

Owl Post



Issue: 21 - July 2019

Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a wonderfully busy summer term culminating in the children planning some very exciting topics for next year. 'Disney Pixar' and 'Inequality isn't Sporting' are just two examples. Keep your eye on the website in September for further information.

We have another year of great sporting achievement and, once again, have been awarded the School Games Mark to Gold Standard. I would like to thank Mrs Boaler for her hard work on this and know that she is leaving a capable staff team to continue this initiative. She has decided to pursue a career in educational psychology and we wish her the best of luck.

Sadly, it is that time of year when we do have to say some goodbyes as staff are moving on to new experiences: We say thank you and goodbye to Mrs Butterworth who has worked with us for fifteen years and been an immense support to parents, children and staff. Our lunchtime organiser, Mrs Ireland will be retiring after twenty years and we thank her for all she has done. Miss Foster will be returning to finish her degree and we hope that she will be coming back very soon and finally Mrs Jespersen has taken a position at Bredbury Green Primary and will do a wonderful job working with Mrs Moorcroft.

I know you will join me in welcoming all of our new staff in September.

Have a great summer!

Vanessa McManus
Head of School



Fantastic Farewell to Year 6

Year 6 have had a simply wonderful end to their time at Gatley. This term they have done it all! From outstanding SATs results, to our residential trip to Kingswood, and not forgetting our incredible production- it really has been a term to remember.

At Kingswood, we enjoyed developing our collaboration skills and really pushing ourselves to face our fears- even the teachers had a go on the 3G swing! We had a fabulous time and it was a wonderful way to end our time at primary by making memories to last a lifetime.

Following this, Year 6 worked hard to write, produce and perform a simply spectacular production which was a true reflection of their entire primary careers. There was not a dry eye in the house! In addition, we have been learning about a sustainable future and have been visited by 'Urban Farming', a Liverpool based company who helped us to build our own self-contained 'aquaponics' system.

Now all that remains to be said, is to wish everyone all the very best for the future- keep shining brightly and never forget all you have learnt at Gatley.



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Nursery



What Makes a Superhero?

During our summer topic, 'What Makes a Superhero?', the children have enjoyed listening to stories like 'Super Daisy' and 'Midnight Superhero'. These stories inspired the children to write about their favourite superhero. Using their phonic knowledge, they described what they looked like as well as their superhero qualities.

In Design and Technology, the children have designed and made their own superhero puppets. We looked carefully to make sure our puppets were the same as our designs. Sewing the felt together was tricky at times, but we all enjoyed learning a new skill.

During our art lessons we looked at paintings by the artist Giuseppe Arcimboldo. Using real fruit and vegetables, we created portraits by printing with paint as well as making 3D faces.

Thank you to all the children in Nursery for a wonderful year. We are very proud of all your achievements and we know that you will all be superstars in Reception!

Year 1

Which Animals Can We Not Live Without?

We have been very busy bees this term in Year 1! The children have really enjoyed learning all about bees and coral during our 'Which Animals Can We Not Live Without?' topic.

We visited The Bee Centre in Preston and had an amazing day learning lots more about bees and we saw a bee hive through glass. It was very exciting when we saw the Queen and some bees doing a waggle dance. We even joined in by doing our own dance!

We also had a visit from River's mum who talked to us about being a scuba diver and the different corals found in the oceans. The children asked lots of interesting questions and remembered lots of facts, especially enjoying learning about brain coral and the selfie taking octopus. The children used their new learning to work in teams to design and make an underwater diorama. They all worked so well creating some incredible habitats for the different sea life they had made.

We have been extremely proud of all the children this year for all their hard work, enthusiasm and smiles!



Reception

Danger, Danger!

What an amazing Summer Term we have had; we have loved our last topic 'Danger, Danger!'

We have been learning all about dangerous animals and where they come from. Our topic took us on a special visit to Knowsley Safari Park where we got to see lions, rhinos, tigers and wolves! We were very lucky! We have also learnt all about dinosaur fossils and how they are made; we had a go at making our own fossils too which was great fun!

This year really has been a wonderful first year for our Reception children and we are proud of each and every one of them for a fabulous start to school!



Year Groups

Year 3

How Old is Old?

This term, as part of our 'How Old is Old?' topic, Year 3 visited Tatton Park to learn about Anglo Saxons and Vikings.

As soon as we left the coach we were met by Etta, a villager from Tata's Tun who took us to her village. The name Tatton comes from Anglo Saxon Tata's Tun meaning Tata's farm. Once we were in the village, a terrifying Viking called Harold Bloodaxe came looking for the Danegeld that had gone missing en route to York! Thankfully, Harold was not as scary as we first thought and he told us all about the red deer living there.

We discovered that we needed to be careful what we volunteered for, as Jessica very nearly had to squeeze the deer poo to see how fresh it was! Luckily, she was saved from this rather disgusting task and learned how to track the deer instead!

We were also taught how to protect ourselves using shields, how to cook simple flatbread and how to weave using wool. And in the words of Lucy, it was "the best trip ever!"



Year 4

Digestive System

This term, Year 4 have learnt all about the digestive system. We carried out an interesting experiment to help us really understand the different components and how they work. Using our new knowledge, we then went on to create our own songs and poems about the digestive system.

We looked at the key features of what makes music flow, whilst keeping a steady beat and creating our own lyrics. Our poems consisted of figurative language whilst keeping to the theme of the digestive system... and there was plenty of onomatopoeia!



Year 2

Gatley's Got Talent!

This term, Year 2 shared their many talents both inside and outside the classroom. We were delighted to host our production and share with so many people the wonderful array of talents that our children have. From singers, to dancers, sports stars to TV presenters, Year 2 really did display an amazing selection of talent and we know everyone who watched the production was amazed.

The children used their production to further research people who were talented and who inspired them, and many others. We've researched the lives of Michael Jordan, Nelson Mandela, Mother Theresa, Grace Darling and Helen Keller and looked at the attributes that make them so respected and admired.

In English this term, the children have been developing their knowledge and understanding of speech marks



and have been using these in comic books they have been creating. Combined with some fantastic artwork, the children have produced a class comic, containing a range of exciting and inspiring stories in which their characters show resilience and perseverance to overcome a problem.

Year 5

The Final Frontier

What a perfect end to a wonderful year! In our topic this term, 'The Final Frontier', Year 5 have explored the universe, looking at the different planets in our Solar System and describing them using scientific vocabulary. We also investigated how the moon affects various religious celebrations around the world, including how it determines the timing of Eid, Passover and Wesak.

This term, we were fortunate enough to be visited by Madame Hunt, a French teacher at Kingsway High school, who taught us how to pronounce each of the planets in French. Not only this, but we learnt how to describe the appearance of each planet too!

In English this term, the children have been working hard to write their own suspense story about their arrival on 'Planet Pandora'. Using a range of figurative language devices and dialogue, the children were all able to write a story that captured the reader's interest and left them desperately wanting to read on!

Demonstrating excellent Social Responsibility, Year 5 have all done a wonderful job in their role of 'reading buddies' over the past term. The children have supported the Year 1 children with their reading and phonics, and even tested them with some comprehension questions!



Sports Award



We are delighted to share that Gatley Primary has been awarded the 'Schools Games Mark Gold Award' for the second year running.

This award recognises our whole school efforts to provide all children with a high level of opportunity in order to increase their physical activity, compete in a variety of sports competitions (both at local and regional levels) and develop links with sports organisations within the community.

Additionally, we are very proud that our children and school have received another three awards from Stockport Sports Services for: commitment to leadership and volunteering,

participation in PE, sport and physical activity and commitment to sports competitions.

A big thank you to all the parents and carers who have supported the children in competing for the school, and for their commitment to becoming fitter and healthier in our running club with Shane.

Enjoy a fun summer!

Mrs Boaler (Sports Lead)

Thank you from the PTA

The members of the Gatley Primary School PTA would like to thank the teachers, parents and friends of Gatley Primary School who have supported and contributed to all the PTA events that have run throughout this year.

Your generosity has allowed us to fund and support a number of school events and initiatives for our children to help enrich their educational experiences.

We would welcome any new parents who would like to join us for the new academic year; our first event is due to be the spooky disco in October.

Phil Charlton
PTA Chair



Walking Bus

Over the years, we have had many requests to consider ways in which we can reduce traffic outside school, and also make drop-off and collection more convenient for parents. During a parent and pupil consultation, amongst other options, 73% said they would consider using a 'Walking Bus'.

As such, we are pleased to announce that from September 2019, we are launching our own 'Walking Bus' initiative which will enable children to be dropped off and collected from the pavilion car park.

The entrance to the car park is located on Beech Avenue and is really easy to find. From the school gates, turn right onto Burnside Road, and as the road bends round to the left onto Beech Avenue, turn right. The car park entrance is located directly ahead of you but you will need to cross the footpath to access it, so please drive slowly and carefully as the path can get very busy, especially during school opening and closing times.

The 'bus' will be manned by staff from school, and will meet on the car park every morning at 8:40am. Parents can leave their children with school staff who will then walk them to school using the path which runs alongside the school in time for the start of the school day.



At the end of the day, staff will escort the children back to the car park for parents to collect around 3.40pm.

The route can be seen on the map above, and the walk takes approximately 4-5 minutes.

We know how much you value the safety of all our children, and thank you for your support with this.

Further details will be sent out on ParentMail nearer the launch date.

Changing Spaces

The beginnings of the new upper key stage 2 learning space are now underway. Our Year 4 and 5 Creative Council representatives have led on designing and remodeling this space.

This included a visit and tour of the MMU Birley Building to give inspiration to what a creative learning space can look like. Following this, the children have made decisions around which key skills should be profiled in this space. On deciding that ICT/ research and reflection should be the skills that are developed within this space, the children have designed what should be included in these areas and have been most ambitious with what this space will become.

The staff too are also exploring ways to best incorporate this space into the timetabled day. The bones of the structure are now there; we are looking forward to the finishing touches being in place for September next academic year.

Watch this space!

Power of Parent Voice

During this academic year, our parent voice group have been an instrumental part in shaping and influencing school changes.

Parent Voice is designed as a forum for parents to raise any concerns or questions regarding school changes but also as a means to help the school address any questions they are seeking to explore. As a result of this group, we are introducing a large number of initiatives next academic year which will seek to improve provision for our current pupils.

One such concern was the traffic outside the front of school. As a result of the concern, the school has amended some support staff's timetabling to incorporate the running of a 'Walking Bus'. Parents will be encouraged to drop off pupils at the Sports Pavilion Car Park (off Beech Road) from 8.30am.

The Walking Bus will set off at 8.40am and will aim to arrive in school for an 8.50am start to the school day. Equally, the walking bus will set off from school at 3.30pm and will aim to arrive back to the car park for 3.40pm. Our Young Gatley Village Partnership are also designing invitations - so look out for these during our first week back! We hope the initiative will be a huge success and will seek to improve the provision for our pupils at the beginning and end of the school day.

School Term Dates 2019 - 2020



AUTUMN TERM 2019	
Monday 2 September 2019	In-service day for Staff – School Closed to Pupils (1)
Term 1	Tuesday 3 September (9.00am) – Friday 18 October (3.30pm) 2019
Half Term Holiday	Monday 21 October – Friday 25 October 2019
Monday 28 October	In-Service day for staff – School Closed to Pupils (2)
Term 2	Tuesday 29 October – Friday 20 December (3.30pm) 2019
Christmas Holiday	Monday 23 December – Friday 3 January 2020
SPRING TERM 2020	
Term 1	Monday 6 January (9.00 am) – Friday 14 February (3.30 pm) 2020
Half Term Holiday	Monday 17 February – Friday 21 February 2020
Monday 24 February 2020	In-service day for Staff – School Closed to Pupils(3)
Term 2	Tuesday 25 February (9.00 am) – Friday 3 April 2020
Spring Break	Monday 6 April – Friday 17 April 2020
SUMMER TERM 2020	
Term 1	Monday 20 April (9.00 am) – Friday 22 May (3.30 pm) 2020
Thursday 7 May	In-service day for staff – School Closed to Pupils (4) (Polling Day) 2020
Friday 8 May	Bank Holiday (VE Day) 2020
Half Term Holiday	Monday 25 May – Friday 5 June 2020
Term 2	Monday 8 June (9.00 am) – Friday 24 July (3.30 pm) 2020
Monday 27 July 2020	In-service day for Staff – School Closed to Pupils (5) 2020

Football Festival

On Friday 12 July, some of our Year 6 students were invited to take part in the Football Festival Tournament at The Etihad Academy.

They competed against 7 other teams from all over the Manchester area, and went on to win the competition having won all of their 8 games, scoring 30 goals and conceding none!

Well done to Evan, Sami, Frank, Matthew, Emma, Mason, Oscar M, Harry, Ewan and Alex who are pictured here with Shane and the winning trophy.

