

Owl Post

Issue: 19 - December 2018



Our shining stars of the future

Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you enjoy reading our Autumn Term Newsletter.

It has been a wonderful start to the 2018-19 academic year with many exciting opportunities for our children. Please take a look at our curriculum maps on the website to see what they have chosen for their topic in the spring.

The autumn term statistical release from the Department for Education shows that we are in the top 5% of the country for performance averages 2016/2017/2018 in reading and maths. This achievement is down the positive attitudes to learning, shown by all of our children and the way in which the staff engage them with exciting opportunities.

Achievement is only one of our key values and we have been consulting with children and staff to create four other values which they feel are the cornerstones to learning.

These will come as no surprise to you:

- Be given the power of choice
- Develop independence
- Develop life skills
- Have social responsibility
- Achieve

I hope you have a lovely Christmas holiday

Vanessa McManus
Head of School



Reception A taste of Russia

What a wonderful first term we have had in Reception! The children have settled into school life brilliantly, and are enjoying every minute of it. It has been a pleasure to see their ideas come to life for our first topic. From cooking healthy meals to learning about how people in our local community celebrate, we have tried so many things! We have met a ballerina, a doctor and even listened to a live rendition of Star Wars on the violin and the cello. Most impressively, the children have written their own school production all about the story of 'The Nutcracker' listening to the music of Tchaikovsky and learning about Russia as we went. We couldn't be more proud of every single child for getting up on the stage and shining brightly. The confidence that the children have gained really is astounding. Thank you for all of your hard work Reception - it's amazing what we can do when we 'Try Everything!'

Karlene Laycock

Nursery

Once Upon a Time

What a wonderful first term the children have had in Nursery. Through their topic, "Once Upon a Time", the children have enjoyed creating their own 'Supertato' superhero, making the Three Pig's houses with different media, counting and comparing sets of objects for 'Room on the Broom', as well as writing a shopping list for tea with the Gruffalo!



During the term, they have also learnt about different festivals and have welcomed parents into Nursery to show artefacts and share information. Activities have included: making their own clay Diwali lamps, painting rangoli patterns, as well as creating menorahs and the Star of David for Hannukah.

Recently, the children have enjoyed learning about Christmas and putting on a wonderful performance for parents and families. The children sang with enthusiasm, and performed their roles extremely well.

The Nursery staff are very proud of all the children and we would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Year 2

Reach for the Stars



What an exciting start to Year 2! This term we have explored space in our topic, 'Reach for the stars'. We have learnt so much about the planets and Apollo 11 and even had a visit from Tim Peake!

However, the highlight of this term has to be blasting our own rockets into space from Year 2 Mission Control. The children were so excited to see how high and far their own rockets flew after they designed and made them in teams. The teachers only got a little bit wet!



Year 1

Paddinton Explores

The children have had a fantastic first term in Year 1. They enjoyed learning about Paddington Bear's adventures, and this led them to learn all about London. They then explored the United Kingdom and the countries within it. The children have become excellent geographers and are beginning to use map skills. More recently, the children used atlases to begin to find out about the continents, following Handa on her adventures in Africa. They are so excited to be planning their production, and bringing together all that they have learnt.



Year 3

The circus comes to town



Year 3 have had an exciting time this term. The children really showed how their confidence has developed as they spoke and sang in our assembly. We were proud of all of the children for their commitment and enthusiasm. A highlight was the circus dance at the beginning, where the children pretended to be clowns and acrobats, and made a circus tent as the finale. In their assembly, the children told everybody what they had learnt so far. Since then, they have enjoyed learning about forces and magnetism. Next half term we are looking forward to visiting magical lands. What a busy start to Year 3!



Year Groups



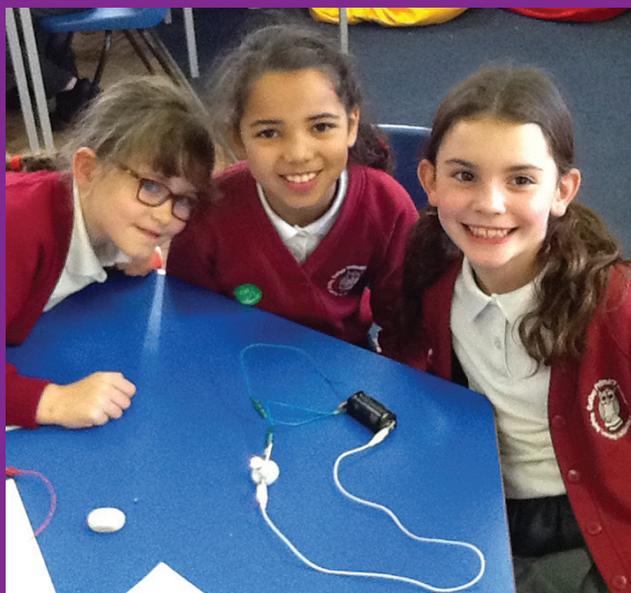
Year 4

Wave and Wires

This term our topic has been 'Waves and Wires!' During our curriculum open morning, Year 4 explored many different sound experiments to see how sounds can be made and changed. The children planned their own sound experiments and wrote a scientific report of their findings! In their assembly, they enjoyed sharing their learning with families as they talked about what they had learnt in science through their investigations.

The story of Peter and the Wolf has inspired the children to learn more about musical instruments and they have compared the different versions of this story (narrative, instrumental and films) in literacy.

Shocking Electricity! - Year 4 have also been learning about the discovery of electricity, and how inventors used electricity to design their inventions. They have been making complete circuits by learning about components, insulators and conductors. Finally, they designed and made their own switches to complete a circuit!



Year 5

Inside the Factory



This term, Year 5 celebrated their topic with a production of "Inside the Factory", where they had the opportunity to dress up as characters throughout the periods of history that they have been studying. The production was a roaring success and the children all enjoyed bringing history to life.

Year 5 also had a fantastic time visiting Quarry Bank Mill, where the children travelled back in time to experience life as a worker in a factory. They're already looking forward to next term's adventures!



Karlene Laycock

Community

Naming the Tatton

Thank you for all the wonderful entries for the competition we held this term to name the two apartment buildings and the road for the new Tatton Cinema development.



Stockport Homes, Rowilson Developers and our School Council worked together to judge the entries and were incredibly impressed by the extensive research that had taken place and the creative ways in which this had been displayed. After seeking council approval, three names were selected. Congratulations to all the children and families who chose; Apollo Place and Picture House Matinee Road

I am sure you will agree, it is quite the legacy to know that you have influenced the naming of such an important and precious community building! Extra congratulations to Charley Higginson, Grace Grainger and George Banks for their work which was selected by our judges for an extra prize based on their research.

We are looking forward to seeing how the building develops over time and are hopeful the children will have a sneak preview before it is officially opened!



Year 6

A war to be won!

This term, Year 6 have been going back in time to learn all about World War 2!

Throughout this whole topic, the children have all shown great enthusiasm and are all now experts in this area of history- as those of you lucky enough to attend our class assembly will know! During this topic, we have been amazed by the empathy skills our children have shown and the level of maturity they have demonstrated when discussing some challenging ideas.

From performing science experiments to find out the best material to make a black-out blind from, to developing their artistic skills when creating Remembrance Day themed art-work, every member of Year 6 has developed their skills across the curriculum this term, and we could not be more proud of the work they have produced. In addition to all of their hard work in class, Year 6 have also been on a trip to The Imperial War Museum. Here, they found out more about life at home during the war, and were lucky enough to experience the famous 'poppy wave' art installation. Whilst at the museum, they were also tasked to create their own mini-documentaries, selecting items from the museum that particularly interested them. What a busy term we have had!



PTA

The PTA would like to thank all parents, students and staff for their on-going support towards our fundraising events. It's only by your kind donations to our weekly requests that enable their continued success. You may have read through parentmail that the Christmas fair achieved £2,900 which will go towards learning opportunities and rewards for the children throughout the year. These funds are greatly needed by the school and the PTA hope to have more frequent events for the children during future academic terms.

The PTA is run by parent volunteers some of which have been with us for up to 8 years and some who newly joined just a few months ago. We have children in every year of the school and always welcome new parents who would like

to find out how they can join or simply help out. Although lending your time to help run our school events is very much appreciated, there are other ways in which you can help the school through the PTA; should you have experience that could help with running school discos or cinema nights for the children, or add new stalls to our Christmas or Summer fairs which would help us to achieve more.

Alternatively, an initiative called the Match Funding Scheme enables us to potentially double our fundraising efforts. If you work for an organisation that has a match funding policy, any money raised by your child's school could be matched by your employer. Companies may match the fundraising total for an event, or for the stall that their employee is helping with. Usually, the employee will need to supply a letter

from the PTA, which we can help with.

We understand that high street banks, building societies, supermarkets and large corporations are likely to do match funding, but these schemes are not exclusive to major organisations. If you work for an independent company, they may be interested in charitable giving through match funding too.

On behalf of the PTA I'd like to wish everyone a merry Christmas, and if you would like to find out more about the PTA, you can contact us via the school website or at office@gatleyprimary.com

Thank you

Phil Charlton
PTA Chair

Spring Term 2019

Term 1	Monday 7 January (9.00 am) - Friday 15 February (3.30 pm) 2019
Half Term Holiday	Monday 18 February - Friday 22 February 2019
Term 2	Monday 25 February (9.00 am) - Friday 5 April 2019
Spring Break	Monday 8 April - Monday 22 April 2019
Bank Holiday	Monday 22 April 2019