



Weekly Newsletter: **Friday 5th September**
Current Topic: **'Hello'** Current Value: **Resilience**



Welcome Back

We are very pleased to welcome everyone back for a new school year. Whether you are returning for another year, have recently moved into the area, or are just beginning your school journey with us in EYFS, we are delighted to have you as part of the Gateway community. We hope this year will be full of enjoyment, friendship, and exciting learning for every child.

This September, we are proud to have almost **300 children across 11 classes** – the largest number for some time. It is wonderful to see Gateway continuing to grow, and we value the positive reputation our school is building within the town.

We are also very pleased to welcome new members of staff this term:

- **Mrs Sparey** has joined the Year 3 and 4 team as a teaching assistant.
- **Mrs Rathbone** and **Mrs Bryant** have joined the teaching assistant team in Years 1 and 2.
- **Mrs Moody** and **Mrs Moyle** have joined our lunchtime supervisor team.

We know that our pupils and families will make them feel very welcome.

There are many exciting opportunities planned for the year ahead to inspire and support our curriculum learning, and we look forward to sharing these with you as the term progresses.

This is also the **first of our weekly newsletters**. Each Friday, you will find important information here about school-wide events and updates, as well as phase-specific learning news, our Stars of the Week, House Point winners, and Tea Party attendees. The newsletter will be shared each week on **ParentHub, Class Dojo, and the school Facebook page**.

As always, please do reach out to our staff team if you need any clarification or have questions. You will always find a member of staff on the playground at drop-off and pick-up times, and our office staff are happy to help in person, by telephone, or via email. All contact details can be found on the school website.

We look forward to another successful and enjoyable year at Gateway Primary School.

An update from Mrs Anstee

Welcome back! It has been wonderful to see our pupils engaged in their new learning this week.

At the start of the school year, all classes work on a “**Hello Topic**” to help pupils get to know each other and build strong relationships. Your child’s teacher will have shared a topic web outlining the learning for this period. When the class moves on to a new topic, you will receive an updated topic web so you can stay informed about the areas of focus. Additional curriculum documents and plans are also available on the school website.

We’d also like to invite you to our **Open Classrooms event on Friday 12th, from 3:00pm**. This is an opportunity for parents and carers to visit their child’s classroom. Teaching staff will be on hand for general enquiries, and each class will share a rolling presentation covering key information such as P.E. days, upcoming trips, and homework expectations. (A copy of the presentation will also be available afterwards on Class Dojo.)

Please note, this session is simply to help you become familiar with your child’s learning space. Progress-focused parents’ meetings will take place after the October half-term.

We hope you can join us on Friday 12th!



An update from Mrs Gardner

I am really pleased to see the children back in school and raring to go this week.

As part of our ongoing work to support children’s focus and wellbeing, we are introducing some new strategies across our classrooms this term.

- **Daily Movement Breaks** – All children will have the opportunity to take short, structured breaks during the day to move, stretch, and reset. These breaks are designed to help children regulate their energy levels and return to learning ready to concentrate.
- **Focus Tools in Class** – A range of simple tools (such as fidget resources, wobble cushions, and other sensory supports) will be available in classrooms for children to use when they need help maintaining attention. These will be introduced carefully, with clear expectations, so they are used positively and effectively.

We are confident these approaches will support both learning and emotional regulation, and we will continue to review their impact as part of our commitment to meeting the needs of all children.



An update from Mrs Summers

What a wonderful start to the new academic year. We have welcomed lots of new families and as always, it makes me so proud of the support offered by the children to help with the settling in process. I hope that you all quickly feel part of the Gateway community.

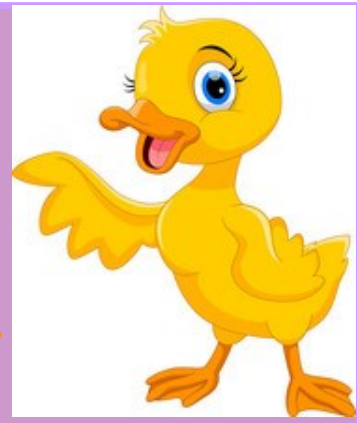
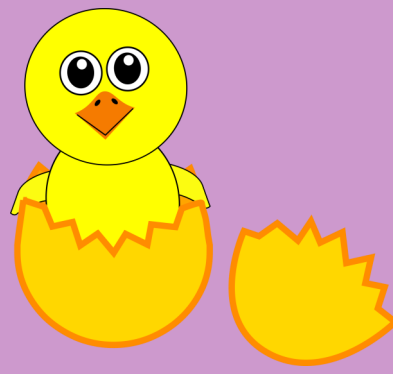
I’ll soon be hosting coffee mornings again, dates to be announced soon. We will be relocating to the Mess (where our WAC provision is) so a new name is needed - Mingle in The Mess. I’ll send out more details before the first one.

A reminder for WAC, please can bookings be made the Thursday before the week you require the sessions. There is a direct number to use in event of running late etc: 01993 684716 it might be worth having it saved in your phone in case you ever need it.



EYFS

What a wonderful start we have had to our first year at BIG school! We have all started to settle into routines and are making new friends.



We have been learning about our visual timetable, so that we know what is happening during the day, we have been exploring the classroom and have settled into lunchtimes already. This week we have started to think about being Ducklings and Chicks, we have listened to stories about Ducklings and Chicks and have used our scissor skills to create our own ducks and chicks to put on our class display.

We have been singing nursery rhymes and getting to know all of the adults in the EYFS.

Next week we are going to be having our first ever PE session in the hall.

Ducklings will be having PE on a Tuesday and Chicks will be having PE on a Thursday. Please remember to come to school wearing PE Kits on those days, we arrive in our kit, (black bottoms, white T-shirt and our purple Gateway jumper with our trainers on our feet.) and stay in it all day. It's going to be so exciting!!

Year 1 and 2

Wow, KS1 has had an amazing start to the new school year. We have begun our hello topic by getting to know our new teachers, classmates and classrooms in some cases. It has been fantastic to see how excited the children have been in their exploring and learning and how confident they are in finding their way around their new classroom and getting to know their classmates. In Continuous Provision, children have been taking on lots of different challenges, including tidying up! We hope you will be able to join us on Friday 12th September, from 3pm for our open classroom

event, where you can see all of the amazing work we have been doing. Enjoy your weekend and we will see you on Monday for another action-packed week.

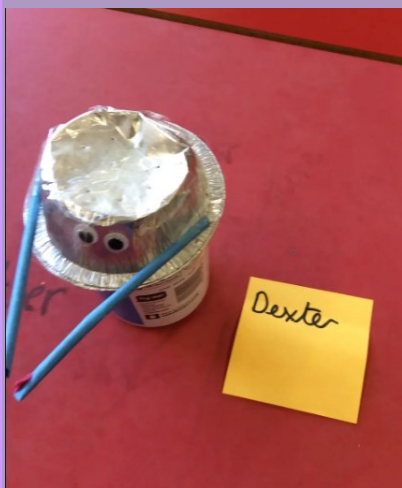


Year 3 and 4

We have had a lovely few days welcoming our Year Three pupils into the team and helping resettle into our classes. This week we have focussed on establishing expectations and routines in the class and creating our class identity. We have all created beautiful kingfishers, owls or doves for our classrooms. In English, we have been introduced to our new book 'Can I Build Another Me.' To help us get excited about the book, we have created robots, named them and thought about what we would like them to help us with and what we would want them to know about us. We have familiarised ourselves with times tables in maths and played some maths games. We have explored chronology in history and had a go at ordering key historical events the children would already know about.

We have lots of exciting things coming up so please keep checking the newsletter and class dojo regularly.

Have a restful weekend.



Year 5 and 6

All the teachers and teaching staff were very excited to welcome all of the Year 5/6 children back to school after the summer break. The year 6 pupils all looked wonderfully smart in their black jumpers and ready to be at the top of the school. The Year 5 pupils have settled into their new classes and look absolutely ready to meet their new challenge of being in Year 5! This week, as we began our Hello Topic, the children shared things that they did over the summer ready to write entertaining poems in English called, 'What I didn't do this summer'. They have also drawn self portraits in Art, with a slight twist - using half a photo of themselves and drawing the other half of their face. Their portraits will be put into the front of their sketchbooks. In Maths, we have begun exploring calculation using subtraction and addition. In Guided Reading, the children have begun to explore a lovely book based on Charles Darwin, called 'What Mr. Darwin saw.' We have started our new topic of Time to Talk, and discussed what makes a good learning environment. We are looking forward to a busy, but fun term.



Dates For The Diary

Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th September — I.M.P.S — Year 6

Friday 12th September — Open Classrooms 3pm

Thursday 18th September — Year 6 Junior Citizen Visit

Wednesday 17th September and Thursday 18th September — Individual School Photos

Monday 29th September — Friday 3rd October — Year 6 Yenworthy Residential

Wednesday 8th October — Flu Vaccination

Friday 10th October — World Mental Health Day

Friday 17th October — Parent Book Looks 8:35am

Friday 24th October — End of Term 1

Monday 3rd November — Start of Term 2

Wednesday 5th November — EYFS Open Day

Tuesday 11th November — EYFS Walk To Memorial

Friday 14th November — EYFS Nursery Rhyme Event To Parents — 2:30pm — 3:30pm

Friday 14th November — World Diabetes Day

Wednesday 19th November — Parent Meetings

Wednesday 26th November — Parent Meetings

Friday 5th December — Christmas Jumper and Christmas Lunch Day

Tuesday 16th December — Whole School Panto





MESSAGE FROM THE TOOTH FAIRY



**Eat 5 portions of
fruit and
vegetables a day
to stay healthy**



**Drink water
and milk to
stay healthy**





Mental Health & Oral Health

Mental health challenges can make it harder to look after teeth and gums, while poor oral health can lead to pain, low confidence, and increased stress. Supporting both together helps improve overall health and wellbeing.

How Mental Health Affects Oral Health

- 😞 Low motivation → missed brushing & appointments
- 💊 Medications → dry mouth → higher risk of decay & gum disease
- 🍷 Comfort eating, smoking, alcohol → damage to teeth & gums
- 😰 Dental anxiety → avoidance of treatment

How Oral Health Affects Mental Health

- 🤢 Pain & infection → worsens stress, anxiety, depression
- 🌙 Sleep problems from pain or grinding teeth
- 🏠 Low confidence → avoiding smiling, talking, or socialising
- 💰 Financial stress from costly dental problems

What Helps?

- ✓ Daily brushing & support with routines
- ✓ Dry mouth products
- ✓ Expressing concerns to the dental team before appointments
- ✓ Speaking to health professionals (GP, therapists, Dentist)
- ✓ Healthy coping strategies such as meditation, exercise & talking therapies

**Scan for mental
health support**





C17- FORCE -RESCUE OF THE GIRAFFES

RAF C17 - Rescue of the Giraffes is our biggest event ever !! and we will need everyone in the group to support us to make this work. The operation will consist of picking up 1000 giraffes stranded at an undisclosed location and returning them to the safety of RAF Brize Norton.

*****BRIEFING*****

A C17 will get airborne from RAF Brize Norton at approx. 10.00 local time on the 19th October 2025 and will travel to their location, where after deeming the area safe the crew will execute a tactical landing on to the runway and the rescue mission will begin to recover all stranded Giraffes from harm's way at this location which cannot be disclosed for security reasons.

Once all Giraffes are safely on board the aircraft will make a speedy departure getting airborne for approximately 1.5 hours to return to RAF Brize Norton for health checks before been released for their onward journey to their families / owners.

So what do I need to do to be part of this amazing flight.

1. Choose your Cuddly Giraffe Teddy that you would like to go on the flight
2. E Mail girafferescue2025@gmail.com with your Name, Giraffes Name and your school.
3. Attach a tag or label to your Giraffe with your name and school on it.
4. We will collect the Giraffes from your school office on the 16th or 17th October.
5. We will return your Giraffe on the 20th or 21st October.

There is no cost for this event, however, if you are able to make a donation this can be done via www.giraffesontour.co.uk which has a link to the justGiving web page.

