

Owl Post

April 2025

Welcome



Skills for life

This term it has been full steam ahead with our Life Skills curriculum work. This is a really important part of our curriculum development, further supporting our personal development curriculum.

This curriculum has been expertly designed to develop the whole child through a focus on: Nature Detectives, Re-Wild Yourself, Self-Sufficiency, Agility, Endurance and Adventure Skills. See our webpage on Life skills for more information: <https://gatleyprimary.com/our-curriculum/Life-skills>.

Much of this curriculum is delivered though our outdoor environments and will be further supported next term as our Pop-up Pool arrives to develop Endurance, alongside other basic swimming skills, for the children. Miss Thomas has been a huge part of the construction of this curriculum and its delivery. Sadly, Miss Thomas is leaving Gatley Primary at the end of this Spring Term, to relocate to a school closer to her home in North Manchester. We thank Miss Thomas for everything

she has done for our school over the years and promise to keep her legacy living on through the delivery of the Life Skills curriculum.

We are so lucky to have the space in our school grounds to support the delivery of this curriculum offer and we have been even more fortunate recently, as the physical building has grown and developed to include an upper floor which our Year 6 children are enjoying! This extension has meant that we can reconfigure space internally, on the ground floor, to leave a spare classroom which we can convert into a new learning space. Next term we will be working with The Kingsway School, alongside innovators in the field of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths), to develop a STEAM lab in school. The children will be a crucial part in designing this learning



environment and we can't wait to hear their inspirational ideas.

Thank you to all families for your ongoing support to the school and the children through attending and supporting all the events and activities we hold, including those held by our amazing PTA. The funds raised at their events all go towards further enhancing our school, providing opportunities for our children that would not otherwise be possible.

Well done to all our children on a wonderful Spring Term and for all their achievements - academically and personally, with a special mention to the Alumni of Gatley Primary School, our now Year 7 cohort, whose SATs results were within the top 10% nationally as recognised by SSAT recently as 'exceptional outcomes'. Thank you also to all our staff who continue to work in creative and innovative ways to provide new and exciting opportunities for all.

Hoping you all have a restful Spring Break - ready for the Summer Term!

**Mrs Norman - Headteacher
& Miss Marchi - Associate Headteacher**



Nursery

How does change happen?

What a fantastic term the Nursery children have had exploring our big question 'How does change happen?'

We began by looking at what changes happen outdoors and used this knowledge to create the most beautiful stormy artwork. We then planted our very own seeds so that we can watch the changes as they grow within our Nursery garden.

Looking at how we can make a positive impact to our local community, we supported the local food bank and we had so much fun learning about healthy choices as well as making the most delicious fruit salads just like Oliver did in our class text! During our Maths sessions we have become super at counting and enjoyed creating patterns that repeat along with building our independence daily.



Reception

What can we discover about the world around us?

This term has been super busy! From our African drumming workshop to mini-beast exploring - we've done it all!

We began the term by reading *The Hungry Caterpillar* and *Superworm*, to help introduce ourselves to mini-beasts. We thought carefully about the different plants we might find and the different types of animals that we could see outside. Our learning was further enriched by a visit from Wild Workshops

where the children were able to meet a variety of mini-beasts up close!

We then visited Africa through *Handa's Surprise* in our topic and literacy lessons - this will culminate at the end of term with an exciting 'Africa Day' where we will consolidate and celebrate our learning.

We are so proud of what the children have achieved so far and are looking forward to an exciting Summer Term!



Governors

Dear Families,

I hope you're all aware of the fantastic parent workshops offered by the school, the dates of which are shared on ParentMail. However, it occurred to me that we don't often hear much about their impact after the event. I wanted to share my experience of a recent workshop I attended on early reading, phonics and fostering a love of reading - and how valuable I found it!

The session provided so many useful insights into how children learn to read, along with practical strategies

to support reading at home. It really gave me food for thought on how to encourage my children's reading in an individualised way that supports key educational approaches. The teachers' depth of knowledge was truly impressive, and their careful preparation was evident throughout. The workshop also offered a welcoming space to ask questions and gain a deeper understanding of early literacy. I want to sincerely thank the teachers for the time and effort they put into preparing these workshops.

There are workshops on a variety of topics, and while I know it can be

tricky to fit them into a busy schedule, I can honestly say they are well worth making the time for! If you've attended a parent workshop that you found helpful, I encourage you to share your experience with other parents - it's a great way to spread the word and help more families benefit from these fantastic sessions.

These are the sessions that are coming up in the near future:

- Thursday, 1st May 2025
- Thursday, 26th June 2025

Michael Merchant
Deputy Chair of Governors

Year 1

What is there to see across the Atlantic?

We have enjoyed being explorers this term, learning more about the different continents and oceans of the world.

We then deepened our knowledge by developing our understanding of different climates around the world, learning that some places are hotter than others. Following this, we took a deep dive into North and South America.

Focusing on North America, we looked at Mexico and the Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, creating our own self-portraits. More recently, a significant figure we looked at was Rosa Parks when we delved into the impact she had on society.

Consolidating all of our learning from Autumn and Spring Term, we constructed an outstanding production. We were so proud of the commitment shown by all of our children, as well as their dedication and enthusiasm when performing in front of a live audience. If you came to watch, we are sure you all agree that this was a huge success!

Throughout the term there has been a lot of exciting enrichment opportunities, such as Aspirations Week where we explored the different jobs within STEAM. We enjoyed walking around our local community, picking up litter and helping to keep our planet



clean. We also enjoyed our Science experiment where we observed the impact of water pollution in our oceans.

We are beyond proud of all that the children have achieved and cannot wait to see them shine in the Summer Term!

Year 2

Is there just one person in charge?

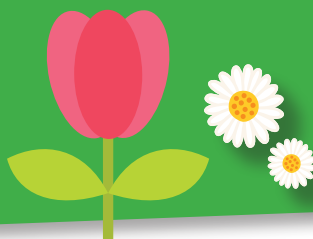
This term, Year 2 have feasted like Royals!

We have enjoyed deepening our historical knowledge of British Monarchs; learning gruesome facts about their wicked ways! We have made healthy wraps in our food technology lessons - where we included vegetables (unlike Henry VIII!).

Spring Term also welcomed our Life Skills sessions. We have been developing our team work skills and recognising British flora and fauna. We have made shelters and have been cloud watching! We are looking forward to our final term in Year 2, looking beyond our classroom to the wonders of space!



Spring is here



Year 3

What's under the umbrella?

We have had a fantastic second term in Year 3 exploring our learning question, 'What's under the umbrella?' The children have been engaged and enthusiastic as they have developed their knowledge across a range of subjects.

Our journey began with Science, where we explored skeletons and how they provide structure and movement to different animals. The children enjoyed identifying different types of skeletons and understanding how they help animals survive in their habitats. We then turned our artistic focus to Henri Rousseau, studying his unique jungle-inspired artwork. The children created their own beautiful rainforest scenes, experimenting with background, mid-ground, and foreground techniques.

As the term progressed, we returned to Science to study plants and animals, learning how they adapt to different environments. This linked perfectly with our Geography lessons, where we explored the impact of deforestation. The children demonstrated great empathy and awareness while discussing the effects of habitat destruction and what can be done to prevent it.



Next, we took a deep dive into the water cycle, following the journey of water through evaporation, condensation and precipitation. This learning was brought to life in DT, where the children designed and built their own moving models of the water cycle using levers and linkages. To end the term, we launched into our Global Citizenship project, advocating for the reduced use of palm oil. The children have shown great passion and determination in researching the effects of palm oil production and considering how they can make a difference. Their awareness and enthusiasm for global issues has been inspiring!

We are incredibly proud of the children's hard work and dedication this term. They have shown resilience, curiosity and creativity in every subject. We hope they enjoy a well-deserved break and we look forward to another exciting term ahead!

Year 4

How has Technology changed our lives?

The children have engaged with the theme of Technology across various subjects, investigating how it has evolved from the past to the present day.

We began our journey by examining the cause and effect of the Industrial Revolution, exploring key inventions of the time and how innovations like the steam engine paved the way for further advancements. More creatively, we investigated the significance of the Manchester worker bee, a symbol of hard work and unity. The children expressed their understanding through stunning wax resist paintings, incorporating meaningful icons that represent their own identities.

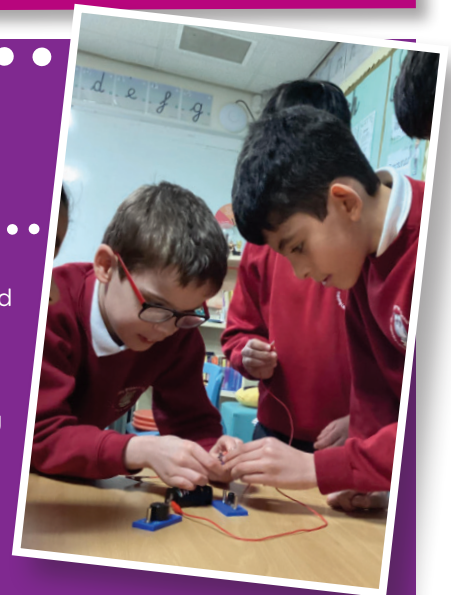
Building on this, we explored the science behind light and sound. The children worked with electrical flow and components to create their own circuits, applying these skills in DT where they planned and collaboratively built a functioning torch. Throughout the process, they demonstrated excellent

perseverance as they carefully assembled and tested their circuits.

This learning was further enriched during our STEAM-focused Aspirations Week, where we explored Global Goal 6: *Clean Water and Sanitation*.

The children embraced the challenge of thinking like a scientist, artist, and engineer, using technology to research statistics related to this real-world global issue.

To conclude the term, we wrapped up our learning with our highly anticipated production. The children worked exceptionally hard, rehearsing and performing with confidence and enthusiasm. We were incredibly proud of each and every one of them as they showcased their learning from across the year in a fantastic final performance.



Year 5

Is the world balanced?

Spring Term in Year 5 has been all about using our voices!

We have explored the changes in democracy over time, including deepening our understanding of who makes the decisions that impact our lives. The children created video campaigns as part of their Global Citizenship Project, where they spoke passionately about the importance of equality, specifically related to men and women in sports.

We also looked for balance in Science and DT, furthering our physics knowledge by working practically to understand forces and developing cooking skills to create balance within a recipe. In Geography, we had the exciting opportunity to compete a geographical fieldwork enquiry project, supplementing our knowledge of climate zones and biomes. We explored the climate and weather in our local area, using various different pieces of equipment.

There have been lots of exciting visits to The Kingsway School, with



experiences such as Mad Science and a STEM project. Finally, we have finished the term by creating some impressive art outcomes, showcasing colour mixing skills to create a range of hues.

Year 6

Why should we be proud to live in Manchester?

Year 6 have had a fantastic Spring Term! Our learning has taken us on a journey through Manchester's rich history of democracy, from the Peterloo Massacre to the rise of the Suffragette movement, and this learning was brought to life on our walking tour of Manchester.

In Geography, we have explored the evolution of land use in the UK, before taking a closer look at how Manchester's land use has changed over time as a result of rising population numbers and a change in the wants and needs of the people that live there, such as the increasing demand for international travel. We discovered that Manchester's location at the heart of the M60 and its established travel networks means that it is an accessible city for everyone to visit.

Throughout the topic, we have also been inspired by several significant figures such as Alan

Turing, Emmeline Pankhurst and even L.S Lowry, and have examined the impact that they have made on Manchester as a city. In our study of Art, we have explored the style and techniques of different Manchester based artists, such as Stanley Chow and Simone Ridyard. We have created our own 'Manchester Art Gallery' in our classrooms, with artwork inspired by their work.

Within this unit, Mrs Coleman and Mrs Lyall took us back to the 1990s



with a comparative study of Oasis and Take That - we're not sure who enjoyed it more!

We're very much looking forward to our Summer Term topic where we will explore the question, 'How can we create a successful society?'

