



Photos from the week

Year 1 have a go at making paper



Making thick pulp out of paper and water



Scary animal chases dragon from castle – Yr 3



Year 5 make a Dream Tree



Year 2 investigate Forces and Movement



ISA North London Finals



Music Tea

On Wednesday evening, we had our first Music Tea of 2015. Over twenty children from years 3, 4, 5 and 6 playing a variety of instruments took part; an enthusiastic audience of parents, friends and staff enjoyed an eclectic mix of musical styles, from Beethoven to Queen. Some of the children had never played in front of an audience before and were excited although understandably, a little nervous.

The Year 5 recorder ensemble started the concert, playing 3 lively tunes - 'Ease Up', 'Fancy that' and 'Blackberry Fool'. Jessica C played a lyrical 'Falling Leaves' on the piano, followed by Phoebe C and Evie F who played 'The Pipers are coming' and 'My model train', also on the piano.

[Read more](#)



Mrs La Farge's Blog

Our Year 5 verse speaking pupils made us very proud at the Chesham Arts Festival last Saturday. There was some fierce opposition but Gateway achieved first, second and many highly commended awards. The senior choir will be performing this Monday 16 February and I am sure they will sing magnificently.

The 24 runners from years 3, 4, 5 and 6 performed well over a demanding course in Bedford at the London North Championships. All the competitors gave their best and three pupils have now qualified for the Independent Schools Association national competition, which is a real achievement.

Thanks to the 20 pupils who played so confidently at the Music Tea last night. It is such a great opportunity for children to watch each other play and for the parents and staff to marvel at how well they cope with the challenge of a public performance. At the end of the recitals we all enjoy some sandwiches and cake together. Please do come and join us, you would be very welcome.

One last plea from me - please take time to read the report from Mr Bridges below about instances of thoughtless and dangerous driving by Gateway parents over the last week. I must remind you that we all have a duty of care to keep our children safe and that considerate parking is essential. I hope you all have a lovely holiday and have a chance to recharge your batteries in readiness for the busy half term ahead.

Early Years Unit

This week we have talked about Shrove Tuesday and even made our own pancakes and ate them for our snack. We also made paper pancakes and cut out and stuck on items that we use to make pancakes, we also added our favourite toppings onto the plate. On Thursday we learnt about the tradition of Valentine's day, celebrating the ones we love. We read the story 'Guess how much I love you,' and talked about the people we love.

The week's story was 'The Princess and the Wizard'. We enjoyed using musical instruments or items to make noises to show when Princess Eliza changed into her different characters. There was a lot of discussion about what the children would like to change themselves into; Cleo's flower because "It's pretty and pink", Freddie being a superhero with "megaforce powers" and Harvey being a racing car because "it goes superfast."

We would love to hear about your child's half term activities. You could create a collage, poster, photos or some writing about the half term. When we return, we will be focussing on activities to link in with the Take One Picture project - "Amatungula in Flower and Fruit and Blue Ipomoea" by Marianne North. A collection of the artist's paintings can be seen at Kew gardens.

Reception

This week On Monday morning, reception discovered a rather unusual looking egg shell in the EYU garden. We studied it carefully and came up with some thoughts as to which animal might have hatched and escaped! We used our imaginations and creative minds to design our own fictitious character and we even had a go at naming and labelling our creature. We continued to use our imagination during our class story making session. Each had a variety of props and we took it in turns to dictate what would happen next. We discussed the importance of good story structure and how we need to include a beginning, middle and an end.

Next week Enjoy half term!! Let's keep our fingers crossed for some lovely weather. If you manage to get out on some family walks you might be able to take some photos of some signs of Spring in, and around the local environment.

At home After the break our new topic will be 'Animals'. We are looking forward to our visit to Tring Museum on Friday 13 March. We will be sending home a letter closer to the date with regards to packed lunch and any other requirements.

Year 1

Year 1 finished their topic on recycling in style this week. The children all made their own recycled paper! It was a great way to end the topic, the children all really enjoyed the process. They started by taking the paper in the paper recycling bins and ripping it into small pieces. Once this had been done we decided that the paper needed to somehow be changed into the same colour. We did this by adding water to the scraps of paper and then putting them in the blender! Blending the paper and water made a thick pulp, this pulp then had to be watered down again. We used a mesh to collect a thin layer of the pulp whilst allowing the water to run away. Once we had the thin layer of pulp this was pressed down onto a cloth and has now been left to dry. When we return the children will all have a piece of their own recycled paper waiting for them!

If over the half term you find yourself with some spare time why not 'have a go'! There are plenty of examples on the internet, or why not see if they children can give you instructions. You could even try making some coloured paper.

After the break our topic is houses and homes.

Year 2

This week In science we have concluded our Forces and Movement topic with a fun investigation. The children were looking at the effects that gravity and friction have on the distance a car will travel over different surfaces. The children had to plan the investigation first, then we discussed in detail the elements of making it a fair test. The children came up with some very interesting ideas on how they thought we could keep the investigation fair; the children made predictions and gave some well thought out reasons as to why. There was great excitement when we finally got to carry out the practical activity. Which surface would be best? Which would be worst? Who made a perfect prediction? 2NM and 2EDS investigated different materials, so you will have to ask your children which one was best.

After half term we will be starting a new science topic which is Health and Growth. For this it would be a great help if your child could please bring in a picture of themselves as a baby and a toddler. We will also be looking at safety with medicine and would be keen to receive any **empty** medicine packets (not bottles) to show examples of those used by the children at home.

[Read more](#)

Year 3

A highlight for the children this week was learning how to create characters and backdrops in the Puppet Pals app on the iPads for their ICT project. The children had to photograph each other and take screenshots of internet images which were then imported into Puppet Pals, resized and cropped. After half term, the students will continue using Puppet Pals to animate the stories they have planned using the Popplet planning app.

Next week

The children now have their words for the Easter play. Please spend some time learning these over half term ready for rehearsals on the first Tuesday back.

Year 5

In Learning for Life in Year 5 we have been exploring our 'Dreams and Goals'. We have explored what we would like to achieve in our lives and how we could set about working towards these goals. Some of our dreams included:

'To become a famous author'

'To work for Apple'

'To visit India'

'To become a famous footballer'

'To help animals that don't have homes'

In 5AAT we decided to make a 'Dream Tree'. Every child helped to decorate our tree and every branch represents a dream that a member of our tutor group wanted to achieve. We are proud of how our tree looks and what it represents.

We have now started to compare our hopes and dreams with children from different cultures and countries from all around the world. We have learnt that we are extremely lucky! Please ask your children about how their hopes and dreams might be different from a child of a similar age who is growing up in a developing country or a war affected region.

Year 6

In English we have been learning about the features of narrative poetry. We watched some super film versions of *The Highwayman*, *The Owl and the Pussycat* and *The Listeners* and talked about characterisation and features of descriptive writing. The children practised the use of ambitious verbs, adjectives, similes and metaphors and then watched a charming animation about a girl and her encounter with a fox. They turned this into a narrative poem and performed it in class.

After half term, we will be looking at a picture by Marianne North, who was a botanical artist and using her work as an inspiration for writing. All the features we have practised recently should come in very useful.



Chesham Arts Festival

On Saturday 7th, seven Year 5 pupils set off to compete in the Speech rounds of the Chesham Arts Festival. This was a new venture for Gateway and none of us knew quite what to expect. There was a full audience waiting to hear their renditions of three very challenging poems and competition was fierce. There were twenty one excellent entrants, and many of them had previous experience of competing at the festival. However, the Gateway novices performed with great confidence and kept the audience thoroughly entertained. Just appearing at the festival was quite an achievement and we really didn't expect to win any prizes. It was the icing on the cake, therefore. When we took both first (Matilda W) and second (Joshua M) places!

Well done to Tilly, Joshua, Jess C, Jack F, Brandon N, William S and Lucy L. I was extremely proud of all of you and will definitely take you back to show Chesham how it's done again next year!

From the Office

Diary Dates

Tuesday 24 February	School reopens
Friday 27 February	ISA Swimming Gala Oxford
Tuesday 3 March	Year 5 Football Cup v Butlers Court 3.15pm - 5.15pm
Wednesday 4 March	Year 3 visit to Mop End; Netball v Great Missenden at home year 6 A year 5 A teams 3.45pm - 4.45pm
Thursday 5 March	IAPS netball at High Wycombe 8.30am - 4.45pm
Friday 6 March	ISA Netball at Redbridge; U10 Football 6 a side vs Claires Court (away); World Book Day/ Pyjama Day; FOG Quiz Night
Saturday 7 March	Cross Country, Lowndes Park; Chess Competition

Please can parents and children avoid walking across the tennis courts when arriving via the back entrance from the Link Road car park. Please stick to the pathway so as to avoid muddy footprints on our lovely tennis court. Thank you.

ISA North London Finals, Bedford, Wednesday 10 February

Twenty four children from years 3 to 6 were selected to run at Bedford in the ISA North London cross country finals. The under 9 boys and girls as well as the under 11 girls ran over a course of 1300m and the under 11 boys ran 1900m. There were up to 90 runners in most races.

There were some excellent performances with 3 senior children qualifying for the national finals at Princethorpe College on Saturday 28 February.

U11 race qualifiers

Cormac N (Yr5) 2nd, Skye M 9th, Zach R 10th
Alex P, Esme Y and Daisy S, just missed qualifying in 12th, 14th and 15th respectively.

In the younger age group, Oakley D ran superbly to finish 2nd and Oliver L was close behind in 9th place. Harry N continues to improve (15th) and Lucy A battled to 14th position. William SC-B (Y3), running in the U9 race, impressed by finishing in 19th position. [Read more](#)

Feedback on Parking from our Junior Road Safety Officers

In the first half of this term, I have spent some time with our Junior Road Safety Officers at the front of the school, between 8.00am and 8.30pm. It has been a real eye opener for us - and first we would like to thank the vast majority of parents and carers who abide by the existing parking restrictions and park safely each day.

There are however, daily incidents of inconsiderate, sometimes clearly dangerous parking. Whilst I appreciate that parking legally does sometimes involve a longer walk to School (ironically sometimes almost the equivalent of the carefree walk from the Link Road Car Park), there really is no excuse for parking or dropping off on the double yellow lines either side of the 'Zig Zags'. This not only puts our children at risk, but also gives the School a bad name with 'neighbours' and other road users (whilst also clearly annoying parents who are abiding by the local restrictions).

What has also been apparent, is the tendency for some drivers to carry out '3 point turns' on the Aylesbury Road, to avoid having to drive into Great Missenden itself. This again is both dangerous and inconsiderate to other road users - can we please ask that this practise stops.

There has been an example recently of a car reversing up the Aylesbury Road, specifically to park on the double yellow lines and, in what was the most bizarre incident, a car was parked, and left unattended, completely on the pavement at the junction of the Rignall Road, having carried out a U-turn on the High Street - resulting in a phone call to school from a member of the public.

On behalf of the JRSOs and all of the children at Gateway, can I please ask that all car drivers park, and indeed drive, considerately and legally around the School. I appreciate that there are trains to catch and other important tasks in the day, but the Link Road Car Park is very close and convenient should other parking options be a problem; the safety of our children is paramount, and the good name of the School is very important, to all of us involved with Gateway.

Alan Bridges

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