

Weekly Newsletter: **Friday 17th April**

Current Topic: **'We Are Environmentalists'** Current Value: **Excellence**



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

EYFS— Chicks 95%
KS1— Penguins 99%
LKS2— Owls 100%
UPKS2— Peacocks 96.6%

End of Week House points totals:

Spitfire — 187
Lancaster — 189
Hurricane — 205
Wellington — 182

Tea Party Guests

These children have attended this weeks value tea party:
Chase (Eagles) Harrison (Penguins) Harleigh (Penguins) Isla (Chicks) George (Parrots) Zach (Penguins)

Stars of the Week

EYFS

Chicks: All of Chicks: For being amazing during our special visit from Jonathans Jungle. Jonathan commended the children on their amazing behaviour - we are so proud of them.

Ducklings: All of Ducklings: For being amazing during our special visit from Jonathans Jungle. Jonathan commended the children on their amazing behaviour - we are so proud of them.

Year 1 and 2

Penguins: All of Penguins: For making me feel so welcome on my first week at Gateway.

Robins: Albert: For his positive and enthusiastic attitude with all his learning! I am so proud of you! Pip: For always demonstrating Flying High behaviour and trying her best in all she does. I am so proud of you!

Parrots: Penny: For fantastic writing about the Secret of Black Rock. Ava: For great determination in maths and not giving up when it got tricky.

Year 3 and 4

Owls: Luca: For being inventive when showing different ways of making equal parts in maths. Wade: For challenging himself in all areas of learning and trying hard with his handwriting.

Kingfishers: Cameron: For his participation and hard work this week especially when narrating in English. Noah: For always showing me he is ready to learn. All of Kingfishers: For being so resilient and welcoming this week to me.

Doves: Austin: For consistently applying himself across all of his learning whilst also supporting and sharing his understanding to help his peers. A super role model. George K: For bravely and confidently narrating a Stone Age scene in front of the whole class. Well done!

Year 5 and 6

Eagles: Thomas: For an excellent week of learning — you've given your best, shared thoughtful ideas and presented your work beautifully. Chase: For an outstanding week — showing exceptional engagement, given your absolute best and consistently excelled in everything you've done.

Peacocks: Jasleen: For excellent reasoning in maths. Gerald: For super contributions in our MOTMC Time 2 Talk lesson.

Toucans: Joey: For a positive start to Term 5 and for joining in enthusiastically with the guitar lesson. Hallie: For always having a fantastic, positive attitude to her learning across all areas of the curriculum.

Breakfast Club: Lorenzo: For always arriving at Breakfast club with a big smile on his face and being a super star every day!

An update from Mrs Anstee

A big welcome back to the Summer Term - I hope you all enjoyed the Easter break and the light evenings! We return to school with new staff - a big big welcome to Mrs James in Penguins Class, Miss Morgan in Kingfishers and Miss Baldwin who will be working across year 3 and 4 who have started their new roles this week. You may have seen further vacancies we have at school currently - we are in an exciting recruitment window with some new roles to be filled - please do get in touch if you are interested yourself, or pass on if you know a suitable candidate. All our school vacancies are listed on mynewterm.com.



An update from Mrs Gardner

Gaming can have both positive and negative effects on children's mental health. According to the Kids Mental Health Foundation, it can support connection, problem-solving, and relaxation, but excessive or inappropriate gaming may impact sleep, behaviour, and real-world relationships.



As the Foundation explains, "gaming is not inherently good or bad—it depends on how it's used." The key is balance: encouraging healthy habits, setting limits, and staying engaged in what children are playing.

Parents and carers are encouraged to talk openly with children about gaming, monitor changes in mood or behaviour, and ensure time is balanced with schoolwork, physical activity, and offline relationships.

Read more: <https://www.kidsmentalhealthfoundation.org/mental-health-resources/technology-and-social-media/gaming-and-kids-mental-health>

An update from Mrs Summers

A great start to our Month of The Military Child Month! Monday, I held the first after school Buddy Club which was a huge success, I look forward to welcoming year 3/4 next Monday and year 5/6 the following week.

We were very fortunate to have a variety of guests from RAF Brize Norton to support our events. Craig Hutton and Kate Coates kindly led our values assembly on Monday and talked about belonging. Carly Hayman and Jo Lister from People & Families Support attended Mingle in The Mess, they are happy to attend more frequently throughout the year. As always, I am grateful for their support and all they do for our community.

There are few children talking about postings and moving on by the end of the school year, please can you let me know any dates so I can support their transitions.



EYFS

WOW! We are so lucky. This week we had our second set of visitors come into school to help us with our learning about being in the garden. Jonathan came to visit us, from Jonathan's Jungle Roadshow and brought along lots of his friends for us to meet.

We met a giant millipede called Molly, 2 tarantulas, some Katydid, a gecko and a snake.

We to see them up close, touch them and even hold them.

Did you know - Stick insect poo is bouncy? Millipedes do the smelliest poop to frighten off anything that might hurt them and that geckos lose their tails if something grabs hold of them?

The snake we met turned rainbow colours when he goes outside and Geckos need everything around them (including us) to be really quiet or they get scared and start jumping about.

We saw spider fangs and exoskeletons and even got to look straight into the spiders 8 eyes!



Year 1 and 2

What a wonderful start to the Summer term and we are delighted to welcome Mrs James to the Key Stage 1 team! We started the week thinking about Month of the Military Child. We enjoyed sharing our feelings on belonging in our community, and how we are connected to the Military. This week we have also begun our Science experiment, exploring the question: what do plants need to grow well? We have planted beans hydroponically and will be observing them grow over the next few weeks. We wonder if our bean in the dark cupboard will grow at all? In English, we have started our wonderful text, The Secret of Black Rock. We have thought about Erin and her characteristics and qualities and how her feelings and emotions have changed throughout the story. In Maths, Year 1 has enjoyed exploring the teen numbers, beginning their learning into tens and ones. Year 2 has continued with adding and subtracting 2, 2 digit numbers and have shown excellent resilience with this tricky work. Well done, Key Stage 1! We look forward to another brilliant week ahead!

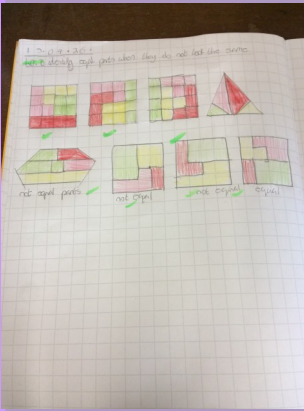


Year 3 and 4

We have had a fantastic first week of Term 5 in Lower Key Stage Two this week!

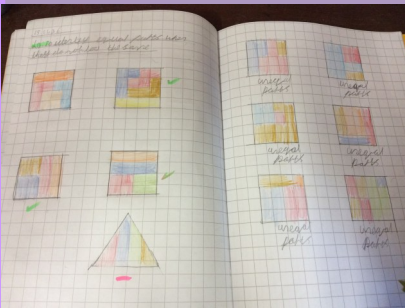
We have discussed what it feels like to belong in the community of Gateway School as part of 'Month of the Military Child.' Children made shields to represent themselves as part of their family, community, culture and interests.

In English, we have been exploring our new book 'Stone Age Boy' where a child falls through a portal into the Stone Age. He meets a Stone Age family and sees what daily life is like in Stone Age times. We have used drama to explore different Stone Age activities such as skinning an animal, cutting wood and hammering stone to make tools, this then lead on to us writing about these activities using verbs and adverbs.



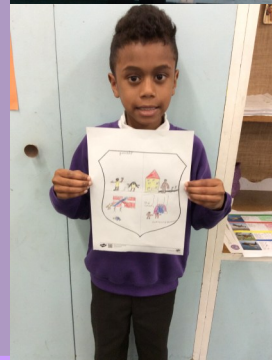
In maths we have begun to learn about fractions, exploring equal and unequal parts to help prepare us for learning more about fractions. We have shown that equal parts do not have to look the same as long as they are the same size.

We have also been detectives in history and investigated sources to help understand how historians know about the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. In French, we have been practising saying five more ice cream flavours, the children have loved talking about ice cream!



We are very excited for next week, history day, DT day and Hill End!

Have a restful weekend ahead of a very busy week.



Year 5 and 6

Welcome back to term 5. We hope you have all had a restful Easter and are ready for what will be a very busy term. This week, the children have come back enthusiastic and ready to continue their learning. In maths, children have been exploring shapes, looking at how to calculate area as well as how to plot coordinates on a grid and translate and reflect shapes. In English, we have continued to explore our text, Floodland by Marcus Sedgewick, thinking about the key characters in the story and whether the Leader of Eels Island, Dooby, is a good leader. This is something we will continue to thinking about into next week.

During afternoon learning, Toucans have started their guitar lessons. A fantastic first lesson trying to get used to the new instruments. It was brilliant that everyone was involved and gave it a really good attempt. During topic this week, we have begun to think about longitude and latitude and how to find specific volcanoes around the globe. Children also had the opportunity to learn about the structure of a volcano and how Volcanoes erupt. In science, children have been exploring circuits, thinking about the impact of adding more batteries and lamps to a circuit and the impact this has.





GSA UPDATE

We are delighted to share that the GSA raised an amazing £200 from the Bingo event held before Easter! It was a fantastic evening, and a great time was had by all while raising valuable funds for the school.

A huge thank you to our wonderful GSA team for their hard work, time and dedication in organising and running the event. Your continued commitment and enthusiasm make such a positive difference to our school community.

We look forward to continuing our fundraising efforts and supporting the school further. If any parents or carers would like to get involved in planning events for the next academic year, or would be happy to lend a hand at future events, please come to the school office to find out more.

We are incredibly grateful for the ongoing support from the GSA, which helps us to ensure that all children continue to benefit from the broad and balanced curriculum they deserve.

Thank you for your continued support.

Dates For The Diary

Wednesday 22nd April — Friday 24th April — Year 4 Hill End Trip

Monday 4th May — May Bank Holiday — School Closed

Tuesday 5th May — EYFS Vision Screening

Friday 8th May — David Attenborough Day

Monday 11th May — Thursday 14th May — Year 6 SATs Week

Wednesday 20th May — Mingle In The Mess 8:30-9:30am

Friday 22nd May — GSA Non School Uniform Day — Donate a Coloured Item For Rainbow Raffle — More Information to Follow

Friday 22nd May — End of Term 5 — Finish 3:15pm

Wednesday 10th June — Mingle In The Mess 8:30-9:30am

Friday 19th June — Colour Run and Rainbow Raffle from 3:30pm



RISING★STARS

Inclusive SEND Football Team

NEW TRAINING SESSIONS STARTING!



Sunday 19th April
11:00am – 12:00pm

— Who is it for? —

**Children aged 7~11 years with
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).**

— What we offer: —

- ✓ Inclusive and welcoming environment
- ✓ Safe and structured football sessions
- ✓ Fun, engaging activities for all abilities
- ✓ Supportive coaching tailored to every child

— Interested? —

Please complete the form to register your **interest!**

Carterton Football Club
Swinbrook Road
Carterton
OX18 1DY





Introducing COMPASS – Peer Support for Military Families with Children with SEND



Are you a military family caring for a child with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)? You're not alone.

COM-

PASS is here to provide a supportive community where you can connect, share experiences, and find practical advice from others who truly understand your journey. This group is open to serving personnel and their spouses or partners.

Wheth-

er you're seeking emotional support, information, or simply a friendly chat, COMPASS offers a safe space tailored to the unique challenges faced by military families.



Join COMPASS today and become part of a caring network that helps you navigate SEND with confidence and hope.

For more information or to get involved, email us at [BN-](mailto:BN-COM-)

[COM-](mailto:PASS@mod.gov.uk)

PASS@mod.gov.uk or join our private Facebook group: 'Children of Military Parents Accessing SEN Support (COMPASS)'.

We also hold weekly 'Coffee & Catch-

Up' sessions for parents during term time, every Wednesday from 11:00 to 13:00 at Flat 12, Ely Close. Feel free to pop along for a chat – it's a welcoming space for both mums and dads.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS & DISABILITIES PEER SUPPORT GROUP

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

☕ Every Wednesday | 11:00am – 1:00pm

📍 Flat 12, Ely Close Outreach Hub, Carterton

• ♥ 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

✉ bnz-compass@mod.gov.uk

📘 Children of Military Parents Accessing SEN Support (COMPASS)

Knowledge empowers you ♥

SIGN UP SIGN UP SIGN UP

Welcome to

OBCA

COME AND TRY CHEERLEADING!

**SIGN UP FOR JUNE CLASSES TO GET
YOUR TRAIL FOR FREE!**

TRIALS – SATURDAY JUNE 27TH 2026

BROOKES SPORT, CHENEY LANE

**FIND OUR SIGN UP FORM AND CLASSES
ON THE QR CODE BELOW!**





Your place to play

A safe space for disabled children aged 5 - 11 to kickstart their football journey

Just be you!



Scan here to see Comets in action!

Time and Date:

Fridays, 5-6pm

Location:

Madley Brook Primary School (indoors) - OX28 1AR

Contact:

Steve Bott

Phone:

07597 738367

Email:

bott6@hotmail.com



Get in touch to book your first session