

Weekly Newsletter: **Friday 8th May**

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



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

- EYFS— Ducklings 96%
- KS1— Parrots 97%
- LKS2— Owls 97%
- UPKS2— Toucans 97%

End of Week House points totals:

- Spitfire — 157
- Lancaster — 134
- Hurricane — 187
- Wellington — 180

Tea Party Guests

These children have attended this weeks value tea party:

- Iris (Owls) Cohen (Owls) Charlie (Owls) Lily-May (Kingfishers) Joshua (Parrots) Rory (Kingfishers)

Stars of the Week



An update from Mrs Anstee

Earlier this week, you will have seen my update regarding Mrs Roalfe's new role as our 'Ready to Learn Lead.' In preparation for her beginning this role after the Half Term break, we are currently transforming the old parents' room and kitchen into a dedicated pastoral support space for our pupils.



The existing kitchen, which was certainly showing its age (Mrs Morgan commented that her grandma had a very similar design) is being removed to make way for a fresh, modern environment. The space will benefit from new flooring, blinds and furniture to create a calm, comfortable and welcoming atmosphere.

This new area, to be known as 'The Bunker', will provide pupils with a supportive space to start their school day, regulate emotions, or meet with Mrs Roalfe throughout the day when needed. We are excited about the positive impact this space will have on pupil wellbeing and readiness to learn.

We will keep you updated on the progress and look forward to sharing some before-and-after photographs with you soon.

An update from Mrs Gardner

We are always pleased to see so many children cycling and scooting to school as part of a healthy and active lifestyle. Children are welcome to safely store their bikes and scooters in the bike shed during the school day.



To help keep all members of our school community safe during busy arrival and collection times, we ask that children walk their bikes or scooters from the school gate to the bike shed and again when leaving at the end of the day.

We really appreciate your support in reinforcing these expectations with your children and helping us ensure that everyone can arrive at and leave school safely.

An update from Mrs Summers

We are approaching a time of change as we move closer to the end of the academic year. With transitions to secondary school and postings out of the area. Families should now know their allocated spaces for secondary school, any issues please let me know and I can try to support you with this. Thank you to the families that are keeping me up to date with imminent postings but if you think you'll be on the move by the end of the school year, please let me know so I can assist with the transition.



Deployment and withdrawal forms can be found in the reception area, if you can't access them please send me a Dojo or email and I will send you a form electronically instead. For those moving into year 7 you do not need to complete a withdrawal form.

EYFS

This week in the EYFS we have been finishing off our In the Garden topic by making preparations for our sharing assembly. Lots of families were able to join us for this event, which we loved preparing. We enjoyed lots of singing and learning our lines.

Our learning this week has enabled us to enter into a National Competition using our artistic skills to create masterpieces about nature, which might be printed in a REAL book.

We are also making a second entry into the competition as part of our home challenges this week.

We attended our first ever whole school sharing assembly, where we showed off our wonderful clay work and shared our minibeast facts.

In Phonics we have mastered 'oo' in spoon and moon and in Maths have been thinking about ways to make 10 (not just 5 and 5).

We have loved David Attenborough day - we have sent him a birthday card to help him celebrate his 100th birthday. In class today we have made butterfly bar, lots of bee hotels, planted a wild garden to encourage the minibeasts and have been out looking for even more bugs and plants around us. It has been a great day,

Next week we are starting our We are International learning - as we go 'Around the World in 35 days' where we will be investigating countries around the world, some of the food, some sport, landmarks and finding out some other facts about lots of different places.

Year 1 and 2

We have reached the end of We Are Environmentalists and what a day we're having! We have enjoyed being outside all day creating habitat hotels for insects, bird feeders and planting some new planters for our classrooms. We have also enjoyed learning about David Attenborough's remarkable achievements as part of his 100th Birthday! This week, we have finished writing our story about saving a sea creature. We have worked hard to use adjectives, conjunctions and adverbs. In Science, we have concluded our experiment of growing beans hydroponically. We look forward to seeing all your pictures of the beans now growing healthily in soil! All children have made clay flower sculptures and these will be coming home soon for you to enjoy.



Year 3 and 4

We have had a great week in Year 3 and 4 this week. The children have written some clear instructions for a stone age, bronze age or iron age skill. We have also discussed healthy meals in our time to talk sessions, we have planned a meal using all 5 food groups and planned a day of meals which are good for teeth. In maths, we have been continuing our learning about fractions and have been introduced to non-unit fractions.

On Thursday while, the Year 3 children were are Tennis, the Year 4 pupils took part in some hockey skills and used the orienteering markers to answer some times tables questions.

They worked really well as a team to find the correct markers and solve the times tables questions correctly.

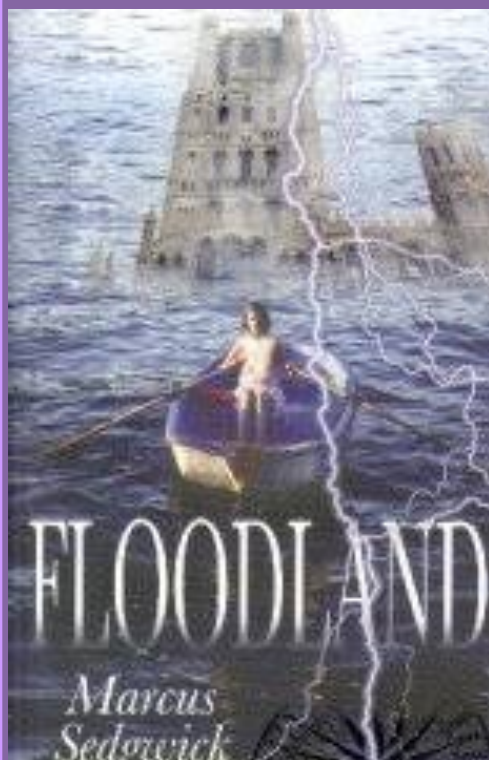


Year 5 and 6

What a fantastic week to end our 'We are Environmentalist' topic. Children have been absolutely brilliant and fully engaged in our David Attenborough day – thinking about how we can all help the environment. Children have had the opportunity to plant some flowers, build hedgehog and bat boxes, think about ways they can raise awareness, search for habitats on the school site by using their own drawn map of the grounds as well as finally trying to sense nature by listening and experiencing the world around them. We really hope they have come home excited about their day and how they can continue to support not just the local community but the world.

In maths, children have undertaken some SATs practice this week, reviewing all of the concepts covered and really just showcasing what they can do. In English, we have been continuing to explore what could happen next in our text Floodland, thinking about those predictions which are more likely to happen given what we know has already taken place.

As we head into the weekend, we would like to think about our year 6 children who will be taking SATs next week. Please encourage them to relax and try and do something nice with them. As well as remind them that SATs do not measure how kind and caring they are, how amazing they are at art, music or even sport. SATs are just a tiny part of their time at Gateway and they need to just showcase how amazing they truly are.



Eco Committee Update

It has been a wonderful day at school, celebrating the amazing David Attenborough's 100th birthday and watching the school transform in his honour.

Three hundred children have engaged in outdoor learning by planting, building habitat hotels for insects, creating bird feeders and just enjoying nature. As part of our project, we have been working towards the Bronze Wild Award from the RSPB. Every child has participated in three experiencing nature and three helping nature projects. We have had the most wonderful day and we thank all the parent volunteers for their enthusiasm and hard work to make this day a huge success!



Dates For The Diary

Monday 4th May — May Bank Holiday — School Closed

Tuesday 5th May — EYFS Vision Screening

Thursday 7th May — EYFS Sharing Assembly to Parents — 2:45pm

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

Wednesday 17th June — Sports Day — KS2 AM — EYFS KS1 PM — Please can all children come in PE kit for the day and wear a coloured t shirt that represents there house colour

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

Tuesday 14th July — Transition Day Into New Classes — PM

Wednesday 15th July — Transition Day Into New Classes — AM





This May half-term join us at Discover Bucks Museum in Aylesbury for a week of Mythical family fun!

23 - 31 May 2026

Mythical May Family Crafts

Monday 25 May – Decorated Book Boxes (4-11yrs)

Tuesday 26 May – Dragon Marionettes! (4-11yrs)

Wednesday 27 May – Merlin's Potion Jars (4-11yrs)

Thursday 28 May – Nature Sprite Puppets (4-11yrs)

Friday 29 May – Spy Craft! With Mark Creasy (5-11yrs)

Join us for fun activities every Bucks school holiday!

For more event details, charges and to book please scan the QR code or visit discoverbucksmuseum.org

Explore the Roald Dahl Children's Gallery

Step into the magical world of Roald Dahl's stories. Crawl through Fantastic Mr Fox's tunnel, investigate minibeasts inside the Giant Peach, and explore sound with the BFG in this much-loved, hands-on gallery. Packed with playful exhibits inspired by Roald Dahl's stories, it's a joyful way for children to discover science and the world around them.

Open daily over May Half Term

The SAXONS are here!

Meet the Saxons through engaging films, sounds, and immersive experiences.

Hands-on interactives and digital storytelling bring history vividly to life.

Discover real artefacts and try the fun family trail and creative activities.

An great day out for curious minds and young explorers!

Discover Bucks Museum
Aylesbury HP20 2QP
01296 331441 | discoverbucksmuseum.org



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Please bring a donation in the colour of your year group to add to a colourful family hamper, which will be available to win during our summer raffle on 19th June.

Your donation could be snacks, sweets, chocolates, drinks, toys, stationery, toileteries, games etc

GSA RAINBOW RAFFLE

Non Uniform Day 22nd May

EYFS - Red **Yr1 - Green**

Yr2 - Orange **Yr 3 - Blue**

Yr 4 - Yellow **Yr 5 - Pink/Purple**

Yr 6 - Black/White



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 ♥



This May half term, Earth Trust invites families to Spring on the Farm, a hands-on Springtime adventure for curious young nature explorers. Step into the role of the farmer and help with real jobs on the farm – filling water buckets, topping up hay for the cows, and feeding the sheep. Meet the calves and lambs already thriving on the farm and discover what it takes to care for animals at this busy time of year! Explore the fields and gardens to uncover the minibeasts and wildlife that flourish here, thanks to the nature-friendly way we farm around the Wittenham Clumps.

Spring on the Farm is designed especially for families with children aged 2-8, and makes for a relaxed and joyful alternative to busy holiday attractions

For more information follow the link below

<https://earthtrust.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=831146f42019bf4d5effcec92&id=beb3d71268&e=19e6b9008c>