



July 2024

**Welcome**

# What a term – what a wonderful year!

**As a school this year we have been focused on the development work around our curriculum to ensure that the children have the best curriculum offer possible. This has included strengthening our offer for personal development through our ongoing engagement with the Rights Respecting awards which has seen us achieve our bronze, silver and strive for our gold accreditation.**

We are looking forward to seeing how our Global Citizenship projects will come together for our curriculum next year. Additionally, we have worked hard to further refine our curriculum design to ensure that knowledge across all subjects is strong and that children develop a love for all subjects. This work was recognised most recently during our accreditation visit with SSAT where we were awarded 'transformational' in our practice for curriculum design which we are very proud of. We are very proud of the journey we have been on as a school this year and look forward to even more exciting developments next year.

Thank you to all our families for your ongoing support at all school events, workshops and activities. The school can only be as strong as possible when families and the school work together and we are so grateful for the ways in which you all seek to do this in the best interests of the children. Thank you on behalf of the staff team for your lovely messages, gifts and gestures at the end of this academic year. The staff have all been touched by your kind words.

We would like to thank the staff team who devote countless hours to making everything the best it can be for the children. They are the most amazing team who continually seek out ways to improve what we do, not just in classrooms, but within the school day and beyond. As we say goodbye and good luck to Mr Chambers and

## SSAT Framework for Exceptional Education

Congratulations to

### Gatley Primary School

who have been accredited for transforming practice in **principled curriculum design** within SSAT's Framework for Exceptional Education

This award recognises that their practice is amongst the most exceptional nationally

*Sue Williamson*

Sue Williamson  
Chief Executive

This certificate is valid from July 2024 – June 2027

**ssat** the schools, students  
and teachers network

Miss Abbas, who are both leaving the school at the end of this academic year, we are looking forward to welcoming a number of new staff next academic year who will only further strengthen our incredible team. We wish Mrs Reeve an enjoyable and well-deserved retirement after so many years at Gatley Primary School. We would like to thank her for all the years of love and care she has given to all the children!

Finally, we cannot close this year without saying a huge well done and thank you to our wonderful children! We are so privileged to work with them day in and day out and they continually astound us with their exceptional knowledge. We are very proud of our Year 6 children in particular. Not just because of their exceptional SATs results but because of the way they have overcome individual challenges and the ways in which they have grown into such an incredible group of young people. We wish them the best of luck in their next steps.

We hope you have an enjoyable summer and look forward to seeing you in September!

**Mrs Norman & Miss Marchi**

Nursery

How are things made?



What a fantastic Summer Term for all of our Nursery children as we have answered our final sub-question 'How are things made?'

Initially, the children have explored lots of different materials. They then designed a car and constructed their design collaboratively with junk modelling. During our music sessions we have improvised well known nursery rhymes making our own verses and performing them in small groups in front of our peers with confidence.

The children displayed excellent learning behaviours on our visit to the local allotments and thoroughly enjoyed seeing lots of fruits and vegetables growing, enjoying our picture hunt along the way.

Great sportsmanship was displayed in our Sports Day event. All of the children tried their very best and it was so lovely to observe many of them cheering on their friends!

It has been wonderful to watch the children blossom throughout the year and watching their independence grow daily!



Best wishes for the next chapter of your school journey. We are so proud of you all.



Reception

Are oceans important?

We have thoroughly enjoyed watching the children thrive during our final term in Reception as we have considered our overarching question 'Are oceans important?'

We have thought about the different sea creatures we might find at the beach and used the story 'Commotion in the Ocean' to develop our vocabulary around different sea creatures and their characteristics in our understanding of the world. More recently, we have explored materials, identifying which objects float or sink. The children were fantastic scientists during their experiments, making observations and articulating their understanding in such depth.

Through expressive arts and design, we created some beautifully innovative pieces of art, using different patterns and carefully selected a range of different mediums to compose different sea creatures. We further embedded our artistic techniques while exploring colour mixing and created some wonderfully detailed flower paintings, using the theme of summer flowers and plants as our inspiration.

The children also excelled during Sports Day this term, demonstrating their fantastic sportsmanship and also their ability to collaborate as a team, supporting one



another in the process. It was wonderfully exciting to take part in this event in front of our families too!

Finally, we have really enjoyed getting to know our new teachers in the recent transition weeks. The children are ready to embark on their Year 1 adventure and we wish them every success as their learning journey continues!



## Year 1

### What does it mean to invent?



What a brilliant final term we have had in Year 1! We have worked on answering our final question 'What does it mean to invent?', beginning by looking at different materials and the properties that they have.

We discovered lots of interesting facts and learnt some new vocabulary, including the definition of the word 'transparent.'

We next looked at how we can make products to ensure that they are strong and stable. We used all of our knowledge on materials to support us with this! The children had lots of fun discovering what materials would be best suited when making a house. Along the way, we discovered that using cellotape made our structures more secure after the glue just didn't seem strong enough!

One of the many highlights this term was when we practised our

weaving skills when we looked at our sub-question 'What creations would help to protect the planet?' We loved weaving with paper to practise the skill of weaving before weaving natural materials and then weaving with wool.

Our final sub-question from the Summer term was 'How has transport changed over time?' We looked at different types of transport and how they have evolved over time. Amelia Earhart, George Stephenson and The Wright Brothers were our main focus and how trains/planes have changed. Our learning was brought to life when we went to the East Lancashire Railway! We got to ride



on a steam train and then look at some very old transport methods. The children thoroughly enjoyed this and loved learning more about old transport. We even got to eat our snacks on the steam train!

Finally, we just wanted to say how proud we are of all of the Year 1 children! They have flourished this year and we know that they will continue to shine in Year 2!

## Year 2

### Do you have to travel a long way to be considered an explorer?



What a fantastic final term of Year 2! From our show stopping production where the children showed off their acting, singing and performance skills, to exploring our local area in Geography fieldwork studies; the children have wowed us all along the way!

We have been busy answering our final topic question 'Do you have to travel a long way to be considered an explorer?'. The children have loved sharing their knowledge of The Titanic and can recall many historical facts about the Space Race. We are so proud of Year 2 and all of their achievements this summer term!





Year 3

## How did the Romans change the world?

What a fantastic final term we have had in Year 3 as we have endeavoured to answer the question 'How did the Romans change the world?'

We began our historical voyage in Italy, plotting with Romulus and Remus to build the city of Rome. Once successful, we sought to expand the Empire. Job adverts called for new Army recruits, able to walk 20 miles per day, eager to travel and be paid handsomely. Together we marched for weeks on end, invading new territories. Our journey ended at Hadrian's Wall when troops had to be called back to protect a threatened Rome.

Our journey continued in Pompeii where we dove into the world of volcanic eruptions. Upon learning about the fertility of volcanic rock, these striking natural features appeared to offer a hospitable settlement. However, Pompeii soon highlighted the devastating impact of a volcanic eruption on both humans and the environment and so our journey diverted to consider the cultural legacy the Romans left behind.

Embodying the Roman resourcefulness, we designed and built a Roman-style aqueduct, testing whether our structure could withstand the steady



stream of water required in our towns and cities. Endeavouring to create a truly Roman experience, we took encouragement from Tracey Cartledge, a Stockport artist specialising in Roman inspired mosaics.

The highlight of the term was undoubtedly our trip to Chester. This incredible experience encapsulated all of our learning; it gave us a real feel for the heroism and bravery of the Romans. We sailed like the Romans, bathed like the Romans, built like the Romans, ate like the Romans and, most importantly, marched into battle and fought like the Romans.

It is undeniable that this period of history has shaped Britain today. The Romans afforded us with a currency for trade, reliable road infrastructure and an archetype for modern leadership. Although we cannot ask them ourselves, the insight discerned from archaeological ruins and Roman artefacts is irrefutable; the Romans truly did change the world.

Year 4



## What defines a person?

We've all enjoyed a brilliant term in Year 4 and we've been non-stop all the way.

We have considered our final learning question of the year, 'What defines a person?' and enjoyed many exciting learning experiences along the way. We have developed our knowledge of the life cycles of mammals, amphibians and reptiles, studied rivers and their specific features, enjoyed learning about well-known artists and musicians and also developed an understanding of apartheid.

We have been busy outside of the classroom too as we enjoyed learning about our local area and conducted some field research into rivers, had an amazing Sports Day and also raised money for Mind charity as part of our social understanding project. You may also have seen some children from Year 4 on Newsround and it was a wonderful opportunity for those children who took part!

### THE GLOBAL GOALS

For Sustainable Development



It's hard to believe that the year has come to an end and the children have enjoyed meeting their new teacher for next year. I know they are excited about the learning opportunities that they will enjoy and they are more than ready for the next challenge of their lives.

We hope you all have an amazing summer and can't wait to see you back in September!

## Year 5

### What is the significance of Ancient Greece?



#### What a brilliant final term of Year 5 we have had!

The children have been busy both in school and by joining in with events in our community, coming first place in both the Spelling and Maths Bee held at The Kingsway School. There have also been sporting successes shared in our annual Sports Day, as well as a rounders tournament where the children reached the final stages of the competition.

Our Year 5 production, 'Topic Book Trivia' was a huge hit with the children, showcasing their learning

(and theatrical talents) in the most creative and captivating way. Bravo, everyone!

Our final big question, 'What is the significance of Ancient Greece?' has provided the children with opportunities to explore the history of civilisations and how they have evolved over time. They have considered the importance of physical geography and how this supported trade, before delving into the origins of the Olympic Games. We finished the term by sculpting our very own Greek pottery, demonstrating excellent control and accuracy in the process.



Well done on a fantastic year everyone, we know that you will continue to shine in Year 6!

## Year 6



### Goodbye and Good Luck!

#### Year 6 have had an incredible term and have made the most of their final few weeks at Gatley Primary.

A highlight has to be the residential trip to Kingswood where we all had a wonderful time and relished the chance to try our hands at a range of adventurous activities. A top favourite was the 3G swing- some of the children's screams could be heard across the entire site! The whole trip was amazing and it was fantastic to spend quality time together and to make lots of new memories.

Before this, Year 6 were working hard towards their end of key stage exams and we could not be more proud of all they have achieved. All of the children performed to their very best and can go onto their new schools full of confidence and with a great sense of achievement.

This term, we have also been answering our big question 'Is everyone's idea of a successful

society the same?' As a year group, we have been learning about the Anglo-Saxon and Viking invasions of Britain and how this shaped our country today as well as exploring economies and the importance of natural resources in Geography.

Year 6, you have been truly amazing and we wish each and every one of you lots of luck as you begin your new journeys to high school.

Year 6 Team