children enjoyed the stories: A Bucketful of Dinosaurs, Dinosaurs in the Supermarket as well as Super Market Zoo. These stories have inspired the children in their writing as well as in their maths activities!**



This term, we received an exciting surprise which was an envelope delivered and addressed to the Nursery children. Inside there was an egg and a letter explaining that it had been found in Gatley, and asking if the children could look after it. Not knowing what was inside, they took good care of it until it hatched. It was a dinosaur which they named Dippi!

We have also enjoyed finding out about different celebrations: Emma's mummy and Chenzhi's mummy came to talk to the children about Chinese New Year. We continued the celebration by creating our own dragon dance and music which we performed in the hall.

As part of our community project, 'Make your Mark', the children were thrilled to go out into the local area to look at the different shops and businesses that make up our wonderful Gatley village. Some children were lucky enough to sit in

a police car and some had a tasty ice cream treat!

Working with the Year 3 children, Nursery then designed and decorated plant pot covers. We wanted to give something back to the community to say a big thank you for all their hard work so we planted flowers in the pots and then took them back to the shops as gifts.



# Year 1

## Home and Away

**WOW! Year 1 have been so busy this term. They have been so engrossed in our topic, 'Home and Away', travelling around Australia and England and making comparisons between the two.**

We learnt about different animal structures and all about the different groups animals belong to. It was so exciting finding out facts about kangaroos! In our art lessons, we created our own Aboriginal art piece - which took lots of patience and concentration, but the finishing products were beautiful!

The children have amazed us this term by working hard to develop their music and drama skills when preparing for the Princess and the Pea performance. After several weeks in school, learning the songs and retelling the story, the children arrived at the Lighthouse Church in Salford, all



dressed up as characters from the story and eager to take part in the interactive vocal performance. Thirty-three classes from across the Greater Manchester Music Hub took part in the day and it was such a special experience for the children.



Later in the term, 1CL chose to continue with the animal related ideas, working alongside 4CM, designing and selling our own hanging birdhouses to raise money for Gatley Carrs as part of our whole school project 'Make Your Mark'. We have been astonished with the positive collaboration between the two classes, and they really made us proud as we went on our walks around the Carrs. 1MJ paired up with 5CD and for their project they took some beautiful photographs on their walk around Gatley Village. They have since begun to sell these and raise money for a local cause. It has been such a wonderful experience to watch the project unfold!





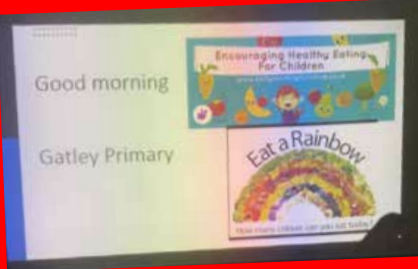
## Reception

# Where Does Our Food Go?

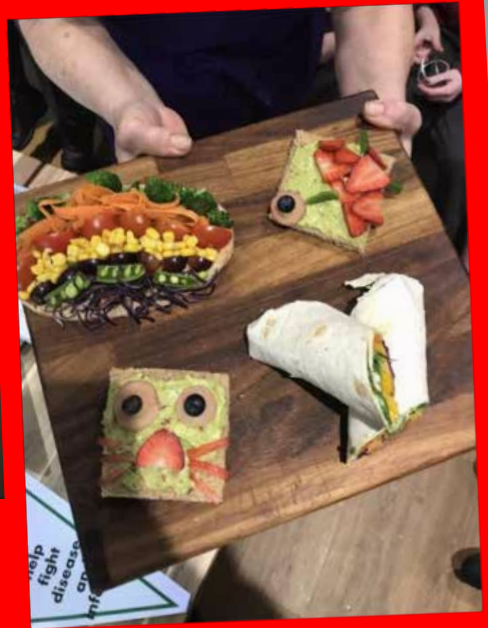
Reception have had an exciting term working on their topic 'Where Does Our Food Go?' We have used maps to find out where we live and investigated the route which the whale took in the story of 'The Snail and the Whale'.

On our journey, we learnt about different foods from around the world and thought about what our favourite foods are. Pasta was a favourite! Through our literacy work, we made bread and recalled the story of 'The Little Red Hen'. We then used our bread to make sandwiches. What happens when we've eaten our food? was a very popular question with Reception and so we became scientists in order to discover the journey of our food through our bodies. We learnt about why we need to digest our food and identified the main organs involved in digestion. We linked our learning of foods and healthy snacks to designing packaging for a healthy snack. We challenged ourselves to create packaging by reusing and recycling other materials, developing our understanding of why recycling is important in protecting our environment.

Class RRCL teamed up with 2EO for our 'Make Your Mark' community project. We worked on an exciting project with a local business 'The Spinn' in Gatley where we were lucky enough to design a healthy meal for their children's menu. Part of our project involved us visiting The Spinn to take part in a workshop looking at, tasting and learning about healthy foods and why healthy foods are



important for our body. We even tried avocado brownies, avocado ice cream and home-made guacamole; who knew you could achieve so much with a simple avocado! The children in both year groups collaborated together throughout our project, including on their exciting menu designs. We very much look forward to seeing the appearance of one of our meal designs on The Spinn menu in the future.



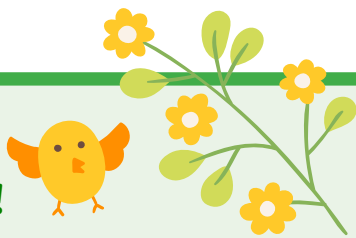
RRS teamed up with 6CK and the lovely ladies from St James' Church craft group to make not one but two Gatley chairs! The children went for a walk around Gatley and took photographs of their favourite place. The children then donated their old clothes to sew their chosen place together within their teams; some even had the chance to work with their Reading Buddies! The children worked so well together as a team to reupholster these beautiful armchairs which enabled us to make two!

RRC teamed up with 4DT to make blankets for Greenbank Veterinary Clinic, with the help of the staff from The Kingsway School and some excellent parent volunteers. The children brought in items that they wanted to recycle in order to make the blankets and also bought some extra bits from the Sue Ryder charity shop in the village. It was wonderful to see such lovely relationships being made between the children and watch them all developing a new skillset... sewing!



## Year 2

### Man vs World!



**Year 2 have had a fantastic, busy term working on their new topic 'Man vs World'. We have learnt about many famous explorers who have travelled far and wide, including Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay (the first people to reach the summit of Mt Everest!).**

This linked to our literacy, where we wrote fabulous diary entries in the mind of Hillary and Norgay, using past tense verbs and exciting expanded noun phrases to describe their journey up the highest and most dangerous mountain in the world! We have particularly enjoyed studying famous Asian landmarks and man-made buildings. We used our knowledge to inspire us to create our own buildings in D&T. We challenged ourselves to come up with detailed design plans using recycled materials to make our super structures! They took a long time to make but were definitely worth the hard work and effort!

Class 2EO and RRCL teamed up to 'Make Your Mark' on the Gatley community! We were working on an exciting project whereby we helped a local business, 'The Spinn' to create a healthy meal for their menu. We were very lucky to spend a morning visiting The Spinn; tasting delicious healthy food such as avocado brownies and homemade guacamole! All the children in both classes are very much looking forward to seeing one of their meals make a star appearance on



the children's menu! A big thank you to The Spinn for their generosity and for making our project so much fun!

For our other Make Your Mark project, 2ES collaborated with 5EC to write a song about Gatley. We needed to find out some information about the history of Gatley so met with a local choir group who shared their knowledge and showed us some photographs from many years ago. We then took this information and wrote our own song lyrics. The very talented Mr Butt put our lyrics to a backing track and we were lucky enough to go to Gatley Green and sing our song for the residents.

**"Gatley, Gatley, good old Gatley!"**



## Year 3

### It's a Hard Rock Life

**What a busy and scientific term we have had in Year 3. Our topic for this half term was called, 'It's a Hard Rock Life'. We learnt all about different types of rocks such as sedimentary, metamorphic and igneous rock and we conducted so many exciting experiments.**

Our favourite was when we used Starburst sweets to represent how different rocks can form together over time. We started by pressing them together lightly to represent sedimentary rock, then added heat and pressure from our hands for metamorphic rock and finally, we melted them in the microwave and observed how they bubbled and mixed to represent igneous rock. We did well not eating them! We loved finding out about rocks changing over time and ended our topic by learning all about volcanoes; learning all about where they are located and the different shapes they can be.

In other subjects, we have been practising our French skills by linking our learning about bodies to their French names. We completed some creative music pieces in groups based on volcanoes and we all learnt a fantastic volcano dance with Miss Kendall.

A big part of this term saw us working with different classes on our 'Make Your Mark' projects. 3SN worked with Nursery to learn about what makes Gatley unique and we thought about how we could thank local businesses for all they do to make Gatley so special. The children worked with the Nursery children to create Gatley inspired art work to go

around flowers that they planted, and then gave them to local shops and businesses as a thank you. They made so many people smile with their gifts and we have seen lots of pictures of the plants popping up on various Facebook pages.

3RR worked with 6JM on an exciting project where they created a local foodbank drop off point. They worked with Year 6 to think about what foodbanks are and why they are so important to local communities. They then created posters on computers to advertise the foodbank drop off point to local people. Not only this, but they also held a cake sale at Elm Road Church to raise money for the local foodbank located at Trinity Church in Cheadle. The cakes quickly sold and they raised over £100! They were so impressed with the wonderful generosity of children and adults in our school and community with their array of kind donations.

We will fondly remember all the exciting things we did and we hope our community work leaves a lasting legacy in Gatley.





## Year 4

### Lights, Camera, Action



This term we have become 'Super Scientists' as part of our topic 'Lights, Camera, Action'. We all decided that music, sounds and lights were very important in cartoons and films. We asked questions about how sound travels and how light is produced on an animation set like Wallace and Gromit.

Through a variety of fun experiments, we learnt how to change the pitch of a sound using milk bottles full of different amounts of water and a set of rubber band guitars. We also learnt how to show that sound is a vibration using some rice and a drum. Using all the elements of a simple circuit, we learnt how to make the bulb light up and could predict whether or not the circuit was complete.

We also had a fun time in the 'Make your Mark' fortnight.

Mrs Mulligan's class worked with Miss Lowe's class in Year 1. We enjoyed our nature walks to Gatley Carrs and discussed what we could do to help the Carrs with future projects. We thought about raising money by decorating mini birdhouses and asking for donations from our families. We also worked with our Year 1 buddies to produce Gatley Carrs inspired music. We could use our science knowledge to explain how the sounds we were making travelled to our ears! We hope to ask for donations for our birdhouses as soon as we can.



Mr Taylor's class had the opportunity to work with Miss Catton's Reception class. We worked in pairs to create blankets that could be sent to Greenbank Vets, and also to a local hedgehog hospital. We had valuable discussions about the importance of looking after all aspects of our community, and managed to amalgamate these discussions into a fantastic maths and PSHE lesson. The maturity and all round leadership that the children showcased at all times throughout the fortnight was fantastic, and they have made lasting friendships from this.

## Year 5

### Flashback to the Past



Year 5 had an action packed term and have shown many of their fabulous attributes. Our class trip to Quarry Bank Mill was a wonderful day out and a fabulous way of learning what life was like for children in the Victorian era.

We saw where children lived and what their schooling was like, as well as the incredibly tough conditions that they were forced to work in. The children were complimented by all of the staff on the day and were able to take this learning into their Year 5 production. We must say that it was amazing to see so many people attend the production; thank you for all your help in supporting the children learn their lines and by providing props and costumes for them to use. The children made us all proud and I know they loved the rehearsals, as well as showcasing their learning over the two shows.

We also worked with children from Year 1 and Year 2 and enjoyed our 'Make Your Mark' project. This was an opportunity to give something back to the community and the children in Mr Dunn's class took some amazing photographs which were taken home and have begun to raise money for a local cause. Miss Carter's class collaborated with Miss Spivey's class to write a song all about Gatley and sang it to residents of Gatley- which was gratefully received. The children again made us so proud and seeing them enjoy the responsibility of looking after their 'buddy' was extra special.



# What I love about choir...

In choir, we work together to create harmonies that sound really nice. We make pop songs sound like a gospel choir and everyone is friends. The teachers really help everyone to come forward from the shadows to find their musical talent.

They practise all the songs with us until we really get it, and if anyone is struggling, they help them until they do. I really like going to choir.  
Heidi Year 6



In choir, we have been learning songs chosen by the children and adults. Sometimes, a group of children are able to add their own harmonies! Usually, our teachers and helpers bring their own ideas to the choir making it unpredictable and fun! I really like going to choir because you can sit with your friends and we go on lots of adventures.  
Olivia Year 6

## Governors

**What an unusual term.... It started off as normal with the usual highlights of year group productions and assemblies, and the ever popular Star of the Week assemblies. Several important internal reviews also took place, one being a reading "Deep Dive" and another being a review of the quality of the curriculum. As usual, governors were involved in both and the outcomes were exceptional.**

As we face the many challenges presented by the COVID-19 virus, our daily routines and "normal" everyday life has been changed dramatically. Things we have previously taken for granted such as going to an office, to the shops and going to school have, for the majority of us been taken away for an unknown period of time. It seems appropriate therefore that I take a moment to extend the most heartfelt and deepest gratitude to three groups of people:

a) The amazing school staff who have continued to come to school to provide childcare for children of key workers, whilst working tirelessly at the same time-quickly adapting teaching methodology in order to continue to facilitate excellent remote-learning for our children. We as a school community (children, parents and governors alike) are lucky to have such a dedicated, inspirational staffing team.

b) To the incredible key workers across all sectors, but particularly within the NHS (including any of our school community who have volunteered to support the NHS at this time). I know I speak on behalf of the whole school, as well as the wider community when I say "thank you" for your dedication and public service.

and of course...

c) To the parents, carers and children of Gatley Primary School who have needed to make arrangements to work from home, and to implement the home education plans. The school is not just the "bricks and mortar", it is the community, the shared vision, the commitment and the desire for learning, as well as the support, care and collaboration between all of us connected with Gatley Primary. It is at times like this when we all pull together to support each other and our wider community. It is therefore imperative that we acknowledge the amazing work done by the parents, carers and children during this time so that the children's education continues as best as possible. Thank you.

It goes without saying that we do not know what the next few weeks, or months, may bring. What I do know is that I am proud to be associated with a school whose community is so amazing, dedicated and supportive. Thank you all for your support, to everyone and each other during this challenging time and I hope to see everyone back in school as soon as possible.

**Mike Chow**  
Chair of Governors

