

Weekly Newsletter: **Friday 2nd October**

Current Topic: **'We are Conservationists'** Current Value: **Empathy**



Attendance Award— Classes with the highest attendance this week are:

EYFS — Chicks 96%
KS1— Parrots 99%
LKS2— Doves 98%
UKS2— Peacocks 96%

End of Week House points totals:

Spitfire — 167
Lancaster — 187
Hurricane — 203
Wellington — 190

Tea Party Guests

These children have attended this weeks value tea party:
Archie (Penguins) Link (Penguins)
Xander (Parrots) Diyana (Penguins)
Gracie C (Owls) Sophie (Penguins)

Stars of the Week



An update from Mrs Anstee

On Monday, we carried out our annual lock-down drill at Gateway Primary School. These drills are an important part of our safeguarding and emergency preparedness arrangements, helping staff and pupils understand what to do should we ever need to secure the school quickly in response to a potential threat. The drill was carefully planned and carried out in an age-appropriate way. Staff practised securing classrooms, keeping children calm and quiet, and following our established procedures. The drill also provided an opportunity for us to review our arrangements and identify anything that could be improved.

Thankfully, a lockdown is something we hope we will never need to use in a real situation. However, regular practice helps ensure that everyone knows what to do and can respond quickly and safely if necessary.

We were really pleased with how calmly and sensibly the children responded on Monday. Why not ask your child if they can tell you the difference between the fire alarm and the lockdown alarm, and what they should do when they hear each one?

Thank you to all of our pupils and staff for taking the drill seriously and helping us to keep everyone safe.



An update from Mrs Gardner

 Have you spotted our BIG RED clothing bin? 



You may have noticed the **bright red clothing donation bin at school!**

If you're having a clear-out, please pop your unwanted clothes into the red bin. The clothing is collected and recycled, and **Gateway GSA receives money from your donations**, helping to raise additional funds for our children.

So next time you're sorting out those wardrobes, **don't throw it away – bring it our way!**

 **Recycle • Raise money • Support Gateway**



An update from Mrs Summers



One aspect of my role is coordinating admissions and transitions, dealing with transfers in and out of our school. This includes joining our school in EYFS or leaving us to move to secondary school. All applications come to me via contact with Oxfordshire County Council Admissions Team and a portal that is updated constantly. Alongside the group applications, it is my responsibility to coordinate any in-year transfers too and often liaise with families heading our way.

I wanted to make you aware of some important dates regarding admissions that are coming up. Secondary school applications can now be made and the closing date for this is 31st October. It is important to apply on time to be able to find out your child's space on 1st March 2027.

EYFS applications for September 2027 can be made between 3rd November and 15th January 2027. Applications that are made on time will be shared 16th April 2027.

If you are unsure about any of these procedures, please get in contact, I would be happy to support you with this.

An update from Mrs Diamond



It has been another busy and exciting week in The Hangar, with the children continuing to settle into their routines and make use of the different spaces and resources available to them. We have continued to build positive relationships with staff and peers, while developing confidence and independence within the provision.

A big thank you to all of the parent helpers who have volunteered their time to support the continued development of The Hangar. Your time, enthusiasm and practical support are hugely appreciated and are helping us to create an engaging and purposeful space for the children.

I am also looking forward to welcoming some of the KS2 children who will be accessing The Hangar next week. I will be spending time individually with each child and conducting a low-pressure 'Meet the Teacher' session alongside a tour of The Hangar, giving them an opportunity to become familiar with the space, meet staff and learn about some of the activities and routines they will experience. We are really looking forward to welcoming them and continuing to develop The Hangar as a positive and supportive space for all of our children.

EYFS



This week in EYFS we have been thinking about where we live. We have drawn and written about some of the places we like to visit when we go for a walk from our houses. Funnily enough soft play, the park and the sweet shop are very popular! We tried really hard to form some letters correctly and have had our first phonics sessions this week. Ask us about s and a. We used rolling pins and cutters to make houses out of clay and could talk about some of the shapes we used for the roof, windows and doors. Clay helps to make our hands and fingers stronger so we can hold our pencils and use scissors easier.

In Mastering number this week we have helped our number puppets, Numbers and Digit, with their counting. We can even count things that we can't see like drum beats and claps!

We are continuing to enjoy our daily corefulness which helps with balance and controlling our bodies and have been on a bike adventure in PE.

Stars of the Week

Murphy- for being enthusiastic in Maths and showing great support for Numbers when he was finding counting tricky.

Imogen- for joining in with carpet sessions and being brave. Imogen has been sharing her ideas with the group.

Alf R- for trying really hard when forming his letters when writing about his route back home.

Shelby- for sharing some amazing ideas in Maths.

Year 1 and 2



Another fabulous week in Key Stage 1! This week, we have continued to explore descriptive writing skills in English. We have written similes, used adjectives, powerful verbs and adverbs. We have used the small world and loose parts to tell the story of Leaf the polar bear and made our own little booklets about his adventures. In Maths, Year 1 has loved all our practical lessons about the numbers 20 to 40. We have built our own number lines and used Numicon to show tens and ones. Year 2 has continued to think about adding and subtracting multiples of 10. In Science we have thought about the seasons and how the weather changes during each of these time periods. In Art we have continued our careful observation of minibeasts, but this time we have used charcoal and oil pastels to show shadow, depth and colour. We are very much looking forward to our trip to Westonbirt Arboretum on Monday 19th October! Please do let your child's class teacher know if you can volunteer to help us on the day. Have a wonderful weekend!

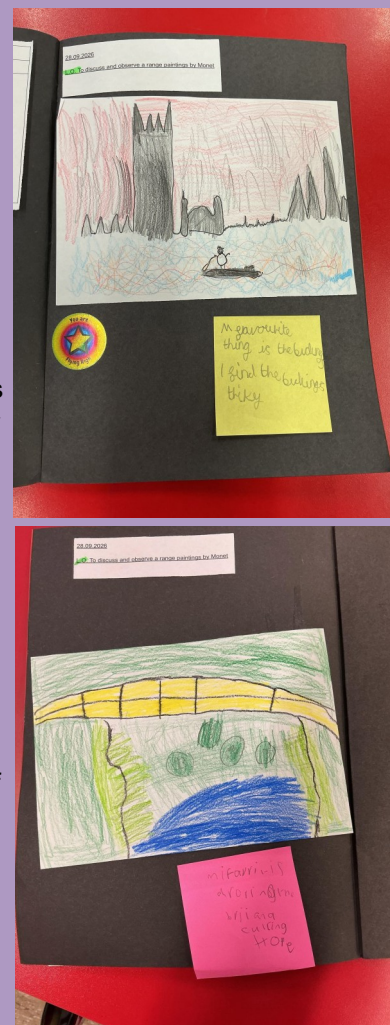
Year 3 and 4

We have continued to 'dive' into our new topic, 'We Are Conservationists', this week, building on all the exciting learning from our visit to Coleshill Mill!

In Writing, we have started to explore the world of persuasive language. We have been thinking about how we can use powerful vocabulary and persuasive techniques to encourage people to care for our rivers and take action to prevent river pollution. Using our topic, We Are Conservationists, alongside our class book *The Wind in the Willows*, we will be working towards creating our own persuasive posters about river pollution. The children have enjoyed discussing how they can make their message clear and convincing to their audience. In Maths, we have been working on equations and problems involving numbers beyond 100. We have been using the number facts we already know within 20 to help us solve larger calculations. We have also been developing our new 'bridging to 100' method, where we first find 100 within a calculation before adding or subtracting the remaining amount.

In Art, we have begun to explore our inspiration artist for this topic, Claude Monet. We looked carefully at some of his paintings and discussed how he used watercolours and different colours and tones to create particular moods and feelings. We have started to think about how we might use some of Monet's ideas to inspire our own artwork, particularly when representing water and rivers. Our Science and Geography learning has continued to link closely with our conservation topic. In Science, we have been exploring rivers and the different living organisms that can be found in and around them, thinking about how these creatures depend on their habitats. In Geography, we have been developing our understanding of the UK's rivers and learning where some of our major rivers are located.

We have also continued to practise our songs for Young Voices, and the children are becoming increasingly confident with the songs and actions. In RE, we have continued to discuss different celebrations and we have been exploring our personal strengths in Time to Talk.



Year 5 and 6



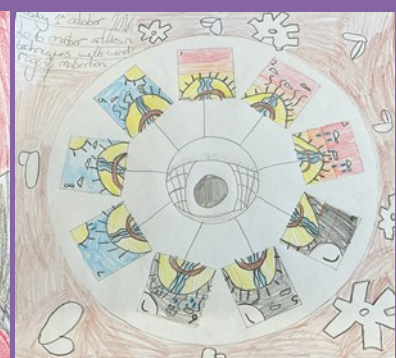
It has been another fantastic week in Year 5 and 6! In English, the children have been exploring *The Viewer* by Gary Crew, delving into both the illustrations and the mysterious story. They have used their observations and ideas to create some fantastic setting descriptions, demonstrating a growing confidence in using rich vocabulary and descriptive language.

In Maths, we have been focusing on formal written methods. The children have worked incredibly hard to understand and apply their knowledge, showing great resilience when faced with challenging problems. We have been particularly impressed by their determination to keep trying and learn from their mistakes.



In Art, the children have taken inspiration from *The Viewer* to create their own mysterious pages, including their own stories and illustrations. They have also been developing their drawing skills by sketching an eye, carefully exploring shading, tone and texture to create realistic effects.

Finally, our Year 6 children have had a brilliant time at Yenworthy! We cannot wait to welcome them back and hear all about their fantastic adventures and experiences.



Dates For The Diary

Tuesday 13th October — Individual School Photos (Year Groups TBC)

Wednesday 14th October — Individual School Photos (Year Groups TBC)

Wednesday 14th October — Mingle In The Mess 8:30am

Friday 16th October — Parent Book Look 8:30 — 9:00am

Wednesday 21st October — EYFS Open Day

Friday 23rd October — Inset Day—School Closed

Monday 26th — Friday 30th October — October Half Term

Monday 2nd November — Start of Term 2

Wednesday 11th November — Parents Evening

Wednesday 18th November — Parents Evening

Tuesday 1st December — Vision Screening EYFS

Thursday 3rd December — Flu Vaccination In School

Thursday 3rd December — EYFS Nativity to CHICKS Parents

Friday 4th December — EYFS Nativity to DUCKLINGS Parents

Friday 18th December — End of Term 2 — 1:30pm Finish

Monday 4th January — Inset Day

Tuesday 5th January — Start of Term 3



Inclusive Arts.

Connected Communities.

Creative Futures.



OXFORDSHIRE FESTIVAL

OF SPEECH , DRAMA &
MUSICAL THEATRE

21ST - 22ND NOVEMBER 2026

Corn Exchange, Witney

A new, welcoming festival celebrating speech, drama and musical theatre – bringing performers, families and communities together across Oxfordshire.

Perform Volunteer Support

To find out more and get involved, visit our website



WITNEY
TOWN COUNCIL

www.woxpaf.org

Registered Charity No. 1217189.



CORN EXCHANGE
WITNEY

Raise funds for us for FREE

Simply become one of

Gateway Primary School Association - O...

supporters on



easyfundraising



8,000+ retailers will donate to us whenever you shop with them



JOHN
LEWIS



Plus, you'll get...



Exclusive retailer offers



Competitions



A warm feeling inside!

Over
£70m
raised for UK good causes

£0
extra cost to anyone



TARGET NETBALL ACADEMY

EST. 2024

OCTOBER HALF TERM NETBALL CAMP

TWO DAYS OF NETBALL, SKILLS AND FUN
TO DEVELOP, LEARN AND PLAY!



TUESDAY 27TH &
THURSDAY 29TH OCTOBER



OXFORD HIGH SCHOOL



9:00AM – 3:00PM



AGES 8–13 YEARS



£40_{PP}



IMPROVE
YOUR SKILLS &
CONFIDENCE



LEARN
FROM EXPERIENCED
COACHES



FOCUS
ON TECHNIQUE,
TACTICS &
GAME PLAY



FUN
FRIENDS,
TEAM SPIRIT &
GREAT ENERGY!



INSPIRE.
LEARN.
ACHIEVE.

SIGN UP TODAY!



VISIT
[TARGETNETBALLACADEMY.CO.UK](https://targetnetballacademy.co.uk)



EMAIL
[TARGETNETBALLACADEMY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:targetnetballacademy@gmail.com)



LITTLE STORYTELLERS AND POETS OF CARTERTON!

Would you be interested in a bi-monthly
creative writing group for children?

TIC is The Imagination Collaboration
creative writing workshop and part of
Active Poetry with Juli Frances Taylor.

If your child would like to unleash their
imagination on the page then please
register any interest with staff or use
the QR code for contact email.



OCTOBER HALF TERM TENNIS CAMPS

Keep your child active, build their skills
and have fun this half term!



**FLEXIBLE
BOOKINGS**

Full week or
individual days



**GROUPS FOR
4 – 7 YEARS
8 – 10 YEARS
11 – 16 YEARS**



**ALL EQUIPMENT
PROVIDED**



**Ofsted
Registered**



**CHILDCARE
VOUCHERS
ACCEPTED**



BOOK NOW!



www.exceltennisacademy.co.uk