

Owl Post

March 2026

Welcome



Connected Concepts

It has been another busy term at Gatley Primary School and once again we are so proud of all that the children have achieved and the progress they have made.

Across the term, it has been wonderful to see so many families at events including productions, Bring your Parent to School mornings and our recent Parent's Evenings. Thank you for your continued support.

As we end Spring Term, we would like to wish Mrs McGhee and Mrs Viner well as they commence their maternity leaves and we would like to extend a warm welcome to Mr Wilson and Ms Horsfall who will be joining the Gatley Team. This is alongside our new site supervisor Mr Hargreaves who will be taking over from Mr Bagnall, who will be retiring next term and who will be missed by the whole school community.

This term, as a school we have been focusing on the development of our 'Life Skills Curriculum' and as part of this offer, further enhancing our teaching of oracy. Our oracy developments have

meant classrooms have been filled with creative drama opportunities, productive conversations and a real focus on children's articulation of our 'connected concepts'- Cause and Effect, Power, Influence, Significance, Appreciation and Structures. Within Life Skills, children have been working hard to develop their critical thinking, team building, problem solving and communication skills, further supporting our oracy developments. A huge thank you to Mrs McDevitt and Mrs Broadhurst for leading this area of our curriculum.

In addition to our children's incredible achievements at school, we are also so proud of the amazing things they achieve beyond the school gates.

This term, Annie in Year 6 was part of the dance group who became 'Under 12 British Champions' - well done to her and her whole team! We love to hear about the children's achievements at home so please do keep us updated. We are also incredibly proud of Evie in Year 2 who has recently completed her treatment- a celebration that was shared with the whole school when she rang the 'End of Treatment Bell' in assembly. The End of Treatment Bell charity is one very close to our school's heart, along with many other close charity links school has. Next term, we will be re-running our Charity Week initiative to raise funds for charities such as this one and we look forward to seeing our children's social responsibility in action.

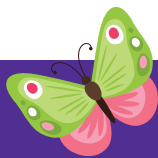
The Senior Leadership Team



Spring is here



Nursery



How does change happen?

What a super Spring Term we have had in our Nursery. We began using our senses to explore natural materials, followed by looking at how materials can change from one state to another through cooking and melting.

After half term we completed our global citizenship project. The children created some beautiful

litter art with all the rubbish they collected during their litter picking and we then discussed how we can make a positive impact and recycle correctly. Rounding off the term, the children planted seeds in the Nursery garden, which we will take good care of over the coming months and observe any changes that may happen.

Well done Nursery, what a fantastic term we have all had!



Reception

What can we discover about the world around us?

Reception have had a fantastic Spring Term and have been really busy exploring the wonderful world around us. As part of this, we have looked closely at living frogs. We grew our very own cress in the classroom and watched the changes.

Exploring the story 'Handa's Surprise,' has led to us thinking about how Africa and England can compare. We enjoyed looking at the

different fruits in the story and we even got to do some fruit printing with them! The children were very excited to have an African day in school, where we all dressed up in the different colours of Africa. It involved African music, dancing and we even made our very own drums!

To finish off our amazing learning on Africa, we had an African Drumming workshop where we all got to explore African drums and play them along to the beat. The children listened beautifully and



responded well - we were very proud of them!

The children have acquired so much knowledge this term, and we cannot wait to see them flourish even further!

Governors

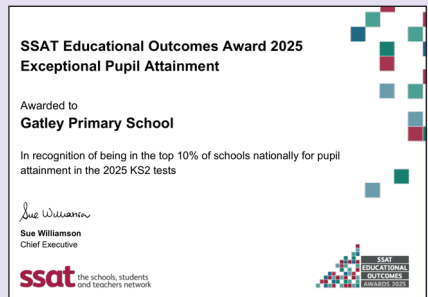
It's not every day that you receive a congratulatory email from the Secretary of State for Education, but earlier this term we did.

Bridget Phillipson contacted our school leaders directly to commend the dedication of staff and hard work of pupils leading to Gatley Primary being 'amongst the very best nationally' for outcomes for disadvantaged children. 'Keeping up, not catching up' has always been the mantra for our school and while classroom visits and evaluation exercises support this, the formal

recognition is validation that this is the right approach. The whole of the Governing Body is delighted that the school's efforts to support every member of the school community is recognised like this and we're so proud of every child for their successes.

Gatley Primary has also just received an award from SSAT (an organisation school works closely with) in recognition of the excellent achievement of all children, with our results placing us in the top 10% of schools nationally. This is something

for the school to be very proud of and again is reflective of the high quality teaching and learning Governors see when we visit lessons across the school.



Year 1

What is there to see across the Atlantic?

We have enjoyed being explorers this term, learning more about the different continents and oceans of the world.

We then deepened our knowledge by developing our understanding of different climates around, learning that some places are hotter than others. Following this, we took a deep dive into North and South America.

Focusing on North America, we looked at Mexico and the Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, creating our own self-portraits. More recently, a significant figure we looked at was Rosa Parks when we delved into the impact she had on society.

Consolidating all of our learning from Autumn and Spring term, we constructed an outstanding production. We were so proud of the commitment shown by all of our children, as well as their dedication and enthusiasm when performing in front of a live audience. If you came to watch, we are sure you all agree that this was a huge success!

Throughout the term there has been a lot of exciting enrichment opportunities, such as World Book Day where the children dressed up beautifully as their favourite characters, and life skills where we enjoyed some brilliant sessions in the forest.

We are beyond proud of all that the children have achieved and cannot wait to see them shine in the Summer Term!



Year 2

Is there just one person in charge?

It has been a busy and enjoyable spring term for Year 2, with our learning centred around our second big question: 'Is there only one person in charge?'

In Science, the children explored food chains within the animal kingdom, learning about producers, consumers and predators. They also enjoyed growing cress while investigating what plants need to thrive. In Geography, we explored maps and compasses, and created our own treasure maps using a key.

In History, we studied some of England's most significant monarchs, including Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth I.

The children then applied their artistic skills to create detailed portraits, using a range of pencil techniques.

A particular highlight this term was our work on healthy, balanced diets. The children made their own healthy wraps, inspired by Marcus Rashford and his campaign to support free school meals for children across the UK.

It has been wonderful to see the children's enthusiasm for learning this term, and the children have produced some truly outstanding work.

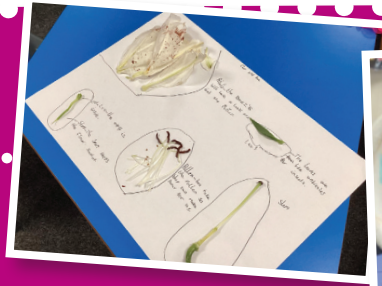


Year 3

What's under the umbrella?

This term, Year 3 have journeyed deep into the fascinating world of the rainforest. We explored the different layers of the rainforest and discovered how each one is home to unique plants and animals. The children were particularly interested in learning about animal skeletons and how different creatures are built to survive in their environments.

We also investigated the plants that grow in the rainforest and discussed the clever ways they have adapted to thrive there. In Science, we looked closely at the parts of flowers and learned how each part helps a plant grow and survive. Alongside this, we explored The Water Cycle and how water moves through our world. We made creative Water Cycle Wheels to showcase our learning!



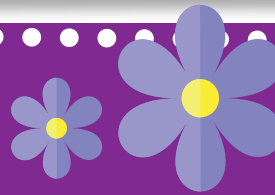
In History, the children stepped back in time to learn about the fascinating Mayan civilisation, discovering how the Mayans lived and some of the achievements they are remembered for today. To celebrate all of our learning so far, the children also took part in our wonderful school production, Journey through the Ages. They worked incredibly hard to learn their lines, practise their performances and wear their fantastic costumes on stage. We were so proud to see their confidence and enthusiasm shine as they performed in front of an audience. It has been a busy and exciting term, and we are extremely proud of everything the children have accomplished!

Year 4

How have humans shaped and advanced technology over time?

What a fantastic Spring Term we have had in Year 4! The children have explored advanced technology through a range of subjects, including History, Geography, Science, Art and D.T., developing a rich understanding of how innovation has evolved and impacted the world around us.

In History and Geography, the children explored the period of the Industrial Revolution, with a particular focus on its significance to Manchester. They learned how this era acted as a powerful catalyst for technological advancement, driven by key inventions and the rapid growth of industry. They also examined how developments such as canals transformed travel



and trade, strengthening the economy and connecting places more efficiently.



In Science, the children investigated electrical circuits, using practical resources to explore how to make a light bulb light up using batteries. They demonstrated fantastic curiosity using their oracy skills brilliantly to discuss and evaluate how circuits could be adapted or improved to further advance technology. In Art, we celebrated the symbol of the Manchester Worker Bee, exploring how it represents the resilience, unity and industrious spirit of the people during the Industrial Revolution.

A real highlight of the term was our incredible Year 4 production. The children were truly amazing, showcasing their confidence, enthusiasm and teamwork as they performed. It was wonderful to see them bring their learning to life! Their commitment, energy and pride shone through in every performance, and we could not be prouder of what they achieved. We are so proud of the children for their continued hard work and positive attitudes towards learning this term. Their enthusiasm and dedication have led to some fantastic outcomes across the curriculum, and we look forward to seeing this continue next term.



Year 5

How are our choices and the World connected?

Year 5 have had a fantastic Spring Term and enjoyed the opportunity to get 'hands on' with our learning.

In Science, we explored forces and were able to apply what we learnt when investigating the impact of friction on a moving object. Getting cheesy in DT, we researched different recipes and made individual cheesecakes, which the children decorated with lots of different tasty treats; they looked delicious!

In Geography, we looked at the different climate zones of the world and the biomes that can be found within them, before observing

and taking readings of the weather here in Gatley. Developing our social understanding, the children enjoyed learning all about Sikhism and the important aspects of the religion.

It was particularly wonderful to see the children enjoying rugby sessions with a coach from Manchester Rugby Club and then having the opportunity to showcase their skills in a tournament at the club. We have also enjoyed accessing the forest to develop our life skills through team building opportunities.

The collaboration and teamwork the children have shown throughout this term has been nothing short of outstanding and we can't wait to see what our final term in Year 5 will bring!



Year 6

Why should we be proud to live in Manchester?

Year 6 had a busy and exciting Spring Term exploring the significance of Manchester and its impact on a worldwide stage! In History, we developed our skills in analysing different historical sources through the lens of the Industrial Revolution, considering how origin and bias can impact the reliability of sources.

Influenced by iconic Mancunian artists, we then studied the work of LS Lowry and Stanley Chow, creating incredible pieces of art inspired by each artist's distinctive style. In DT, the children designed and built working waterwheels, linking to Manchester's industrial heritage.

A highlight from the term was definitely our music unit

– understanding the cultural impact of Take That and Oasis and spending our afternoons belting out Mancunian anthems! The children have worked with determination and resilience as we move closer towards our KS2 SATs,

and are more than ready to smash their final term at Gatley!

