# GATEWAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Inspiring Curious Minds

Weekly Newsletter: **Friday 6th November**

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

RESILIENCE R EMPATHY E SELF-AWARENESS S POSITIVITY P EXCELLENCE E COMMUNICATION C TEAMWORK T

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

EYFS — Ducklings 98%

KS1— Penguins 100%

LKS2— Owls 96%

UKS2— Toucans 95%

End of Week House points totals:

Spitfire — 219

Lancaster — 166

Hurricane — 259

Wellington — 234

Tea Party Guests

These children have attended this weeks value tea party:
Jamie (Penguins) Rose (Eagles)
Josh (Eagles) Teddy (Penguins)
Jayden (Eagles) Hallie (Toucans)

## Stars of the Week



## An update from Mrs Anstee



We are all looking forward to our 'Spooks and Sparkles' disco today! We can't wait to see the children's spooky outfits, sparkles and fantastic fancy dress as they get ready to dance with their friends!

Events like these are such an important part of our school community. They give children the opportunity to spend extra time with their school friends, make special memories and enjoy being part of Gateway outside of the usual school day. They are a lovely way of bringing our community together and creating those additional experiences that make school life special.

A huge thank you to our GSA for all their hard work in organising this evening's event. We are incredibly grateful for the time, energy and enthusiasm they give to supporting our school.

We are already looking forward to the other events planned throughout the school year and really appreciate the GSA's continued fundraising efforts, which help to provide additional opportunities and experiences for our children. Thank you for everything you do to make these events possible!

## An update from Mrs Gardner



Before half term, most of our staff took part in Team Teach training to further develop their skills in supporting children with their emotional regulation and behaviour.

The training focused on positive relationships, understanding behaviour as a form of communication, and using effective de-escalation strategies to help children feel safe, supported and understood.

At Gateway, we are committed to creating a calm, nurturing and inclusive environment where every child feels valued and can thrive. This training is another important step in strengthening our whole-school approach to supporting all children, particularly those who may find managing their emotions and behaviour more challenging.

## An update from Mrs Summers



Remembrance Sunday is this weekend and I am proud to be representing the school during the service in town. I am sure many of you will be there and your children will be representing various groups during the parade.

I would love to add any pictures to a display that I will be creating so please feel free to Dojo a photo of your child in their uniform and I will print it for you.  .I am aware we have some wreath layers and flag bearers and I know they will do their families and the school proud. Mrs Barnes is also needing Poppies for her display too if you haven't already made something, I am sure she will be grateful to have some more.

Next week, I will  be taking the House Captains to represent Gateway at an Armistice service which is an important event for us to pay our respects. A poignant time for all as we think about those that made sacrifices and a time to think of loved ones we have lost more recently.

## An update from Mrs Diamond



We have made a fantastic start to our new half term in The Hangar, with lots of exciting activities inspired by Bonfire Night! The children have enjoyed getting creative with LEGO, designing and building their own bonfire-night creations. These activities have provided opportunities to develop problem-solving skills, follow instructions, share ideas and use their imaginations, while working towards individual challenges.

We have also enjoyed a special Fun with Food session, where the children made their own edible ‘bonfire ash’! This was a great opportunity to explore different textures, practise practical skills and experience food in a fun and motivating way. Alongside our themed activities, we have continued to develop social communication skills through discussion groups and shared activities. These experiences encourage children to listen, take turns, express their thoughts and preferences, respond to others and build positive relationships with their peers. It has been lovely to see the children growing in confidence as they share experiences and take part together.





## EYFS



What a very busy first week back after the holidays.....

This week we have been thinking about celebrations. We started the week sharing our experiences of Halloween. We talked about what we dressed up as and going trick or treating. We did some fantastic Halloween writing, listening out for the sounds we know and forming our letters carefully.

We have also been learning all about Diwali- the festival of light celebrated by Hindu people around the world. We listened to the story of Rama and Sita, and learned how children celebrate Diwali by dressing up, eating special food and having fireworks. We had a go at some Indian dancing using some scarves and sticks in PE which was great fun! We have made beautiful Rangoli patterns using chalks, rice and playdough and sequins. We created some Diya lamps out of clay and even cooked some special Barfi sweets for part of our food tasting on Friday.

In Forest school sessions we talked about fire safety in preparation for Bonfire Night and even made some hot chocolate in the kelly kettle to keep us warm in the woods.

Next week we will be starting to work on our Christmas singing ready for our Nativity in December.

Stars of the Week

Chicks: James W- for taking his time to make and decorate his Diya lamp beautifully. James concentrated for a really long time and thought carefully about the decorations.

Lillie S-for Bollywood dancing in PE. Lillie was an excellent partner during the stick dancing.

Ducklings: Orlando D- for trying really hard with his Halloween writing.

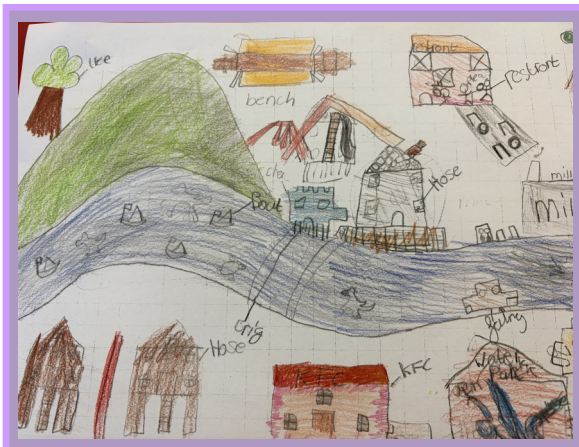
Bennett - for a positive start to school and settling into Ducklings class.

## Year 1 and 2

What a fantastic first week back after the half-term break! We have crammed so much learning, creativity, and fun into our days, starting with some beautiful autumn-themed writing where the children practiced building perfect sentences, using commas in a list, and exploring conjunctions. Our mathematicians have also been incredibly busy, with Year 1 comparing quantities, lengths, and weights, while Year 2 mastered new subtraction strategies to bridge 10. In PE, we kicked off gymnastics by learning to move and balance in safe, creative ways, but the absolute highlight was completing our Christmas card designs—keep an eye out for some truly wonderful robins, fantastic penguins, and cute polar bears! We then wrapped up this action-packed week with a brilliant Halloween disco, and send a huge thank you to our wonderful GSA for organizing such a fun event.











## Year 3 and 4

We have had a fantastic week in LKS2 this week. In reading, we have explored some vocabulary in different ways, including playing charades, drawing pictures and writing silly sentences. In English, we have continued to explore River Stories and discovered some myths surrounding well-known rivers. The focus in maths has been place value and positioning numbers on number lines. We loved creating our own towns in geography to help us understand why people use rivers.

We are wrapping up the topic next week with a focus on art and science.

Have a good weekend.

## Year 5 and 6

A fantastic first week in term 2 as we continue our 'We are Conservationists' topic. In Maths, we have been looking at multiplication and solving equations. The children are so enthusiastic when discussing their ideas with partners and sharing their explanations with the class. They are also showing how they deepen their learning by completing our Diving Deeper challenges. In English, Toucans have been looking at the features of expanded noun phrases and up-levelling their sentences to make them more effective and engaging. Eagles and Peacocks have started to plan their story all about surviving in the rainforest. They have generated lots of ideas based on one of the stories we have studied, thinking carefully about emotions, our senses and the layers of the rainforest. Eagles are continuing with their ukulele lessons and they are developing their skills and learning new chords. With DT, Toucans and Peacocks are continuing with their felt rainforest animals and they are looking really great. The children have been so focused throughout and their skills are developing well. Finally, in Science this week we have been finding out about the life cycles of mammals, amphibians, insects and birds.






A huge well done to Tate, who kicked off his first match of the season with Swindon Town FC's U11 Elite Squad in fantastic style!

Playing away against Fulham on Friday, the team secured an impressive 4–2 victory, with Tate making a brilliant contribution by providing two assists!

A fantastic achievement and a great way to start the season. Well done, Tate – keep up the great work!



# Dates For The Diary

**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**

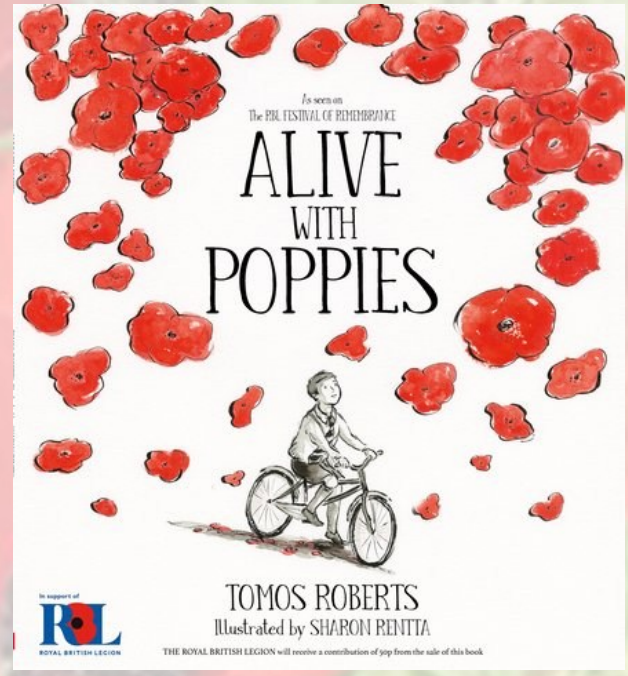
**Friday 18th December — End of Term 2 — 1:30pm Finish**

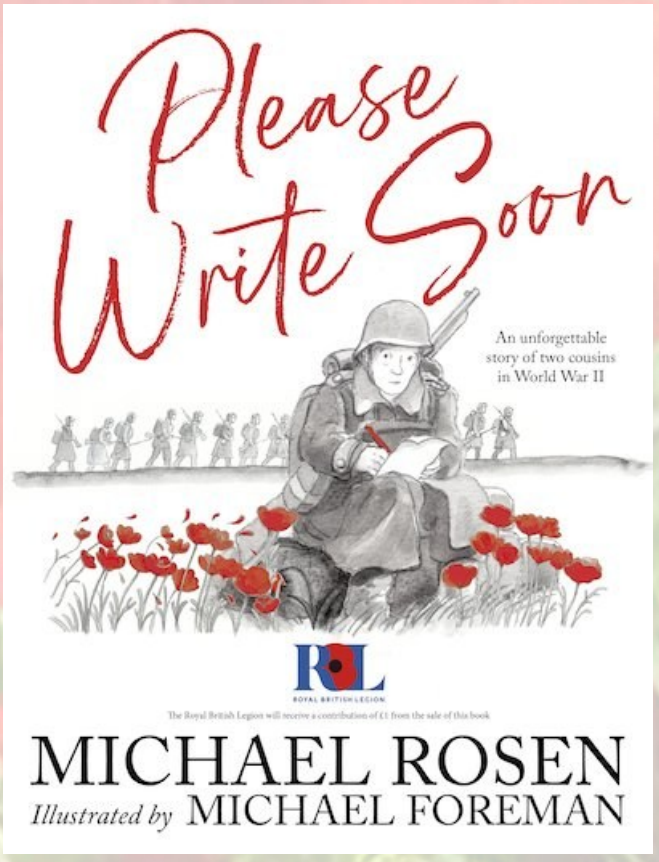
**Monday 4th January — Inset Day**

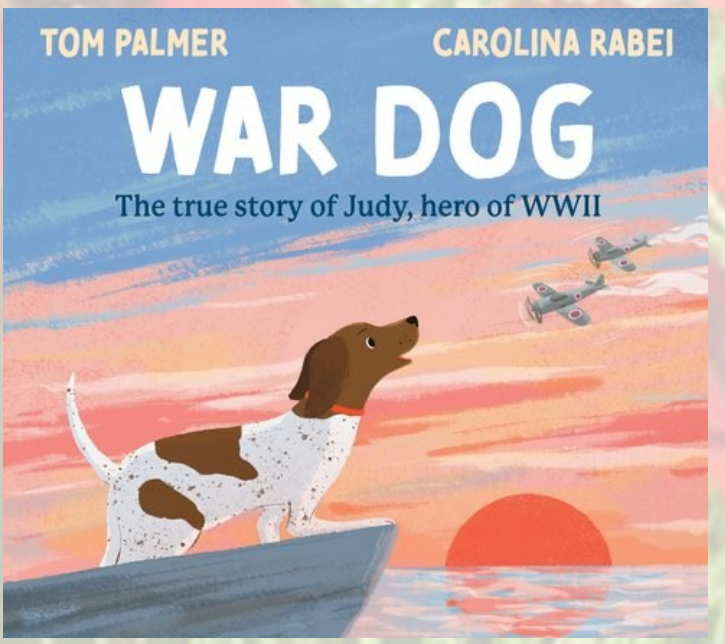
**Tuesday 5th January — Start of Term 3**

With remembrance day approaching, there are some great books out there to help your children reflect. Here are some examples, these books are available to buy on the scholastic website.

Thank you.



# Gift Fair

## Carterton

at the WI Hall

3 Brize Norton Road

Every Tuesday

9am – 1pm

Raffle for Healing Military Minds Fundraiser



Free Tea & Coffes with every Raffle Ticket

Only 50p a Ticket

Treat Yourself ♥ Support Charity ♥ Support Local Businesses

# *Steam Into Christmas at Didcot Railway Centre*

**Santa needs your help! His reindeer have wandered off around Didcot Railway Centre, and he needs little explorers and their grown-ups to help find them. Follow a festive trail, discover the missing reindeer, and collect Christmas stocking fillers along the way.**

**Then meet Santa in his grotto and receive a special gift. Families can also enjoy unlimited steam train rides, explore historic locomotives, and soak up the sights and sounds of a railway at Christmas.**

**Dates: Weekends in December and selected days before Christmas. Advance booking recommended. Tickets from £20.**

**Book your ticket today: https://bit.ly/4yY1IL6**



# COMPASS

CHILDREN OF MILITARY PARENTS ACCESSING SEN SUPPORT

## SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS & DISABILITIES PEER SUPPORT GROUP

A friendly space for parents to connect,
share experiences, and enjoy a coffee and catch-up

**First Wednesday of each month**
**11:00am – 1:00pm**

**Community Support Building**
(next to gym)

## Families Welcome

- A relaxed, welcoming environment
- Peer support from like-minded parents
- Opportunities to share experiences and advice
- School holiday & seasonal activities
- Online support via a secure Facebook group

## Get in Touch

bzn-compass@mod.gov.uk

Children of Military Parents Accessing
SEN Support (COMPASS)

Knowledge empowers you

# COMPASS

CHILDREN OF MILITARY PARENTS ACCESSING SEN SUPPORT

# CHRISTMAS PARTY

## 18th December

## See Santa!

Each child will receive a gift from Santa!



Date: 18th December

Where: Community Support Building (next to the gym)

Time: 17:00 – 19:00

## Activities Include:

- Meet Santa Claus
- Soft Play
- Lego Building
- Christmas Crafts
- Christmas Games
- Sensory Room Available

Parents must supervise children at all times.

**Booking forms to be released soon**

# LANTERN WORKSHOPS & PARADE



## Lantern-making workshops

**Saturday 7th November 2026**
**10 am -2pm**

**Carterton Community Centre**

**Saturday 14th November 2026**
**10am -2pm**

**Carterton Family Centre**

## Lantern parade

**From the Methodist Church at 5.45 pm**

**28th November 2026**

Suggested donation: €1 towards the provision of the light

## Come and make, carry and share the light




oxfordshire music hub

Supported using public funding by

Department for Education | ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

LOVE
KIDS PHOTOGRAPHY



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**Hello!**

We're excited to be in **Wotton-Under-Edge on Sunday November 8th.**

✨ A perfect chance to get some beautiful family photographs and gifts for Christmas this year :)
We will be setting up our Pop-Up studio in Wotton's Under The Edge Arts.

If you'd like to book in or find out more, just follow this link:

https://bookfamilysession.as.me/schedule/eb5e3b5c/appointment/22626022/calendar/2683245

We look forward to seeing you!

Lisa & Gemma
Love Kids Photography