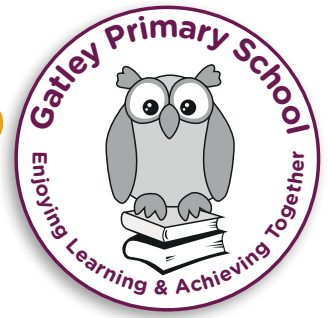


# Owl Post

Issue: 18 - July 2018



Karlene Loycock

## Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for taking the time to read our summer newsletter, it has been a wonderful term. Last Thursday the children visited their new class teacher and chose their topics for next year, it is wonderful that they can have this freedom and I can't wait to see the different themes they have picked.

Sadly Miss Drury will be leaving us this July as she is relocating, her children have had a great year and she will be missed. In addition to this, Miss Mohammed is getting married over the summer and relocating to the Emirates with her husband. Zahra has been part of Gatley Primary since coming here as a pupil and is very special to us all. I would like to wish both of them lots of luck with their next adventure! Two new teachers, Miss Lowe and Mr Dunn, will be joining the team in years 1 & 2 from September.

I am delighted to say that, along with the creative and exciting opportunities that seem to fill our children's day, our pupils continue to perform well above national standards and provisional data is currently indicating that we are number one in Stockport for our results in reading/writing/maths combined at key stages 1 & 2. Thank you to all the staff who ensure that our children are happy and relaxed during test periods.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Mrs Boaler and the staff who have worked hard to gain the gold level in the national 'School Games Mark Award'. The award has been given in recognition of the school's commitment to the development of competition within the school and the community. Throughout the year pupils have participated in gymnastics, cricket, lacrosse and rugby competitions to name but a few. Well done everyone.

As ever, thank you for all your support and I would like to wish you all a wonderful summer holiday in the hope that this fabulous weather remains!

**V McManus,**  
**Head of School**

## Nursery

### Once Upon a Time

Yet another busy term in Nursery! We continued learning our phonics and have now introduced all the letters of the alphabet. The children have amazed us with how well they have learnt the sounds, which they are now applying in their writing.



Our topic this term has been 'Up, Up and Away'. The children have talked about different modes of transport and where they might be seen.

"I like rockets best. They take you to moon."

"A plane takes you on holiday, it flies in the air."

In literacy, we labelled different parts of an aeroplane, using our phonic knowledge to spell words.

The children have visited the I.C.T. suite and created colourful rockets on the laptops using the touch pad.

After listening to the story, 'Sharing a Shell', the children wrote about how to be a good friend. We were then inspired to use the instruments to create music and rhythms linked to the story.

We have enjoyed finding out about the Eid celebration. Mrs Kaushal came to talk to the children about Eid and how it is celebrated. We loved smelling the perfume and looking at the beautiful dresses, tunics and topis.

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!

## Reception

### The Great Outdoors

What a busy summer term we have had! Our topic has been 'The Great Outdoors.' The children have learnt all about animals, from pets to jungle animals. We have made 3D sea creatures and used paints to create an under the sea picture.



We planted mustard seeds and learnt about what a plant needs to grow:

"A plant needs sunlight and water; if you don't water it then it won't grow."

We thought about the question, 'Where do we go and how do we get there?' Using maps, we found places we have visited and thought about how we would get there: "You would have to get on an aeroplane to go to Australia because it is so far away!"

Everyone took part in sports day; it was a lovely, sunny day and we'd like to thank you for coming to watch us.

The children have had such a wonderful year in Reception and we are so proud of each and every one of them- they are certainly ready for year 1!

## Year 1

### Fantastic Beasts

Year one have had an amazing final term thinking about 'Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them'. We have had dance, drama, music and art specialists visiting us to help us think about how our beasts would look, sound and move. This really inspired the children to produce a final piece of writing that each and every one of them should be so proud of. Their work has been made into a class book to treasure, we are so proud of what they have achieved this year. Their Year two teachers are very lucky to have them and we wish them well. To end our topic we enjoyed a visit from two birds of prey, Eleanor and Rigby. The children thoroughly enjoyed this and really impressed us with the questions they asked. Well done everybody!



## Be Active Be Fit Running Club!



From September, Shane and Mrs Boaler will be starting a weekly running club. Every Monday, Children will meet at 8am and follow a trail of approximately 1 mile around the running track and into school- ensuring that they are all ready for a great school day! The aim is to improve fitness, technique and speed whilst having fun. These sessions will be open to children of all ages.

Look out for more details next term!

### Year 2

#### Practically Perfect in Everyway!

This term, Year 2 were transported through paintings in our production to see how we can be 'Practically Perfect'. Journeying through space, old London and the current environmental issues of our planet, the children danced through the production showing all we have learnt within our topic this year. Year 2 really did produce the greatest show!



Kerlene Laycock

### Year 3

#### Moments in History

This term our 'Journey to the Centre of the Earth' has taken us on an exciting adventure. From learning about the different layers of the Earth's atmosphere to plastic pollution and its effects on marine life, everyone has been truly inspired.

Our visit to Treak Cliff Cavern in Castleton took us deep into the ground through the old lead mines and into the natural caves below. With the largest vein of Blue John, amazing stalagmites and stalactites and plenty of fossils to study, we had a wonderful day.

This topic has also given us the opportunity to work with Ranger Dan to learn more about soil, rocks and fossils. From panning for gold to making mud bricks, everyone has thoroughly enjoyed getting their hands (and feet) dirty!

### Year 4

#### Travelling through time

This term we have travelled through time and met a curious bunch of characters! Greek Gods and mythical creatures have inspired our creative writing.

In our production, the Ancient Egyptians taught us about farming and mummification whilst the Aztecs, Incas and Mayans introduced us to a new type of hot chocolate. The Chinese Terracotta Warrior scenes from our production were inspired by our trip to Liverpool's World Museum. After an early start, we arrived in Liverpool and we were all very excited to see the life-sized warriors all the way from China.

The gallery was quite dark and very atmospheric. Once we had looked at a series of smaller artefacts, such as bowls and armour, we turned the corner and found several actual warriors in a variety of poses. Each had a different face and we could tell by their top knot how important they were in the army. During the classroom session, we learnt more about why the warriors had been created.

Emperor Qin, also called the Tiger of Qin, made over 8000 warriors to protect him in the afterlife. He thought drinking Mercury would give him everlasting life. Unfortunately, he died of Mercury poisoning.

*"This was best trip ever! Seeing them in real life was epic, I can't believe they came all the way from China!"*



## Year 5

### Teamwork Challenge

This term in Year 5 we have enjoyed working with our Creative Partner, Johnny Woodhams, looking at the Mexican festival of Day of the Dead. The children have all created their own mask which was inspired by traditional Day of the Dead art work and motifs. But the inspiration didn't stop there! As a collective year group, we have written our own song which we enjoyed performing in our Day of the Dead procession!

Our class trip to Linnet Clough was another highlight for us this term. The children all challenged themselves in each of the activities such as climbing, abseiling and the infamous 'Leap of Faith'! Their determination, teamwork and resilience was inspiring.



## Year 6

### Super Summer!

Year 6 have had a fantastic final term at Gatley. First, we are incredibly proud of every single member of year 6 and how hard they worked towards their SATS; their results are incredible and so well deserved. Following this, we have had a very exciting few weeks with lots of trips out to Kingsway (for cooking, dance and art) and lots of visitors in to see us (including music, Ranger Dan, Millie's Trust and Ultimate Frisbee).

Above all of this, we couldn't forget Kingswood. We all had an amazing time and the children all challenged themselves to face their fears and try something new -

some of the staff even had a go! Most recently, year 6 have been working hard towards their leaver's production, which was a spectacular event and such a happy celebration of eight years at primary school. Once again, we were so proud of the children and how they all sang their hearts out, danced with such enthusiasm and delivered their lines with comic timing, leaving the audience in tears- of laughter! What super-stars.

Now, all that is left to say is a huge 'Good Luck'. We will miss you all and hope you come and visit us in years to come!



## Choir

Throughout this academic year, the school choir has grown yet again... giving us 90 beautiful voices to work with. It has been a pleasure to see a passion for singing growing across the school, and this being reflected in the number of children that are keen to represent Gatley as a part of the choir.

This year has been one with lots of new opportunities - most notably the carol service at Bethany Church, and our performance of 'Original' at The Fuse in Partington.

Autonomy for the children has been key to the development of the choir. The children have supported in planning such events at every stage - including the arrangement of harmonies! The message of the school choir for the children has been extremely powerful this year, and they have been intent on sharing this message with their audience through performance. They have been wonderfully demanding in their expectations of what can be achieved, and it is brilliant that their ideas are never limited by what is 'realistic.' Their faith in themselves and in the other children in choir is a joy to see.

Influenced primarily by the words of one of our Year 6 children, it was decided that the final performance of the year would show what it means to be a part of our choir.

'being confident even if you're quiet. Silently sparkling and getting heard.'

We look forward to welcoming more of our children into the choir in September, and wish our Year 6 children all the very best as they start their new adventures. Keep sparkling!

Miss Catton, Miss Vaughan and Miss Renshaw



## School Council

This has been a very exciting year for the School Council! We started the year with a 'Name the Gatley Owl' competition. The Owl's new name was Elat, which stood for Everyone Learning and Achieving Together, Gatley's motto!

The School Council also ran a cake sale in May to raise enough money to pay for a climbing wall in the playground!

We've had a very exciting year and can't wait for the next one! Thank you to all the Council members who have been a great help.

## Chair of Governors

Dear All,

As we rapidly approach the end of another very busy school year (and my first few months as Chair of Gatley Primary School's Governing Body), I would like to thank Mrs McManus and all the school staff who continue to work tirelessly to provide exciting, engaging learning opportunities for all the children, resulting once again in outstanding progress and results.

As governors, we continue to develop our skills and knowledge, working closely with the school Senior Leadership Team, as we strive to ensure we provide, and proactively demonstrate, outstanding governance.

I would like to wish all our departing Year 6 pupils all the very best for the future, and to thank them for all they have contributed to Gatley Primary School.

In a similar vein, I welcome anyone with children who are due to start in Reception in September. I am sure they will all enjoy the fantastic journey they are about to embark upon.

I would also like to thank the children themselves (as well as all their parents and carers!), for all their hard work this year.

Finally, I hope all the children and staff have a restful and pleasant summer break.

Many thanks

**Mike Chow, Chair of Governors**