

Owl Post

Issue: 28 - December 2021



Welcome

Hello Parents and Carers,

We would like to thank our families and staff for making our chaperone services such a huge success! We now have 110 children over the week using our chaperone services over our three sites: Scholes Field, Bethany Church and Gatley Hill. This means there are potentially up to 110 less cars on the roads outside of school which helps to make our local community a safer place. If you would like to find out more about this, please contact the school office; we are always happy to see more and more children using this wonderful resource.

We would also like to thank all our staff who support the safe running of these services. Come rain or shine they are there to greet the children with a smile and Mr Bagnall is always there to make sure we cross the road to school safely. If you feel you could support the running of these services, we would welcome volunteers from within our parent community; again, please contact the school for more information.

Gemma Norman
Associate Headteacher

As the first term of the academic year ends, I would like to focus this message on my immense gratitude to the staff in our school. Not only have our teachers and leaders kept our children safe, they have worked incredibly hard to ensure that the learning experience has gone from strength to strength. In particular, I would like to recognise the efforts of our support staff who are the absolute bedrock of Gatley Primary and I know every other member of staff agrees.

Many thanks to the efforts of our administration and site team who have ensured the school remains a safe and welcoming environment for families; their significant efforts to ensure parents can come back in the building has been a moving experience. We say good luck to one member of that team - Mrs Fitzsimmons - who is leaving to follow a career in HR and we know her next team are very lucky to have her.

Enjoy reading our newsletter about the different things we have been getting up to but most of all, I hope you have happy holidays together with family and friends.

Mrs McManus
Executive Head of School

Have lots of
Festive Fun!

From us all at
Gatley Primary School

Is Everyone The Same As Me?

What an amazing first term we have had in Nursery. The children have loved making new friends, as well as developing their independence and teamwork skills.



During our topic, "Is Everyone The Same As Me?", the children have enjoyed talking about themselves and their families, thinking about what makes them special. To answer the question, "Do we all celebrate the same things?", we have been finding out about different festivals, including Diwali and Christmas.

Recently, the children put on a magnificent performance during our 'Christmas Sing Along', performing and singing with confidence and great enthusiasm.

The Nursery staff are very proud of how well all the children have settled. What a wonderful start they have made on their learning journey!



Reception



People and Communities

This term in EYFS we have worked hard to build relationships and make new friends. We have enjoyed collaborating in class and exploring new games to play at playtime and lunchtimes. As part of our learning, we have also looked at each of the key skill areas and what they mean.

This has helped us to understand how these skills support our learning and help us to learn in different ways. Starting in Early Years, the value of independence is an important skill to develop, for example the children take ownership of daily routines such as putting our coats on, looking after our own belongings, getting changed for P.E. and knowing the key areas of the learning environment.

As part of our work within the area of 'People and Communities' we have been developing an understanding of what being part of a community means and what is special about our community. We had a visit from



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Mrs Harris who told us about Piccolo's and how they support the community, as well as the work that the foodbank at Bethany Church does. Reverend Carlisle took us on a tour of St James's church and shared why the church is important within our community and we asked lots of questions because it was so interesting.

One of our biggest achievements this term has been the Reception Nativity. The children all blossomed in confidence as they created and produced such an inspiring performance of 'A Despicable Christmas: The Journey of the Star'. Each child spoke clearly and passionately and really put on a show. We look forward to seeing them on the West End in the future!

Year 1

Do Toys Help Us Learn?

Year 1 have had a fabulous first term. We have been answering the question "Do toys help us learn?" and we have read some amazing books to help us find the answer! We enjoyed reading *Toys in Space* and *Stanley's Stick*. We completed lots of writing this half term- from a recount of *Stanley's Stick*, to an information text all about toys. We have been doing so well in our phonics sessions, exploring alternative spellings for phonemes we have learnt.

In maths, we have been working hard to learn our number bonds, learn all about money, and how to find fractions of shapes, objects and amounts! To help us with our mental strategies, we have been practising counting in groups of ten, two and five.

During our topic lessons, we've found out all about the history of toys, what

toys and games are like in other countries and we even tried building our own toy. We followed the DT cycle, where we planned and designed the toys we wanted to build, then made them as a group and evaluated how effective they were; we really enjoyed being imaginative. We applied our creative skills in art when we practised different pencil techniques to achieve different effects.

In our PE sessions, we have enjoyed ball games such as basketball and football and have explored the competitive element to physical activity.

We look forward exploring a new question next term which will be the focus for our topic, 'Do all stories come from books?'



Year 2



Are Animals More Successful Than Dinosaurs?

What a wonderful first term in school Year 2 have had! We have been busy exploring the question 'Are animals more successful than dinosaurs?'

To help us answer this question, in science we have been looking at a range of fascinating animals and how they are adapted to their habitats. We then worked on our chronology skills in history, where we studied the prehistoric timeline of dinosaurs.

We also thoroughly enjoyed making our dinosaur habitat dioramas in D&T! In maths, we have practised addition and subtraction methods and have even become experts in statistics where we collected and interpreted data! We have enjoyed listening to and reading lots of wonderful books in our literacy lessons, including 'The Dinosaur Diaries'.

Year 2 have learnt many new grammatical features such as expanded noun phrases and adverbs. This has helped us to produce some fantastic pieces of writing such as our non-chronological reports about our favourite dinosaurs!



Year 3

Do You Have Talent?

We have had a fantastic first term in Year 3 answering the question "Do Year 3 have Talent?"



We've been learning all about different talents and how people have used their talents to make a positive difference. We've studied inspirational people such as Marcus Rashford and David Attenborough and the qualities that they have to possess in order to develop a talent. In music, we've been exploring musical notation and have devised our own 4-beat compositions!

We've also enjoyed working with Miss Towsey to develop a range of artistic techniques such as watercolours, oil pastels and collaging. In geography, the children have answered the question "In what ways can humans impact on the environment?", and we've developed our understanding of deforestation and plastic pollution. It was also important for us to consider the history of talents in our local area, such as Scotch Bob and the Hat Works in Stockport! Not only this, but we've also developed important life skills such as first aid and fitness. We can't wait to show off all of our learning in our production shortly after the Christmas break.



Year 4

Why Are We The Way We Are?

Year 4 have had a fantastic start to the school year, as we have answered the question, 'Why are we the way we are?'

We considered the religions of our country and local area, supported by a visit from Groundbreakers to help us understand what the Bible teaches about Jesus from our class reader 'Diary of a Disciple', as well as an informative trip to Yeshurun Synagogue.



In PSHE, we then learnt about self-awareness and how to recognise and regulate our own emotions, before moving onto a science focus for the remainder of term. We first looked at ourselves, asking how our bodies work, and investigating our digestive system and teeth in detail, before extending our knowledge of animals, classifying and comparing them.

Finally, it was important for us to think about the effect humans have had on the natural world, and what we can do to have a more positive impact. All this, plus art workshops, netball lessons, and much more. The children have been brilliantly engaged across all curriculum areas, and we can't wait to continue our explorations in 2022.



Governors

What a Term It Has Been!

As Governors, we've had the opportunity to come in to school, talk to children and staff, observe lessons and review the fantastic progress made on the building work. Each and every time we've been amazed at how the children are not only taking things in their stride, but are also continuing to achieve and build on their prior learning.

A key highlight for us was the curriculum assessment in November. We were so impressed by the children's ability to articulate their learning goals and how they translate to practical skills or bigger picture thinking - from weighing out a shopping basket to the implications of COP26 (I've definitely learnt a few things from them!).

We wish you all the best for the forthcoming festive period and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Lisa Dennis
Chair of Governors

Year 5

Learning From Conflict

We have had a brilliant first term in Year 5, answering the question 'Can we learn from Conflict?'

In PSHE, we have explored different ways to resolve conflicts in our lives and considered how to debate our different opinions in a respectful and constructive way. In history and geography, we then moved onto our study of World War II and explored how this conflict began as well as which parts of the world were affected. We thoughtfully considered how this conflict would have impacted ordinary people's lives on the Home Front.



Finally, in the last three weeks we have really challenged ourselves and have discovered why and how empires rise and fall and the long lasting influence that the British Empire has had on the world we live in.

Across the term, we have also enjoyed music, Spanish and art lessons too and have produced some fantastic work. The children particularly enjoyed our visits to The Kingsway School for the bauble making workshop and the science morning! It was really lovely to see the children get their first taste of secondary school life. The children have been so motivated and enthusiastic in their learning and we can't wait to continue this in the New Year!

Year 6

Amazing Autumn

Over an amazing autumn term, Year 6 have been working hard to answer our topic question 'How Do Animals Overcome Adversity?' In history and science, we studied classification and evolution and conducted an experiment to test Darwin's theory about the adaptation of finch beaks across the Galapagos Islands.

In geography, we studied biomes of the world and looked at how animals and plants adapt to suit their particular habitat. Did you know that native British trees lose their leaves in winter when there is limited sunlight for the trees to photosynthesise and to protect the trees from frost? Next, in art, we drew and made prints of fossils, experimenting to perfect our mastery of different printing techniques.



Over the term, a key highlight was our trip to Gatley Carrs, where we observed nature in our local landscape, helping us to answer our topic sub-question 'Is British Wildlife Unique?' As a result of our learning from this visit, we wrote letters to our local MP, Mary Robinson, to explain how important Gatley Carrs is to our local wildlife and how it deserves to be funded by the government. We all demonstrated our passion for conservation, applying our

understanding of persuasive devices and complex punctuation to add extra impact to our letters.

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.