

Weekly Newsletter: **Friday 28th November**

Current Topic: **'We Are Time Travellers'** Current Value: **Self-Awareness**



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

- EYFS— Chicks 97%
- KS1— Parrots 97%
- LKS2— Kingfishers 98%
- UPKS2— Toucans 97%

End of Week House points totals:

- Spitfire — 167
- Lancaster — 208
- Hurricane — 177
- Wellington — 179

Tea Party Guests

These children have attended this weeks value tea party:  
 Eliza (Doves) Olivia K (Doves) Finley (Penguins) Penny (Parrots) Dylan (Doves) Molly (Toucans)

Stars of the Week

EYFS

**Chicks:** Evelyn N: For enthusiastic singing and working hard to learn her lines for the play.

**Ducklings:** Harry M: For fantastic effort with his bug club reading online.

Year 1 and 2

**Penguins:** Sophie: For always giving 100% effort to all of her work, Sophie never gives up! Nina: For her great use of adjectives and time adverbials in her writing.

**Robins:** Toby: For taking his time and thinking carefully about his writing, adding in time adverbials and conjunctions. I'm so proud of you! Edward: For excellent understanding of part-whole models, and for always persevering in Maths. I'm very proud of you!

**Parrots:** Frederick: For showing great creativity when exploring mark making in art. Imogen: For having a great attitude in maths even when things are tricky. Keep up the hard work.

Year 3 and 4

**Owls:** Abel: For writing an amazing, well thought out persuasive letter about Malala. Joshua: or making a good effort to improve his behaviour and learning

**Kingfishers:** Tobi: For excellent sewing skills when practising different stitches and for showing a fantastic self correcting in maths. Olivia C: For a brilliant attitude to all of her learning, showing excellent self-awareness, trying her best in all of her work

**Doves:** Leon: For showing excellent resilience with some tricky sewing this week. Oliver C: For working hard to do his best when writing his letter to Kate Pankhurst. Well done.

Year 5 and 6

**Eagles:** Archie: For your brilliant focus and incredible attention to detail creating a stunning lion design as part of our vector drawing lesson. Sophia W: For consistently working hard and using feedback to write a retelling of The Roman Quests.

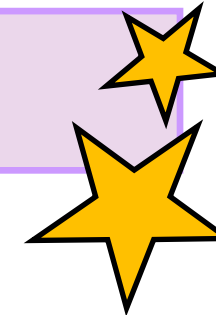
**Peacocks:** Gerald: For including effective vocabulary to improve his story in English. Connie: For editing and improving her story and including dialogue to engage the audience.

**Toucans:** Millie: For always having a fantastic attitude to her work and for being a wonderful role model for others. Mia-Lou: For always putting 100% effort in her work in all areas of the curriculum.

Wraparound Care

**Breakfast Club:** Hannah: For being an absolute superstar at breakfast club!

**Afterschool Club:** Isla: For demonstrating excellent transition to the afterschool club and engaging positively during all sessions.



### An update from Mrs Anstee

Earlier in the school year we were very grateful for a donation of £940 from Carterton Educational Fund for further books for our school library. Mrs Millard-Wilson is our recently appointed school Reading Ambassador and has been tasked with re-organising and revitalising our school library this year - with further books on the way, thanks to a donation from the Armed Forces Education Trust. It is an exciting time for reading at Gateway! In addition to books available for children from the library, we also have a book swap at the main reception - please do help yourselves! We know our pupils need positive reading role models - let them catch you lost in a book! The book fair is also on site until Tuesday - great Christmas gifts!



### An update from Mrs Gardner

At Gateway School, we are committed to ensuring every child has the very best opportunity to thrive—academically, socially and emotionally. One of the most important factors in a child's development is regular, consistent attendance.



When children attend school every day:

Their learning is continuous, helping them build strong foundations in reading, writing and maths.

They develop confidence, routines and independence.

They build friendships, learn social skills and take part in the wider life of the school.

They feel secure, because they are part of the daily rhythm and expectations of their class.

When children miss school, even for a few days, it can affect their progress, confidence and sense of belonging. Over time, small gaps can grow into much bigger barriers to learning.

Because of the importance of consistent attendance, schools cannot authorise holidays during term time. Families have 175 days each year—weekends, school holidays and breaks—to enjoy trips, holidays and special occasions together.

Taking children out of school during term time means they miss essential learning that is difficult to catch up on, especially in subjects taught sequentially such as phonics and maths.

We ask for your continued support in ensuring that family holidays are planned outside of school term dates, so your child can benefit fully from the learning and opportunities offered in school every day.

### An update from Mrs Summers

I arranged for Brize Norton BFBS (radio) to pop in to meet some of our children that have a family member deployed over Christmas. They got to record jokes and make some recordings to be broadcast in December. Please follow them on social media for an upcoming competition, a special mention to Chicks and Ducklings for providing some wonderful singing! The competition starts next week, look out for Santa Pause next week in the breakfast and afternoon shows.



As we start to get closer to the end of the term, I am aware that some of you are on the move. Please keep me updated with forwarding information which can be added to a withdrawal form, the most important thing initially is the potential last day. For now, let's keep enjoying making Gateway memories.

## EYFS

This week we have been very busy making preparations for our EYFS performance of Wiggly Nativity. We have been practising songs, lines, dancing, making props and working on using our big voices.

As part of our preparations we were super excited on Wednesday when BFBS radio came into school to record some of our songs which they are going to play on the actual real radio during December!

In class we have continued our learning by exploring more birthday fun. We have been writing lists, making cards and have even baked delicious cakes.

In Phonics this week we have moved on to our first digraph ck, we know how to read it and write it and are now blending sounds together to read real words.

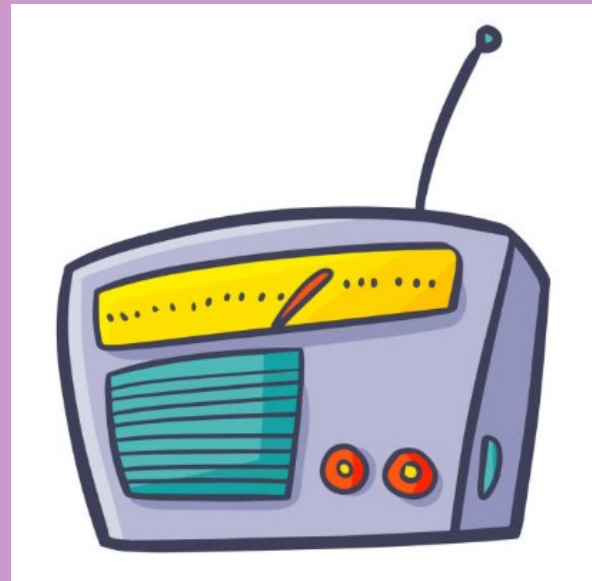
As part of our preparations for more celebrations we have written letters to Santa which we are hoping to post to the North Pole next week.

To hear our lovely singing on BFBS you will need to listen to Gemma-Leigh during the Breakfast show (the 8am hour) and to the afternoon show with Jacob Dyer (between 1 and 4pm)

Our songs will be part of the Santa Pause competition which is a competition they are running during December, where callers are encouraged to call in to win prizes! Take a look at the BFBS Brize Norton Facebook page and look out for the Santa Pause posts.

You can listen:

Online at <https://www.bfbs.com/radio/stations/bfbs-brize-norton> the BFBS iPhone and Android app, on 106.1 FM. and on your smart speaker say 'Play BFBS Brize Norton'. Lets see if we can get some Festive Winners!!! Don't forget to let us know if you win!



## Year 1 and 2

This week we have been continuing our adventures with Vlad and Boxton. We have been singing songs and completing dances linked to the Great Fire of London. In English, we have been using time adverbials and conjunctions in our sentences. In Year 2 maths we have been thinking bridging ten when adding and subtracting numbers and in Year 1 maths we have been working with part-part-whole models. In art, we have been having great fun exploring ways to make marks in

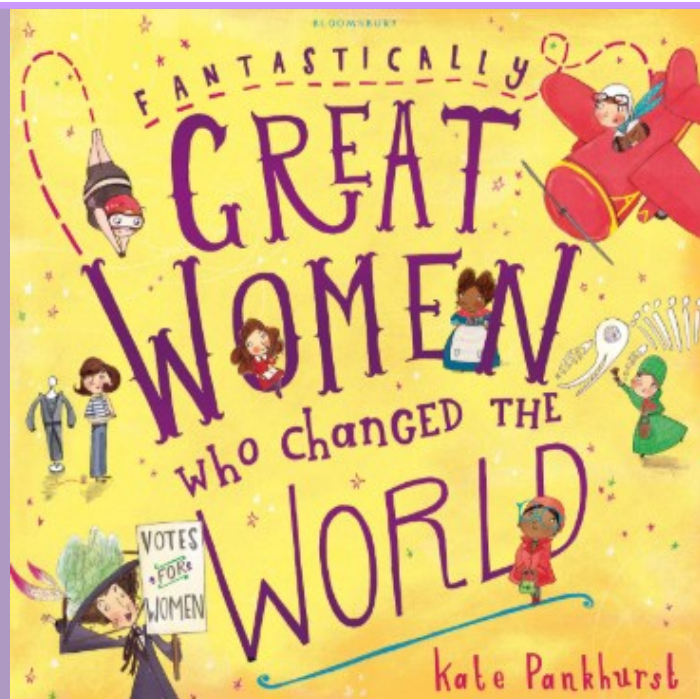
different ways. We have enjoyed seeing the homework creations linked with the Great Fire of London. Thank you for all those who were able to attend parents this week, it was great to share the successes and we have been impressed with how you are willing to support the children with their learning. **Have a good weekend and check out the Dojo about the Science Oxford Visit.**



### Year 3 and 4

This week in English, year 3 and 4 have been writing letters to Kate Pankhurst to persuade her to include Malala Yousafzai in her next 'Fantastically Great Women Who Changed the World' books. They have had to think carefully about the important facts about her life and explain their reasons why this makes Malala a possible candidate to be included. We will then be posting these and hoping we might hear back.

In DT we have begun developing our skills in sewing by practising different stitches such as running stitch and overstitch and evaluating which we feel more confident in using when sewing our Christmas Stockings. We will be moving on to learning how to sew on attachments such as bells, buttons and other accessories too. This area of DT can be a challenge for some and we are really proud with the resilience and determination our children have shown so far. Well done year 3 and 4.



### Year 5 and 6

Another brilliant week across UKS2 to this week as we continue our We are time traveller's topic. Children had the opportunity to explore different sources of evidence and discuss why some pieces of evidence are more reliable than others as well as what

they actually tell us about WW1. This was a fantastic lesson and children really used their oracy skills to debate the pieces of evidence they were presented with. In other learning, children have begun to explore their dance topic as part of our PE lessons. We are going to learn a variety of dances from across the British Empire, starting with the Australian stomp. Whilst not a tricky dance to learn it did require some coordination as well as excellent listening skills. In art, children have been using the medium charcoal to create their own WW1 silhouette drawings. Children had the opportunity to explore the two main techniques, layering and blending/smudging before completing a final design. This was a fantastic, albeit messy activity with some brilliant final designs. In computing, children have begun their unit on vector drawings with some fantastic animal designs made of numerous different shapes. Children were able to learn how to draw, resize, colour, copy and rotate a range of two dimensional shapes.

In swimming, Toucans have been working really hard practising the different strokes each week. Lots of children are showing a real determination to do better and swim further. In guitar, Eagles continue to work hard to learn new strings. There has been a massive improvement since September with lots of children even learning how to tune their own guitar, something which can be rather tricky.

A big thank you as well for your continued support. It was fantastic to be able to meet with lots of parents to discuss progress so far.

# Lantern Workshop

Well done to everyone who took part in one of our lantern workshops. Over the last 2 weeks, over 25 children have come along to work with Mrs Stone and Mrs Barker after school to make lanterns.

The artists will each take part in the Carterton Lights Switch on this Saturday at 6pm in the town centre.

Look out for our special Gateway purple lanterns - new this year!



## Dates For The Diary

**Monday 1st December** — Last Day of Book Fair

**Friday 5th December** — Christmas Jumper and Christmas Lunch Day

**Friday 5th December** — GSA Christmas Bingo, Doors Open 7pm

**Wednesday 10th December** — Chicks Class Performance to Parents  
2:15 — 3:15pm

**Thursday 11th December** — Ducklings Class Performance to Parents  
2:15 — 3:15pm

**Tuesday 16th December** — Whole School Panto

**Wednesday 17th December** — Mingle In The Mess 8:30-9:30am

**Wednesday 17th December** — Carols

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

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

**Monday 26th January** — Young Voices — Year 3 and 4

**Thursday 12th February** — Valentines Break The Rules Day

**Friday 27th March** — GSA Easter Bingo



# Scholastic Book Fair



On Tuesday 25th November, we are excited to share that the Scholastic Book Fair is returning to school. The Book fair will be held outside the double doors of the Key Stage Two corridor on Tuesday 25th November, Thursday 27th November, Friday 28th November and Monday 1st December. It will also be in the library on Wednesday 26th November during parent's evening.

Please come along and buy some great, educational Christmas gifts for your children.



Payments can be made via scanning a QR code and paying on your phone, we **will not** accept cash. Please note we also **cannot** reserve books.

Thank you.



Bar & Refreshments available

# Christmas Bingo

Join the holiday cheer with Christmas Bingo, where every number brings joy and yuletide surprises.

**FRIDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> DEC 25,  
DOORS OPEN 7PM,  
EYES DOWN 7.30PM**

Gateway Primary School,  
Netheravon Close,  
Carterton  
OX18 3SF

**Need an activity so you can do some last-minute Christmas shopping or wrapping?**



Book a JazzDanceFusion workshop, these will incorporate dance, cheerleading, and gymnastics to have fun learning a Wicked routine, take part in drama, singing, games and children can dress up for the costume competition!

**Wicked: For Good Part Two Themed!**



Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 10-1pm  
£26

(Primary school children)

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1-4pm  
£26

(Dancers 11+)

To book a place please email  
JazzDanceFusion@gmail.com to  
request payment details.

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



Dance



*Dance & Gymnastics for All Ages*

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- **Acro-Gymnastics**
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*Performance Opportunities:  
Students can participate in  
Dance Shows, Competitions,  
Workshops, Performances,  
and Afterschool Clubs, with  
plenty of chances to shine!*

**Jazzdancefusion@gmail.com**  
**07714849818**  
**@jazzdancefusion**



Dancin' Oxford &  
The North Wall presents

# Family Dance Party

Saturday 6 December  
10.30am & 1pm

A hip-hopping, toe-tapping daytime disco for all the family

Festive Family Dance Party  
St John's Church, Kidlington, OX5 1DD

 The North Wall  
Arts Centre

DANCIN'  
OXFORD 

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# WR SPORTS CHRISTMAS CAMPS

EARLY BIRD  
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## LOCATIONS:

BRACKLEY LEISURE CENTRE  
TOWCESTER CENTRE FOR LEISURE  
WHEATLEY PARK SCHOOL  
WATLINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL  
THE SWAN SCHOOL, OXFORD

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- Wide range of activities.
- Build confidence and skills.





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The Oxford and Cambridge Singing School is for boys and girls aged 7 - 13 who love to sing. Established in 2013, the Singing School provides the opportunity to experience great classical music with world class coaches in a relaxed and fun environment and to develop confidence in singing and performing.

Pupils will learn some beautiful carols and seasonal music from around the world, led by our regular team of expert coaches.

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**22 & 23 December 2025**

**St Barnabas Church, Jericho, Oxford  
St Catharine's College, Cambridge**

[www.oxbridgesingingschool.co.uk](http://www.oxbridgesingingschool.co.uk)