

Owl Post



Issue: 20 - April 2019



Welcome

Our newsletter is packed full of information about what our pupils and staff have achieved this term so I hope you enjoy reading it.

On the 18 March, we had an external audit of teaching and learning by MMEducation. Marguerite Murphy, who worked as part of the HMI (Her Majesty's Inspectorate) and Ofsted team, observed lessons and interviewed staff and pupils. The outcomes will be published shortly, under the Ofsted- External Audit Reports section of the school website. Under the existing Ofsted framework we are currently exempt from inspections and so we will continue to engage with this external validation and challenge. The school has also volunteered for a pilot inspection for the new inspection regime Ofsted are introducing in September.

After 12 years, Mrs Hopkinson has decided to retire this month to spend time on her yacht, and who

can blame her! I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Hopkinson for all her hard work over the years; she will be missed by everyone. I hope you will all join me in wishing her lots of lovely adventures.

Unfortunately, I do have to let you know that due to unforeseen family circumstances, Mr Hughes (our Premises Manager) has left our school. I am sure you will agree he has done a fantastic job in the way he has cared for our families and building. Mr Hughes is relocating with his family to spend more time with grandchildren. We will all miss him and thank him for helping our school to develop. We are pleased to welcome Andy Bagnall into the role as Premises and Facilities Manager. With this news comes the reminder that with the absence of our parking cones we must continue to refrain from parking outside the school gates and also blocking driveways in the vicinity. The school has to spend

a great deal of time dealing with complaints from local residents as a result of inconsiderate parking. In particular, Birch Road and Oakwood Avenue seem to be suffering. The parking beat survey conducted by Axis for the School Travel Plan indicates that the local area provides a capacity of 570 parking spaces. Peak demand in the morning was recorded between 08:50 and 09:00 when a total of 224 vehicles (39.3%) occupied the spaces. These vehicles are mainly other users and residents but there is an increase of 70 vehicles at drop off time. During the period encompassing school end time, peak demand occurred between 15:30 and 15:40 when 236 vehicles (41.4%) occupied the spaces. Again these vehicles are mainly other users and residents.

I hope you all have a lovely spring break together.

Vanessa McManus
Head of School

Nursery



What a Wonderful World

We have had another busy term in Nursery! We continued to use the children's mood boards to plan exciting learning opportunities. The children particularly enjoyed the stories 'Monkey Puzzle' and 'Comet the Fairy Unicorn'. These stories have inspired the children to write labels, party invitations, and shopping lists.

For our topic this term, 'What a Wonderful World', we enjoyed finding out about different celebrations and Emilia's Mummy came to talk to the children about Chinese New Year. We continued the celebration in nursery by having our own dragon dance with music we created using the percussion instruments.

We have also had great fun being scientists, describing different textures and creating our own texture collages, investigating colour mixing, as well as learning about different plants and how they grow. Recently, we planted our own sunflower seeds. We made sure they had plenty of water and sunlight, and we are very excited to see that they are already starting to grow!

Reception

A Million Dreams

What a busy term we have had! The children have really enjoyed our topic, 'A Million Dreams'. The term began with us reading A Midsummer Night's Dream and predicting the end of the story. Following on from this, we designed and created our own fairy doors, which are all beautiful!

We have become astronauts, using our detective skills to find out about space! We have learnt so much and really enjoyed a visit from a friendly alien, who wanted to make some friends but left our classroom in a bit of a mess!

Next term we are looking forward to our new topic 'Danger!'



Year 1

Passport to the World

Wow- what a wonderfully busy term we have had! We are so proud of how hard the children have worked in Year 1. We started it by planning, writing and performing our 'Passport to the World' production where we took Paddington around the world. The audience seemed to thoroughly enjoy it and it was an Oscar worthy performance by the children!

Since starting our new topic, 'How do you make...?', the children have enjoyed a visit from Lego Stem where they built and programmed their iPads using algorithms to make their own ferris wheel move. They followed instructions to learn how to make delicious chocolate cupcakes and became Super Scientists when they learnt how snow is formed!

What busy bees they have been! What will next term bring?



Year 3

Lands Far Away

This term, Year 3 have spent their time in 'Lands far, far away...'

We have enjoyed reading and listening to extracts from stories about other lands. We have fallen down rabbit holes, gone through wardrobes and found ourselves inspired by these adventures. We used these magical places to create our own 3D magical lands and characters. This art work has helped us to write about our characters and use adventurous vocabulary to describe our settings.

Next term, we are looking forward to going swimming and having adventures back in time in our new topic, 'How Old is Old?'



Year 2

The Animal Kingdom

This term, Zoolab came to visit Year 2. It was great to welcome them into school to showcase a selection of endangered animals. The children were wonderful and showed no fear as they held a variety of different animals and creatures. We all discovered many interesting facts and asked lots of different questions, which further supported our learning this spring.



Year 5

Crashes, Cracks & Collisions



Year 5 have had an explosive term in our 'Crashes, Cracks & Collisions' topic! We have learnt all about volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis, including where they occur and why.

In science, we have studied the different properties of materials, and how they can be separated when mixed together. Our learning was brought to life when we exploded our own model volcanoes which we created in DT, using bicarbonate of soda and vinegar. The results were impressive

Alongside this, we have had an active term taking part in swimming lessons, football competitions and Bikeability. This has helped us to develop our life skills and understanding of social responsibility.

We are all really looking to commencing our space themed topic, 'The Final Frontier'



Year 4

Living Legacies

Year 4 have enjoyed learning about Romans and Egyptians in our topic, 'Living Legacies'. We had a lovely day exploring the World Museum in Liverpool where we learnt how to mummify a body. This helped us to write our production, 'Escape Room'. We learnt an Egyptian and Roman dance to entertain our audience and they really appreciated it.

We have also been to The Kingsway School to make a scarab beetle out of clay. We had to think carefully about the details we were going to include on our beetles and we are looking forward to painting them.

We have had a very busy term but we have learnt so much.



Year 6

Asian Adventure

This term, Year 6 have been busy learning all about Asia! This topic has been so exciting and it has given us a brilliant opportunity to extend our learning across the whole curriculum. From architectural design to climate zones, animal adaptation and Chinese New Year, we have done it all! A real highlight was when we were lucky enough to be visited by Costa's mum who helped us to make healthy spring rolls with a variety of fillings. In addition to our fantastic topic work, we have also been working hard towards our end of key stage tests- consolidating our learning and challenging ourselves every day. Another busy and successful term in Year six; we are now all ready for a well-deserved break before coming back to school for our final term at Gatley!



Knit and Knatter



This term in Knit and Knatter we have been knitting mini-monsters, rabbits, hats for Easter eggs and scarves for our teddies.



Hello from the PTA

No doubt you are all aware of the two big events that the PTA run, with the support of the school every year: The Summer and Christmas Fairs. Outside of these two big events, the PTA aim to run smaller events to keep up fundraising activities for the school, so the children have some other fun events to look forward to.

This term, the PTA hosted a School Disco for all year groups from Nursery through to Year 6 with our new King of the Decks, DJ Luke. With the disco divided into three smaller events for different age ranges, it meant that our new resident DJ could tailor his music accordingly to cater for all tastes of music, and ensure that everyone had lots of fun.

All the children appeared to enjoy the event, which was staffed by both teachers and PTA members, who witnessed first-hand the gallons of juice and mountains of biscuits disappearing before our very eyes.

The PTA would like to thank all the parents and guardians for the smooth drop off and collection of the children, and we hope you had all the information you needed prior to the event with posters displayed in the weatherproof noticeboards around the school playground and information delivered via ParentMail.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support of the PTA events; we always see lots of

happy children attending and we hope happy adults also.

On behalf of the PTA I'd like to wish everyone a happy Easter, and if you would like to find out more about the PTA, or have any suggestions for future events, you can contact us at: office@gatleyprimary.com

Thank you

Phil Charlton
PTA Chair

Summer Term 2019 Diary Dates



Tuesday 23 April	School Opens
Tuesday 30 April	Parent Voice 9.00am. Training room
Wednesday 1 May	Year 5 Assembly. 9.15am
Wednesday 1 May	PTA 6.30pm
Thursday 2 May	INSET Day - Polling day (3)
Monday 6 May	Bank Holiday
Wednesday 8 May	Reception Assembly. 9.15am
W/C Monday 13 May	National KS2 Tests. Training room/classrooms
Tuesday 21 May	Parents Drop-in. 3.30pm-4.30pm
Wednesday 22 May	Year 3 Production. 9.15am and 6.00pm Half Term 27 May - 7 June
Half Term 27 May - 7 June	
Wednesday 26 June	Year 1 Assembly. 9.15am
Wednesday 26 June - Friday 28 June	Year 6 Residential, Kingswood Colomendy, North Wales
Tuesday 2 July	Sports day (KS1/2). Years 3 and 4 - 9.30am, Years 5 and 6 - 11.00am, KS1 - 1.30pm
Tuesday 2 July	Induction Evening for new Nursery intake. 5.00pm Hall
Tuesday 2 July	Induction Evening for new Reception intake. 6.00pm Hall
Wednesday 3 July	Year 2 Production. 9.15am and 6.00pm
Thursday 4 July	Nursery/Reception - Fun sports Nursery AM/RRC 10.00am, Nursery PM/RES 2.00pm
Tuesday 9 July	Reserve Sports day (KS1/2) Years 3 and 4 - 9.30am, Years 5 and 6 - 11.00am, KS1 - 1.30pm
Thursday 11 July	Reserve Nursery/Reception Fun sports Nursery AM/RRC 10.00am, Nursery PM/RES 2.00pm
Thursday 11 July	BBQ. 5.00pm-7.30pm
Wednesday 17 July	Year 6 Production. 9.15am Hall & 6.00pm Hall
Thursday 18 July	Open evening for parents. 5.00pm-7.00pm
Tuesday 23 July	Year 6 Leavers Party. 7.00pm-9.00pm
Friday 26 July	School closes for pupils. 3.30pm
Monday 29 July	INSET Day (4)
Tuesday 30 July	INSET Day (5)