

Welcome

Hello Parents and Carers,

The summer term is usually a rollercoaster of emotions when we celebrate achievement, have lots of family events and say goodbye to our Year 6 pupils. The rollercoaster has felt very different in summer 2020.

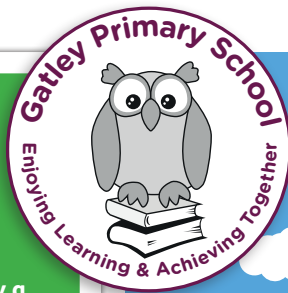
In March, we watched every announcement about school closures with sadness and shock. Over the following weeks, we waited with bated breath for wider opening information and then, when we were given the green light for the rest of the school, we made it our mission to get all the children back in so that they could see their friends, teachers and most importantly feel safe; we were determined that no child would worry, come late August, about what school would be like when they finally returned. We were delighted that 99% of our children returned in some capacity. This is not just down to the incredible efforts the whole staff team put into getting the school Covid secure, but also the great leap of faith parents took in allowing their children to come back. A huge heartfelt thank you for that.

Our parents and teachers have united in one common goal: educating our children. The efforts families have gone to, and the struggles that they have experienced due to Covid have been immense. Our partnership has kept the children progressing in their learning and the feedback you have given has allowed us to strengthen our support further.

We know from our questionnaire that you have felt supported every step of the way and we will share the outcomes on Dojo, but for now, it is time to take a holiday and then hand the reins back over in September!

Have a wonderful summer

Vanessa McManus
Executive Headteacher



Owl Post



Gatley Primary's
Road to Recovery

Somewhere Over the Rainbow

Painting rainbows became a symbolic picture of hope and better days across the country. The windows of Gatley were lit up with bright colours of beautifully painted rainbows from the children. These were displayed in a special video montage accompanied by three of our Gatley



children singing 'Somewhere over the Rainbow' so we can look back and reflect in years to come.



School Closures

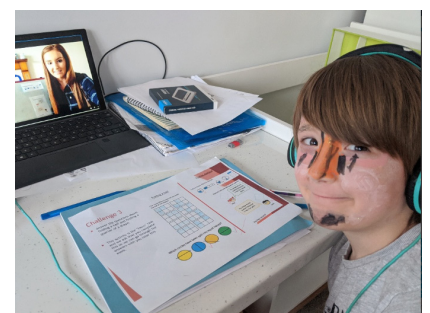
and your homes became our new classrooms. Our teachers set weekly challenges for maths, literacy and topic and you shared and celebrated your work with school staff over ClassDojo.

As well as the children, we all acquired many new skills and were given lots of new learning opportunities: Miss Gibbons introduced us to the skill of Makaton, Mrs Lees read us a weekly story and Mrs Flynn checked in with our wellbeing.

Our weekly choir sessions continued and everybody spent plenty of time outside playing lots of new socially distanced games invented by Shane.

However, it didn't stop there... this even continued through the school holidays!

On Friday 20 March, schools had to shut their doors to all children, but Gatley Primary always finds a way and we had to quickly adapt to a new way of learning. Children accessed online lessons and videos,





Key Worker Bubbles

From the very first day, we welcomed in the children of key worker families who quickly adapted to a new way of school life. Collaborating with children across all year groups, and with new classrooms and new rules, the children made us all proud with how responsible and confident they were in this unfamiliar situation.



Supporting VE Day was the perfect opportunity for Gatley to come together again. As we celebrated 75 years of World War 2, once again we all had to find a new way to share our thoughts and reflections. During your daily walks, you shared your experiences and memories with your friends and others in the community, as well as writing your own individual messages on bunting, which was hung on the gates outside school for all to see.



“Don’t Stop Thinking About Tomorrow”



Whilst the children continued to learn from home, we set up an exciting music opportunity, which led to the creation of a Gatley Primary School song as our pupils performed ‘Don’t Stop’ by Fleetwood Mac. Individual recordings were made at home and sent into school, where they were skilfully edited and layered by Mr Butt to produce our final version and video. This feel good song reached almost 18,000 people, and we were thrilled with the lovely messages we received for our children as a result.



Recovery Curriculum

A1

The introduction of our 'Recovery Curriculum' aimed to give a clear rationale in order to ensure that all children had the opportunity to explore their mental and physical well-being. This supported the children to understand themselves, and helped them with the changes and challenges of the previous few months, as well as dealing with the ongoing situation.

Virtual lessons were introduced for the children in school, and out of school. Here, our Year 6 pupils were learning about Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs.

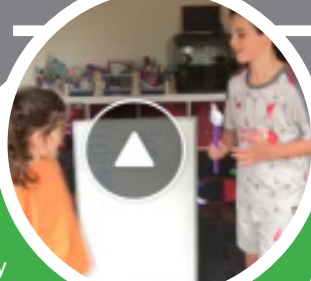
"Great idea... really like the way it is displayed and ideas of level of involvement of parent / family members" (Parent quote)

What a great idea - such an important topic for all ages. So much work must have gone into this - thank you." (Parent quote)

"Raheem has really enjoyed learning about food groups yesterday; all he has done is categorise our meals since yesterday. He told me this morning he's really excited to learn more." (Parent quote)



'Well-being Wednesday' activities provided siblings and families the chance to collaborate with a focus on their mental health. This activity was inspired by using nature to create a picture.



Lilly and Ewan worked together on an amazing fitness video.



Tilly loves using yoga to improve her fitness and wellbeing.

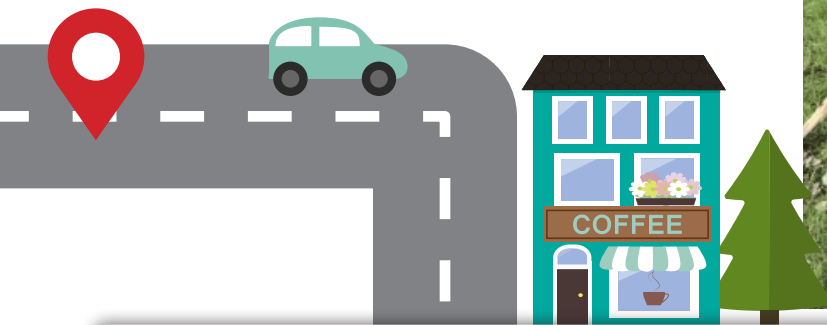


Grace and her sister worked together to think of all the things they are looking forwards to doing in the future, Grace can't wait to start ice skating again.



Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 return to school!

With open arms, Gatley welcomed back Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children into bubbles. The children and staff were so excited about this and we all adapted to a new one-way system in school, as well as other safety measures, which had been put into place to ensure the least possible risk for everyone. Each child had their own individual desk and were excited to receive a 'Welcome back to School' parcel on arrival!



Keeping In Touch Bubbles Years 2, 3, 4 and 5

We then welcomed back the children from Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 for a range of new and exciting projects in our 'Keeping in Touch' bubbles. We were able to bring students back to school in a safe and sociable way preparing them for a return to normal school life.

In our Forest School provision, the bubbles built dens and toasted marshmallows along with other wonderful tasks; they interacted with their friends and reunited with their teachers. In the art project, the children created an installation of dreamcatchers which link together to form one large Gatley Rainbow! Students became computer whizzes when joining in with our online virtual lessons. These daily Microsoft Team lessons gave us all the chance to reconnect over the internet and were useful for completing daily challenges.

An in-school experience day allowed the children to return to a familiar



setting so they could re-discover normality. They could see their friends, have their usual lessons and playtimes – a great way to immerse themselves back into school life. Year 5 went on visits to Cheadle Hulme Primary School in readiness for

their transition into Year 6, which involved some wellbeing sessions and other learning opportunities with staff who will be teaching them next year.

Running Freely in the Wind...

As a rainy June moved into a windy July, the children have been enjoying and experiencing the great outdoors, both on the playground and on the field.

At first, we were a little unsure how our children would adapt to socially distanced games, PE sessions and break times, but their resilience and creativity has been wonderful to see.

Brilliant conversations have taken place, with children eager to share their thoughts and feelings, and the playground has been filled with their voices being carried along on the wind. The field has offered our children a great space to run freely on the grass, and they have invented games using sticks, leaves and small stones. Using these materials and their imagination, children have built forts, homes for small bugs, and pretended to be all manner of people including warriors, princesses and explorers.



Thank you everyone - staff, children and parents alike for everything you have done this year; it has been a year like no other, but a memorable one nonetheless.



Wonderful Opportunities

Amazing Work

A message from the Chair of Governors

What a year! It hasn't been quite as we expected, but nonetheless it has been full of wonderful opportunities and amazing work.

From the seamless transition of children into Nursery and Reception, to the 'Make Your Mark' Project, to the COVID-19 bubbles, forest school and virtual live lessons, this year has seen so many wonderful positives. Never before has the bond between school, parent and child been so important, and it has been heartening to see just how well everyone has worked together throughout the last few months. The staff have (as always) sought innovative ways to provide as enjoyable and comprehensive learning offer as possible, reflecting on what works and looking for opportunities to improve future learning. However, over a substantial period of time, you - the parents - have then needed to facilitate the learning. Kitchen tables have become classrooms, and we are all now experts in tessellations, the Amazon Rainforest or health and wellbeing. We have probably all also had to try to home school or deal with request for snacks whilst on video calls with work!

Finally, on this matter we must recognise the ability, resilience and desire of the amazing children who have continued to take pride in their learning, and have engaged proactively across the school.

We must recognise that our Year 6 children are moving on in September. Whilst the usual end of year activities are unable to take place, I know that the school will find a creative way to recognise and celebrate the achievements of these children at some point before they move on to their next stage. I wish them all the best for the future, and thank them for all that they have contributed to the school over their time here.

Could I please take this opportunity to thank everyone - staff, children and parents alike for everything you have done this year; it has been a year like no other, but a memorable one nonetheless.

I hope you all find time to rest and relax over the summer and I know the school will be looking forward to seeing you all in September.

Mike Chow, Chair of Governors