

Weekly Newsletter: **Thursday 22nd October**

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



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

EYFS — Chicks 92.1%

KS1— Penguins 99%

LKS2— Doves 96%

UKS2— Toucans 99%

End of Week House points totals:

Spitfire — 175

Lancaster — 121

Hurricane — 139

Wellington — 186

Tea Party Guests

These children have attended this weeks value tea party:
Isaiah (Penguins) Archie (Penguins) Max (Penguins) Logan (Penguins) Eden (penguins) Chloe (Eagles)

Stars of the Week



An update from Mrs Anstee

On Monday, I sent a letter to all parents outlining changes to our school office procedures and expectations moving forward.



We are always committed to working flexibly and supportively with families, recognising the many demands and complexities of school life. However, the office team has increasingly come under pressure as a result of some families being unaware of upcoming events, specialist lessons, trips and visits, or the arrangements associated with these. While we make every effort to communicate key information regularly and provide reminders where possible, it is important that families take responsibility for keeping up to date with school communications, understanding their child’s weekly schedule and planning ahead accordingly.

To help manage the office workload more effectively and ensure that the team can prioritise essential administrative and operational responsibilities, we will be asking families to make bookings for wraparound care (WAC) further in advance. We are also encouraging parents to contact the office by email or via the school answering machine wherever possible, reserving telephone calls for urgent matters.

A wealth of information about school procedures, expectations and arrangements is available on our school website and in the parent handbook, and we would encourage all families to make use of these resources.

Our office team plays a vital role in supporting the smooth running of the school and remains committed to being approachable, helpful and responsive to families. However, it is important to recognise that the team’s capacity is finite and that its primary responsibility is to manage the essential administrative and operational needs of the school, rather than to provide individualised reminders, follow-up or personal administrative support for families. By working together and taking a proactive approach to communication and planning, we can help ensure that the office team’s time and expertise are used as effectively as possible for the benefit of the whole school community.

An update from Mrs Gardner



With half-term just around the corner, we wanted to share some ideas for families looking for activities in and around Carterton and Witney.

We know that busy events, unfamiliar places and changes to routine can sometimes be challenging for children with additional needs. There are some lovely local places to explore, including quieter outdoor spaces and activities that families can enjoy at their own pace.

When planning a visit, it is always worth checking with the organiser about accessibility, quieter sessions, sensory arrangements and any additional support available.

- **Marriotts Walk, Witney – FREE Pumpkin Trail:** 26th–31st October. Explore at your own pace, find hidden pumpkins and complete the trail for the chance to collect a free pumpkin (subject to availability).
- **Cogges Manor Farm, Witney – Halloween Fun:** 22nd October–1st November. Crafts, dressing up and Halloween activities. Please be aware that some experiences may be noisy or spooky.
- **Blenheim Palace, Woodstock – Haunted Half Term:** 24th October–1st November, with storytelling, animal encounters and family activities.

A little reminder: Not every activity will suit every child, and that is absolutely fine! Please check with venues beforehand about SEND accessibility, quieter times and any adjustments they can offer.

An update from Mrs Summers



It has been a pleasure to watch the children that joined us over the term, settle in so well. Lots of friendships have been made and I really hope that everyone has felt welcomed into the Gateway community. I understand it isn't always a quick process to adjust to a new school but I am so proud of them.

As always, alongside our hello's we have had to say goodbye to some of our families as they leave for new postings, many fortunate enough to venture overseas. We really hope that everyone settles into their new homes and schools quickly and makes new friends. I really love to hear how things are going so please keep in touch, I am happy to pass on messages to their Gateway friends.

The warm welcomes and those goodbyes are a team effort from staff, children and the families and I am so grateful to anyone that helps with this process. Have a wonderful half term and I look forward to seeing you all in November.

An update from Mrs Diamond



This week in The Hangar, we have continued to build upon established routines, gradually incorporating successful strategies to support the children's readiness for learning. We have introduced Corefulness, a targeted exercise programme that develops essential skills for learning by supporting core stability, posture, balance, coordination, attention and concentration. Through practical, movement-based activities, we are helping children develop the physical foundations that can support their engagement and participation in the classroom. The Corefulness website also offers helpful advice and practical tips for parents and teachers looking to support children's physical, mental and social development from infancy through early childhood. You can explore these resources here: [Corefulness – Advice for Parents](#).

Alongside this, we have been getting into the Halloween spirit with a range of spooky activities! The children have enjoyed both group and 1:1 sensory and role-play experiences, providing them with opportunities to explore, use their imaginations, develop communication skills and engage in shared play. We have had lots of fun exploring Halloween-themed resources, encouraging curiosity, making choices and building confidence through motivating activities. We even spotted a few spooky ghouls lurking in The Hangar!



EYFS



Well done everyone, we made it to half term. This term we have really enjoyed getting to know our new Chicks and Ducklings. Everyone has made lots of new friendships and has been busy sharing news together.

This week we have been thinking more about the ME in Me and my world as we have been talking about our bodies and what makes them work. We have loved hearing lots of stories about the Funnybones characters and learning about our bones. Ask us where our skulls are and what they protect!

In the classroom we have been thinking about ways to be healthy - including some yoga, lunchbox packing, meal planning and meditation. In PE we have been busy being pirates (working on our balancing skills).

To celebrate Black History Month, we have been finding out about Marcus Rashford, and his work to ensure that everyone has a full tummy during the school day. We have made a collection for the Carterton Food-bank, which will be delivered later today. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

In Phonics we have now covered s a t p i n. The children should all know what the sounds sound like and be able to read them. They also have been working hard to write them carefully.

Stars of the Week

Arthur F - Ducklings - for working hard in Maths, Arthur has been sharing his ideas.

Brodie - Ducklings - for using his sounds to write the contents of a lunchbox. Brodie heard lots of sounds

Theo D - Chicks - for using his sounds to try to write some words independently

Delilah - Chicks - for working hard to produce some beautiful writing. Delilah has been forming her letters carefully.

Year 1 and 2

What an end to the term! We had an amazing day on Monday at Westonbirt Arboretum. We loved being autumn explorers and found some brilliant things, such as conkers, sweet chestnuts, huge leaves from the umbrella magnolia, wasp marbles and even skeleton leaves. We made rainbow leaf crowns and natural art inspired by Andy Goldsworthy. All of the children in Key Stage 1 were excellent representatives of Gateway, and really demonstrated all our school values. After our trip, many children used loose parts and small world resources to make amazing arboretums of our own inside the classroom! This week in English, we have started our new book, Seasons. We have enjoyed learning more about oak trees and thinking about the features of an information text. In Art, we have started making our own painted papers ready to use to make our British animal collages in the style of Eric Carle. In Science, we have continued to observe the water in our rain gauges and think about how the weather has changed this month. As we reach the end of the term, we thank you for all your support and we hope that you have a wonderful half term break.



Year 3 and 4



This week saw the start of our new text “River Stories”. It is a non-fiction book about some of the most famous rivers in the world. We began by imagining we were on the River Nile and heard some of the myths and legends linked to it, such as some believing it has healing powers. In maths, we have been converting between cm and mm and measuring accurately whilst also considering when it is most appropriate to measure between the two. Then in RE we continued our learning around different celebrations from different religions. This week we have been studying Hinduism and the celebration of Diwali by creating Diya lamps, Rangoli patterns and looking at the story of Rama and Sita. In Science we have continued our learning about living things and their habitats by looking for invertebrate around our school. We then classified them and made scientific sketches of what we found. A great final week before half term.



Year 5 and 6

What a term we have had! Who can believe it has gone so fast and we have achieved so much!

In maths, we have continued to develop our understanding of negative numbers, exploring how to plot and interpret coordinates across all four quadrants of a coordinate grid. Although this proved tricky at times, the children showed great perseverance and rose to the challenge!

In English, we have been exploring a WAGOLL (What A Good One Looks Like) of a narrative, identifying key features and focusing on the use of figurative language. The children were fantastic at creating their own imaginative similes and metaphors to describe the Amazon rainforest, using some wonderfully descriptive vocabulary to bring their ideas to life.

In science, we have been learning about asexual reproduction in plants and how new plants can be produced that are genetically identical to the parent plant – known as clones. We have started growing our own plants in the classroom and are looking forward to monitoring their progress over the next few weeks!

Our Year 5 and 6 children also took part in cross country, where both the boys and girls showed fantastic determination, perseverance and sportsmanship. I was incredibly proud of the way they pushed themselves to finish the race and supported the spirit of the competition. The boys were close runners-up, while the girls achieved an amazing first place! Well done to everyone who took part – you should all be very proud of your efforts!

Peacocks also took part in their final swimming session, focusing on water safety. They did brilliantly, developing their understanding of how to stay safe in and around water. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and the progress they have made.

We have had a brilliant term filled with learning, challenges and achievements. Thank you for your continued support and we hope all our families enjoy a restful and well-deserved half-term break!



Dates For The Diary

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

Monday 16th November — Odd Sock Day

Wednesday 18th November — Parents Evening

Thursday 3rd December — Flu Vaccination In School

Thursday 3rd December — EYFS Nativity to CHICKS Parents

Friday 4th December — iRock Concert 9:30am — iRock Parents Invited

Friday 4th December — EYFS Nativity to DUCKLINGS Parents

Tuesday 8th December — Vision Screening EYFS

Friday 11th December — ACT Panto Performance to Whole School

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

Monday 4th January — Inset Day

Tuesday 5th January — Start of Term 3





SPOOKS AND SPARKLES

★ SCHOOL DISCO ★

📅 **FRIDAY**
NOVEMBER 6TH

EYFS/KS1

🕒 3.30 – 4.15

🕒 **KS2**

4.30 – 5.30

£4
PER CHILD

ADMISSION INCLUDES

A SWEET BAG
AND A DRINK

Payment via ParentPay,

to be booked before 3rd November

Anti-Bullying Week 2026

ODD SOCKS DAY

Monday 16th November!

As part of Anti-Bullying Week 2026,
Gateway Primary School will be taking part in
Odd Socks Day on **Monday 16th November!**

We are inviting all children and adults to
wear their **odd socks** with pride!



Odd Socks Day is a
fun way to celebrate
what makes us all unique
and to remind everyone
that it's okay to be
different.

We want every
child to feel valued,
included and
accepted for
who they are.



There is no need
to buy anything new -
simply find two socks
that don't match
and wear them
proudly!



Let's fill Gateway with colourful,
mismatched socks and celebrate
kindness, respect and **individuality** together!

⌘ Different socks, equal respect! ⌘

HALLOWEEN COSTUME SWAP



MONDAY 26 OCTOBER

11AM-12.30PM

5.30-6.30PM

Donate, swap or find a costume





Acting Community Thingumybags are excited to announce our 33rd annual pantomime.... Dick Whittington!

Come along and boo, hiss, clap, cheer and laugh as we set off on a magical adventure with Dick Whittington and his trusty feline friend! Join Dick as he heads to London in search of fame & fortune. But with the dastardly Queen Rat causing chaos and trouble lurking around every corner, things certainly don't go according to plan!

Will Dick make his fortune? Will his trusty cat save the day? Will Queen Rat finally get her comeuppance? Packed with songs, slapstick, silliness and fairy-tale magic for the whole family to enjoy.

On Sat 12th Dec (2pm & 7pm) and Sun 13th Dec (11am & 4pm).

At Gateway Primary School, Carterton, OX18 3SF.

Tickets are £12 each or £9 for under 12's.

Don't let your chance to see this purr-fect family panto pass you by!

Tickets are on sale from Sat 31st Oct at 9am!

November Timetable

All regular sessions delivered live online via zoom. 90 minutes long

£24 each or FREE with School Membership

Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Recordings available for 48 hours

Introduction to OCD	2 Nov 10am
Raising Self-Esteem	2 Nov 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	3 Nov 10am
Decreasing Depression	3 Nov 7pm
Supporting a Child with ADHD	9 Nov 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	9 Nov 7pm
What is ACT?	10 Nov 10am
Improving Family Communication	10 Nov 7pm
Autism: Improving Communication	16 Nov 10am
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	16 Nov 7pm
Understanding the Teenage Brain	17 Nov 10am
Understanding Anger	17 Nov 7pm
FREE - Responding to Stress & Anxiety	19 Nov 7-8pm
Anxiety Explained	23 Nov 10am
Facing Defiance	23 Nov 7pm
Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness	24 Nov 10am
School Anxiety	24 Nov 7pm

OXFORDSHIRE WE ARE WITH YOU FORUM

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY SUPPORT

'We are With You' is a welcoming, parent-led group for anyone caring for children and young people (up to the age of 18) facing mental health challenges.

Find a safe space to connect, ask questions, and share experiences at your comfort level. Learn from insightful discussion on topics that matter to you.

Connect with others through our popular in-person wellbeing walks. We also offer online, topic-based webinars via Microsoft Teams, with follow-up Q&A sessions to provide additional support and discussion.

Join us for a relaxed and welcoming space, provided by:

- Parent Peer Support Workers
- Social Prescribers
- CAMHS Mental Health Professionals
- Guest speakers

To register follow the link or QR code:

<https://oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/camhs/involvement/oxon/www/>



CONNECT. SHARE. LEARN.

FAMILY SHOWS AUTUMN 2026

M6 Theatre presents

ALL THE SMALL THINGS

Saturday 24 October 11am and 2pm

Deep in the woods, in the middle of nowhere, lives the Story Collector. Drawers, cabinets and cupboards brim with baddies and goodies, hopes and wishes, once upon a time and far, far away. A magical place of possibilities. On the turn of the snow globe, the enchantment begins...

M6 Theatre's trademark beautiful design and heartwarming storytelling combine with singing, puppetry, and physical comedy in this brand-new spin on fairytales.

AGES 4+



Sonrisa Arts presents

DANCE IN THE DARK

Wednesday 28 October 1pm & 3pm

Come in your favourite PJs for a slumber party in a giant sleepover den and a playful night-time adventure. As darkness descends, giggle as we get ready for bed, explore spooky shadows, listen to night-time sounds, and feel the wind and rain on our faces.

Discover the magic of the dark, whirl and twirl, catch a shooting star and learn to be brave at bedtime.

Co-created with children, this beautiful new show is a dreamy multi-sensory feast that gently introduces little ones to the magic and wonder of theatre.

AGES 3-8

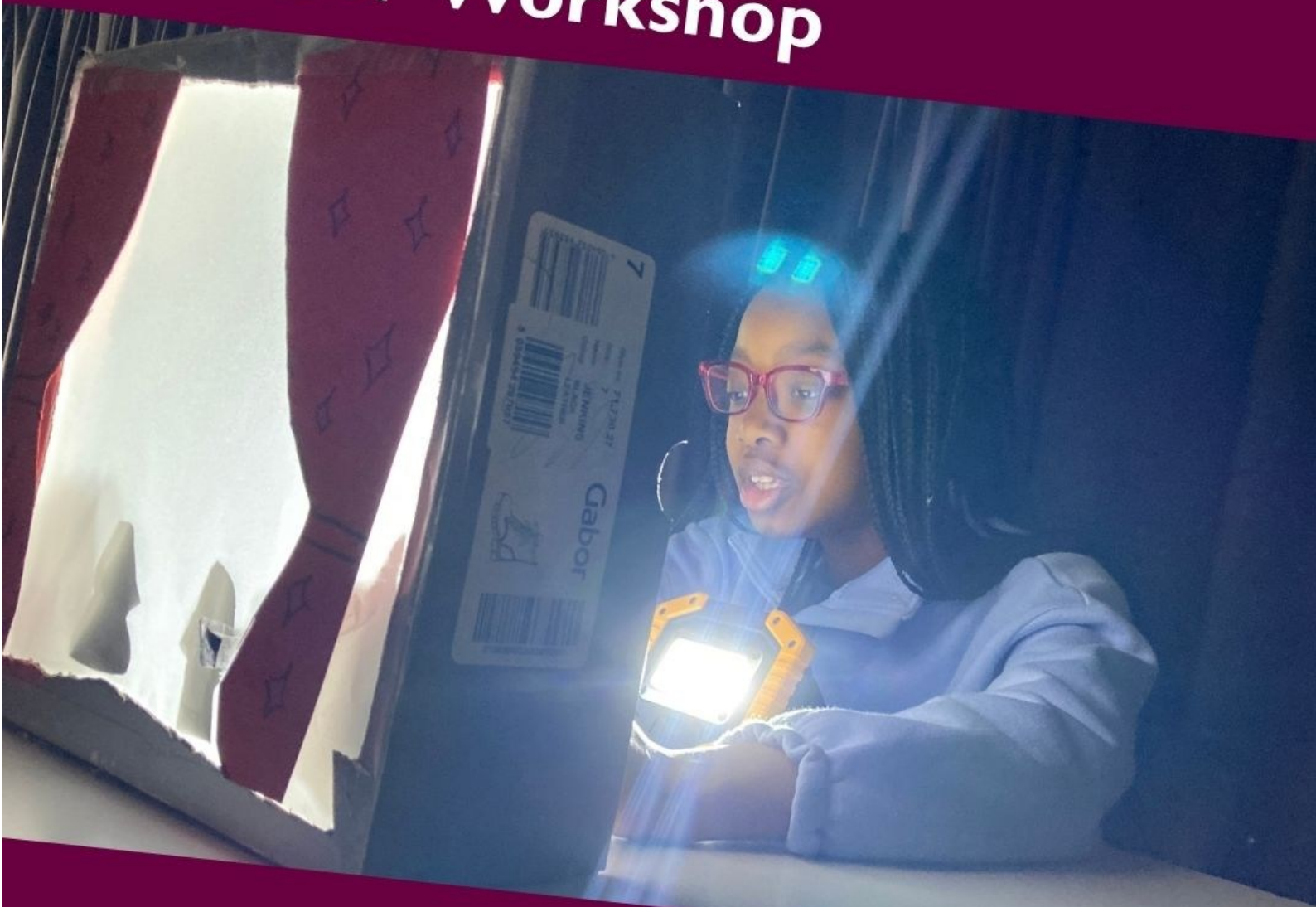
STAY AND PLAY!

Families are invited to join us for relaxed and inclusive arts and crafts, activities and play between children's shows. These are free drop-in workshops, open to all.

Details of timings for each Stay and Play session are available on the website.



October Workshop



Shadow Puppet Theatre

26 & 27 October 9am - 12pm

8 - 11 year olds

Join us this half term to explore storytelling through shadow puppetry. Each participant will make their own shadow box and puppets and bring their story to life with movement, light, sounds and character voices.

Book now: www.thenorthwall.com

OSWO



OXFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS' WIND ORCHESTRA

Starts 21st November 2026

2 - 5pm

Centre for Music
Oxford
OX3 9FF

Dates for the year:

- 21 November 2026
- 16 January 2027
- 6 March 2027
- 15 May 2027
- 19 June 2027

For players of Grade 2+ who play
woodwind, brass or percussion
instruments



Modern Art Oxford

HALLOWEEN HALF-TERM

CREATIVE STUDIO

Free, open every day (Tue-Sun)

HOLIDAY WORKSHOP

Free, drop-in on Thu 29 Oct

ACTIVITY BACKPACK

Pick up for free & explore the galleries

Find us at:

30 Pembroke Street, OX1 1BP
modernartoxford.org.uk

Need an activity for the October half term?



Does your child love Halloween?

Book a JazzDanceFusion workshop, these will incorporate dance and gymnastics to have fun learning a Halloween routine, take part in drama, games, and a Halloween costume competition!

To book a place please email JazzDanceFusion@gmail.com to request payment details. Workshops for age 5-14 JazzDanceFusion members and non-members.



Halloween Theme

Friday 30th October
9-12pm - £27

Dance Workshops at the Davenport Road Methodist Church, Witney,
OX286EL.

3 Day Musical Mayhem is coming to Carterton!

When: October Half Term,
Wednesday 28 - Friday 30 October,
10am - 1pm

Where: Carterton Community Centre

Who: 7 - 11 Year Olds

What: An exciting, fast-paced 3 day workshop full of singing, dancing, and drama. You will build triple-threat skills, confidence, and learn some well-known musical numbers!



YOU MOVE

**£10 Tickets for YouMove
members!**

Call Box Office with your YouMove
card number

Tickets: £80

Box Office: 01608 642350

Financial assistance is also available through the Tony and Judith Yarrow Bursaries.

Contact: takepart@chippingnortontheatre.com