

Owl Post

December 2025

Welcome



Dear Families,

As we draw to the end of Autumn Term, we reflect with pride on all our children and school community have achieved. This term, we have been able to welcome families from Year 2 and 4 into classrooms for our 'Bring your Parent to School' events and we were so proud to see our EYFS children so confident in both the Nursery and Reception productions.

It has also been lovely to see so many families on site to see and celebrate the children's work at book drop-ins and parent's evenings. We now look forward to the Bring your Parent to School events and productions which are still to come.

Additionally, we hosted, in collaboration with our PTA, a wonderful Winter Festival. This event was so well attended and provided a fantastic opportunity for the whole school community to come together and spend

special time together whilst raising much appreciated funds for the school.

Earlier this term, the school community also came together to host the 'Great Debate'. As a UNICEF Rights Respecting Gold School, we are committed to prioritising the Rights of the Child and ensuring our children's voices are heard and put at the forefront of decisions made. Keep reading this addition of 'Owl Post' for more information about this fantastic event!

Following The Great Debate, we have also held elections for our new Pupil Parliament members, who will be commencing in their roles next term and who are so excited to contribute to school development and to help make our school an even better place.

We are so proud of all of the children for their many achievements so far this academic year. Every day, they amaze us with their incredible knowledge and their aspirational learning behaviours. We also thank you all for your continued support of the school and we look forward to sharing more news, events and opportunities with you in the Spring Term.

Have a lovely break and we will see you all back in school on Tuesday 6th January.

The Senior Leadership Team.

The Great Debate

This term, our Pupil Parliament has taken on an exciting whole-school challenge: What is the most important change our school should make to become more energy-efficient and environmentally sustainable?

Each department worked hard to research, plan, and prepare a persuasive presentation to share with the whole school. Their ideas were creative, thoughtful, and demonstrated a brilliant understanding of how we can all help protect our planet.

During The Great Debate, departments presented a wide range of sustainability proposals -from

reducing waste and saving energy to re-using materials and improving our outdoor spaces. Every presentation showed teamwork, confidence, and a real passion for making our school a greener place.

After a very close vote, we are delighted to announce that the **winning departments** were...

Department for Reading and Literacy and the Departments for Health, Care, Sports and Enrichment.

The Reading and Literacy Department proposed creating a mini Eco-Library where children can swap books, share stories, and reuse reading materials -

promoting both a love of reading and sustainability. Meanwhile, the Health, Care, Sports and Enrichment Department would like to introduce a 'Smile for a Mile' week, giving children the chance to take part in daily physical activity, including running, throughout the week.

We look forward to seeing this Eco-Library and Smile for a Mile week come to life next term and celebrating even more fantastic ideas from our Pupil Parliament.

Well done to every single child who took part - you made this year's Great Debate a huge success!

Nursery

What is important to me?

What an amazing term the Nursery children have had; such a great start to their Gatley Primary School journey.

We began the term discussing our families and why they are important followed by discovering different feelings and emotions, with the support of The Colour Monsters.

The children then learnt about keeping themselves healthy and we enjoyed a visit from the dentist, learning all about oral hygiene. We finished the term sharing all the things we enjoy in our local community where the children have impressed us with their super knowledge.

The highlight of this term was the class production 'We're going on a Stable Hunt'. The children got fully immersed and made all the spectators feel very festive!



Reception

Where do I belong?

Reception have settled in so beautifully to life at Gatley Primary School and we are so proud of every single one of them.

We have been very busy this term, learning all about our families, our local community and even dinosaurs! The children blew us away with the knowledge they have acquired and can even tell us what a Palaeontologist does.

We had some very special visitors join us in our classroom... the cheeky elves! The children loved discovering

the mischief they got up to each day. The Reception children made nativity-themed decorations to decorate a tree at St James' Church. We got very creative and even made some sparkly donkeys out of bread! The trees were then displayed on Gatley Green.

We wrapped up the most magical term with our production, 'The Gateleysaurus.'



The children lit the stage with their exceptional singing and dancing. We could not be prouder of their confidence and sparkle. We can't wait to see what adventures next term brings!

Governors

Message from our Governors

Dear Families,

I say this every time I write something for the newsletter, but it is always a genuine pleasure to go into school and talk to the children - they are always so enthusiastic and articulate, and are an absolute testament to every single person that they interact with!

This term the children that represent the Health and Care Cabinet presented to Governors on the work they had done on the difference between conflict and bullying, creating a one-page document distilling the anti-bullying policy that could be displayed in all classrooms.

I loved the poster they have put together (and made sure they got their Dojo points)!

Enjoy the break, and see you in the New Year.

Lisa Dennis - Chair of Governors



*Festive greetings to
everyone at
Gatley Primary
School and best wishes
for 2026*



Year 1

What makes Britain memorable?

Year 1 have had a wonderful first term! We have been exploring our big question 'What makes Britain memorable?'

This has involved the exploration of our local area Manchester and further afield in London. The children have blown us away with their articulation of different places and significant monuments. We also became little explorers this half term, carrying out our Geography fieldwork task, observing the different types of trees at school and recording a tally to represent the number of deciduous and evergreen trees that we could spot on the playground!

We have learnt about some memorable significant events such

as The Great Fire of London, Emmeline Pankhurst's Suffragette Movement and King Charles III's coronation.

The children have even been able to chronologically order these events on our history timeline. More recently, we became artists, exploring the work of L.S. Lowry and Peter Stanaway. We experimented with different pencil techniques and reflected on different styles of art work.

Our favourite memory from this half term was our trip to the Science and Industry Museum. We loved learning about the different machinery, getting involved in the workshops about steam trains and experimenting with the different scientific interactive elements.



The children amazed us with their exemplary behaviour and social responsibility – they made us very proud!



Year 2

Does your birthplace have an impact?

What an amazing start to Year 2! Throughout this term we've been exploring the question 'Does your birthplace have an impact?'

Through our lessons, the children have journeyed around the world. We learned about Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole and discussed the difference they made during the Crimean War. We also explored how artists are inspired by the places they come from, studying the vibrant work of John Ndambo and the English painter John Constable. In Geography, we compared climates around the world and in Science, we explored

where different animals are born and how they adapt to their habitats.

As part of our Global Citizenship Project, the children chose to focus on the charity WaterAid. They learned about the importance of clean water and good hygiene and showed great compassion and enthusiasm in raising awareness for this vital cause. To support their efforts, we held a special Go Blue Day, raising money for WaterAid while having fun and learning about global responsibility.



Thank you to all our parents and carers for your continued support. It was lovely to see so many of you at our 'Bring Your Parent to School' morning. We wish you all a peaceful and happy Winter Break!



Year 3

Do rocks keep a secret?

Year 3 have had a fantastic first term settling into KS2 life! The children have been so engaged with our first big question 'Do rocks keep a secret?' which prompted us to explore pre-historic life from the Stone Age to the Iron Age. We are now experts in the lives of early humans!

Our outstanding historical knowledge was also showcased in our fabulous Stone Age shelters made in DT lessons. We dug a little deeper, becoming archaeologists and investigated how fossils are made. We then used this knowledge in our art sessions to make our own fossil prints using acrylic paint and rollers!

We have stayed active outside developing our Lacrosse and Netball skills. We are so proud of the children's outcomes in Autumn term and can't wait to start exploring our new big question about life in the rainforest. We are also looking forward to sharing our Year 3 production with families!



Year 4

What is the lasting legacy from the Ancient Egyptian Civilisation?

What a fun-filled Autumn Term we have had in Year 4, centring on our big question, 'What is the lasting legacy of the Ancient Egyptian Civilisation?' The children investigated this through a range of subjects, including **History, Geography and Science.**

Building on their prior knowledge of British pre-history, they developed a strong understanding of the importance and impact of the Ancient Egyptians.

In Geography, the children learned how the River Nile acted as a vital catalyst for travel and trade. In Science,



we studied states of matter before moving on to digestion, linking this learning to the Egyptian ritual of mummification and how it has helped inform our understanding of the human body today. The children were also able to engage with a range of artefacts, deepening their knowledge of significant inventions and structures that form part of this incredible legacy.

We also launched our Life Skills Curriculum, using forest school sessions to develop skills such as orienteering, structure building and risk-taking. The children have loved being outdoors and working collaboratively to strengthen these important life skills.

We are so proud of the children for their fantastic start to the academic year. Their behaviour and learning attitudes have been impeccable, which is reflected in the beautiful outcomes they have produced across the curriculum. It was a joy to showcase this to all of you, through our 'Bring your Parent to School' morning. Next term, we are excited to begin our second big question: 'How have humans shaped and advanced technology over time?'



Has Europe always been the same?

What a fantastic and fun-packed Autumn Term we have had in Year 5. While exploring our Big Question 'How has the world been affected by change?' the children have had the opportunity to be Historians, Scientists, Designers and Geographers!

Developing their historical understanding, the children have considered cause and effect when looking at why the war started and some of the significant events that took place. Researching the impact of the World Wars on life in Britain; we have learnt about rationing, evacuation and even had

the opportunity to design and make model Anderson Shelters. In Geography, the children learnt about the countries that were involved in the wars and the impact of their location. While learning about remembrance, we created beautiful poppy wreaths which we respectfully laid at Gatley Green War Memorial.

In Science, the children explored reversible and irreversible changes and had the opportunity to work practically when experimenting with soluble and insoluble substances. As part of our Life Skills Curriculum, the children all took part in Bike Ability sessions, developing their knowledge and skills of road safety and cycling. Finally, we have had our first of many visits to Kingsway where we took part in an exciting festive ornament workshop and we look forward to many more opportunities to visit.



Does the world ever stand still?

We have had a very exciting Autumn Term in Year 6! The children have transitioned seamlessly into life upstairs.

Our big question 'Does the world ever stand still?' has seen some incredible learning take place, including in Geography where we learnt all about sustainability, in History about the Early Islamic Civilisation and in PSHE all about rules, laws and friendship.

The children's outcomes have been outstanding and the way in which they articulate their understanding shows an excellent level of knowledge.

We also enjoyed a trip out to the Crucial Crew, where the children experienced a range of workshops with a focus on their life skills and developing independence. Many of the children have represented the school at tournaments and competitions, demonstrating impeccable social responsibility. Their sportsmanship and commitment were testament to how incredible the young people we have in Year 6 are.

We are looking forward to starting our second big question of Year 6 in the Spring Term, 'Why should we be proud to live in Manchester?'

