

Owl Post

December 2024

Welcome



Looking back with pride

Dear Families

As we reach the end of this Autumn term, and the year 2024, we look back with pride on all we have achieved together as a school community.

This term, we have been proud to be able to offer many opportunities to welcome families into school, including parent working parties, bring your parent to school mornings for Years 2 & 4, parents' evenings and book drop ins after school. We really value the support families provide in attending these special events.

Additionally, our incredible PTA put together our Winter Market, which saw families across the school come together. The PTA remain committed to investing in opportunities to enrich our curriculum offer. Last year, their fundraising supported the installation of the much-loved astro-turf and this year The PTA have pledged to support the development of a STEAM classroom, to enrich the delivery of these subjects. Contributions from families have also enabled us to put together a fantastic end of term Dojo Treat for the children, as celebration of all they have achieved.

We are also so very proud of all the children and all they have achieved this term, with all of the children settling well during the transition to their new year groups and new teachers. This is especially true of our new Reception and Nursery children. The way in which they

confidently performed in their Christmas shows illustrates just how well they have done this term and how far they have grown and developed. We have also heard from our now year 7 pupils and know they too have settled well into their new High School settings. This term, we have also welcomed new staff to our team, who have all become such an important part of the Gatley family and are excellent additions to our already exceptional team!

We are always so very proud of our children's outcomes and achievements and this year these have seen the school place 37th nationally, and 4th in the North West in The Times Parent Power tables! This is an incredible achievement for the children and the school and one that really does shine a spotlight on the high performance of our school at a National level. There are also many individual achievements to celebrate, and we are so proud of every child and the progress they have personally made this year. Some particularly impressive personal achievements have included Kirsten Bonfield (Y6) being chosen to sing alongside Paul McCartney at the Co-op Live arena; Emily Kendall's (Y3) Christmas card design being chosen, by our local

MP Tom Morrison, as the one to be sent to all residents across the Cheadle and Gatley ward; Eyad Mahmoud's (Y4) successes in the British Junior Squash Championships; and Freya Lally's (Y6) successes at the British Indoor Karting Championships, to name but a few!

We are very proud of all we have achieved together, this term and throughout this year. Our recognitions with Ofsted and other important assessments of the school have only helped us to further strengthen our offer for the children. Whilst Ofsted recognised our Personal Development as Outstanding, stating that: 'the school's provision for pupils' personal development is exceptional', we wish to develop this further and this year we will be launching our Personal Development Passport, which will provide an opportunity to further build links between the children's learning at home and at school and will give our children the chance to further broaden their experiences beyond the classroom.

We thank you all for your continued support over this term and we look forward to sharing more news, events and opportunities with you, especially as our exciting building work moves towards completion. We hope you all have a restful winter break and we look forward to seeing you back in school on Monday 6th January.

Mrs Norman & Miss Marchi

Nursery

What's special to me?

The children have had an amazing first term in Nursery! They have all settled beautifully and have really engaged in all of the learning activities.

During this term, we have shared what makes a family and created some lovely self-portraits, compared different types of animals and given reasons why they could or couldn't be pets. We have also learnt about our local community of Gatley, building our very own village and we talked about our beliefs and what we celebrate.

To finish the term the children put on a fantastic production of 'The Tiger that came to Christmas' and we couldn't be prouder of them!



Reception

Where do I belong?

What an amazing first term we have had in Reception! We are so proud of all of the children for the way that they have settled into school life and how they continue to be real stars.

We have been so busy this term, learning all about ourselves, our families and where we live. On our walk to Gatley Carrs, we looked for signs of spring and enjoyed seeing

the different landmarks in Gatley. We also explored the past, thinking about our favourite memories and learning lots about different dinosaurs.

The term ended with our amazing production 'The Jolly Gatley Postman'. We were so proud of the children and the way that they all went up on the stage, shared their lines and dances and joined in with the songs. They have made us very proud!



Have lots of Festive Fun! From us all at Gatley Primary School

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, London and the United Kingdom.

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 carried out our Global Citizenship Project, exploring the global goal of 'Life on Land'. We learnt about the importance of preserving wildlife in order to protect the bees. We had a wonderful visit from a bee specialist who shared his extensive knowledge about bees with us!



Year 2

Does your birthplace have an impact?

What a fantastic start to Year 2! We have been looking at the question 'Does your birthplace have an impact?' - looking at different countries around the world and exploring the famous people associated with them.

We have looked at Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole and explored the impact they had during the Crimean War. We have seen how artists get inspiration from their landscapes, such as John Ndambo and his beautiful Kenyan paintings. We have been keen Geographers; gaining knowledge

of climates around the world. We have also looked at the birthplace of different animals and their habitats! Thank you parents for all your support during our Year 2 events this term. We loved to have visitors joining us on our 'Bring your Parent to School' morning. We were also very grateful for your donations during our Global Citizenship Art Gallery. The Year 2 pupils really impressed us with their social responsibility and passion to raise awareness during our study of Water Aid. We hope you all have a lovely Christmas break!



Year 3

Do rocks keep a secret

What a fantastic first term we have had in Year 3 exploring our learning question 'Do rocks keep a secret?'. The children have shown incredible enthusiasm and creativity as we journeyed through time to uncover the secrets of rocks and their importance.

We began our adventure by learning about the different types of rocks - igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic. The Starburst experiment was a huge hit, as the children enjoyed creating their own 'rocks' and observing how they change under pressure and heat. In Science, we deepened our understanding of rocks by learning about fossils and how they are formed. This knowledge then inspired our creative side, as we experimented with printmaking to create our very own fossil prints. The children's artwork was truly exceptional!

Our journey then took us back in time to the Stone Age, where we explored how early humans used rocks for tools, weapons and shelters. The children demonstrated their understanding brilliantly by designing and building their own Stone Age houses in DT, bringing history to life right in the classroom! As we moved forward through history into the Bronze and Iron Ages, we discovered how humans developed new ways to use materials and metals to

improve their lives. The children loved learning about the differences between these time periods and how settlements began to grow and change over time.

As we approach the holidays, we would like to say a huge well done to all the children for their hard work this term. We are already looking forward to our next learning question 'What's under the umbrella?' which we will continue to explore after the break.



Year 4

What is the lasting legacy from the Ancient Egyptian Civilisation?

What a fantastic Autumn Term we have had, exploring our big question 'What is the lasting legacy from the Ancient Egyptian Civilisation?'

The children have been incredible historians, delving into our exciting units about the Ancient Egyptian civilisation, building on from their prior knowledge of British Pre-History. In Science, the children have conducted experiments to develop their understanding of the different states of matter, including a fun, but messy, experiment on the digestive system and role of our different teeth. We have enjoyed our Art sessions, where we have explored iconography and carefully studied various pieces of Ancient Egyptian art, alongside the work of modern artists to conduct

our own symbolic piece of art. In Design Technology, we followed an ancient recipe to create some Ancient Egyptian flatbread, we used our kneading skills to combine the ingredients and ensure our dough was the correct texture.

All this was consolidated by an exciting trip to Manchester Museum where we handled ancient artefacts from thousands of years ago and explored the most important artefacts within the museum. We were so impressed with how well our children represented our school within the wider community. We are beyond proud of the children for their incredible start to this academic year, their behaviour and commitment to their learning has not gone un-noticed.



Year 5

Has Europe always been the same?

What an exciting Autumn Term we have had in Year Five!

Building up to answering our big question 'Has Europe always been the same?' we have experienced a range of subjects, with lots of interesting learning. The children have engaged wonderfully in our History unit all about World War Two, considering the legacy it has left behind, and the impact it has had on the world. The way in which they articulated their learning and absorbed lots of information at the Imperial War Museum was incredible and it was so nice to see them become secret agents during our Ministry of Memory workshop!

We have been lucky to engage with lots of enrichment opportunities over this term. In Art, we visited The Kingsway School to partake in their bauble workshop and we even went for a stroll out to the Tatton cinema, to practice our skills of observational drawing and proportion. In DT, we used our plan, do, review cycle and made connections with our History knowledge in order to build our own scale models of Anderson Shelters. In Science, we had our workshop in the hall, where we considered the changes which occur during reactions and whether these changes are reversible or irreversible. We have been most impressed at how much knowledge the children have retained from the Geography unit all about plate



tectonics and the structure of the earth.

Next term, we will be answering our second Big Question 'Is the world balanced?' which includes our Global Citizenship project, during which we will be considering the sub-question 'How has diversity shaped society?'

Year 6

Does the world ever stand still?

Year 6 have had a fantastic Autumn Term exploring the question 'Does the world ever stand still?'

As part of this, we have delved into the Theory of Evolution in Science, discovered how civilisations have changed and grown over time in History and we even investigated how natural processes can affect the land in Geography. As part of our Global Citizenship Project, we investigated what renewable energy sources are evident in and around our village before writing a formal letter to our local MP campaigning for funding for solar panels for our school!

Our 'flag football' PE sessions have also been a highlight and we were also joined by Stockport County and some Kingsway students who led a fantastic football session.

We were particularly proud of Year 6 as they immersed themselves in a range of Arts opportunities at a transition day at The Kingsway School. I'm sure we'll be seeing lots of them on the West End in the future!

Next term, we are looking forward to exploring Manchester's past in our next Big Question, 'Why should we be proud to live in Manchester?'

