



Photos from the week

Year 3 Knights and Castles



Year 1 recycling trip



Year 1 recycling trip



Year 1 recycling trip



Year 1 recycling trip



Year 1 recycling trip



## Funds raised by Christmas Fayre

Many thanks go to all of those involved in the Christmas Fayre last term.

A grand total of **£4,041.98** was raised.

# Christmas Fayre

## Mrs La Farge's Blog

I have been pleased to see all the children and staff back rested and revitalised after the break. I am sure the early starts this week have been a shock for some. They have certainly caused me a few problems, it is still so dark early in the morning!

You may have spotted some Year 6 Junior Road Safety Officers and Mr Bridges out on patrol this morning outside school. After our initiative last term asking parents to sign up to the Parking Promise and display the Parking Promise sticker we are now stepping up a gear and will be physically patrolling outside school some mornings helping to keep ALL our children safe. I do hope that this also helps to encourage considerate and safe parking from all the parents.

In my welcome letter I invited parents to a School Development Meeting next Wednesday evening at school. Please return the tear off slip if you are able to join us that evening so that we can plan accordingly. If you have not received the letter then please email Mrs Taylor ([pa@gatewaysch.co.uk](mailto:pa@gatewaysch.co.uk)) if you will be able to join us. I am looking forward to updating you all with the exciting building plans and developments which are planned for this year. If you are unable to attend I will of course be providing a summary of my presentation via email.

We have included below the term dates for 2015/16. Please note there is a slight change to the previously published date for the beginning of the Autumn term. The children will now be returning to school on Thursday 3 September 2015.

## Early Years Unit

Happy New Year! This half term we welcome 5 new children into the nursery, we hope they will soon feel at home. You may have noticed a new den in the EYU, following on from a session on our staff training day, we have been working with the children to build spaces they feel comfortable to play and learn in. The little play hut on the patio has also had a make-over! We have also revamped our afternoon timetable. Many of the activities taking place in the afternoons will be based on a weekly story book, we will be beginning with books by Julia Donaldson.

**Musical Mondays** - We will include use of musical instruments, creating music to songs, music and movement and taking music out of doors.

**Chit-Chat Tuesdays** - We aim to promote communication and language through these sessions.

**Whoopie Wednesdays** - We will use this time for cooking, sensory and large art and craft activities.

**Theatrical Thursdays** - Performing arts.

**Forest Fridays** - Taking the curriculum outside and exploring the environment.

As of next week we will be outside on Friday afternoons so please make sure your children have the correct clothing for these activities, warm clothes, wellington boots and waterproof all in ones or jacket and trousers.

## Reception

We can't quite believe that we are already at the start of the spring term and Christmas has come and gone so quickly! Although this half of term is a relatively short one we have a lot of fun activities planned for the upcoming weeks.

Our topic this half of term is 'dinosaurs'. If your child has any interesting books, toys or models that they would like to bring in for display then we would love to see them.

Mrs Nurse has started off our topic of 'the hospital and growing up' in science by coming in to talk to the children about her role and responsibilities as the school nurse. We had a look inside her medical bag and had a go at putting bandages on. We are looking forward to looking at your child's baby photos on Monday 12 January and it is always fun seeing if we can guess whose baby photo it is.

This term we are really concentrating on number recognition, ordering and writing numbers to 20 and beyond. Please send in any number work done at home for the 'My Best' folders.

Please can we remind you too, to send in any post it notes regarding any new achievements that your child has made at home during the holidays or during school clubs etc. We will keep a record of these notes and use it to help with our interest planning and EYFS profiles throughout the term.

## Year 1

The New Year got off to a flying start in Year 1 with the children helping to recycle Mrs Kemp's Christmas rubbish! We already know some interesting facts about materials and their properties and this term we will be learning more by exploring the best materials to build a house with, conducting a "Waterproof materials" experiment and finding out about magnetism.

At home you could look out for a variety of materials and think about their properties eg why is a wooden spoon made of wood? You could encourage your child to help with the recycling and explain how you sort the rubbish.

### Next week

Look out for our write up about the trip to the Recycling Centre in Great Missenden car park.

## Year 2

Over the next term our main topic is India, we will be looking at the climate zones and geography of India. We explore the various religions and their different gods, this will include a visit to Neasden Mandir where the children experience an Aarti Ceremony. We compare our school to three different schools in the three climate zones of India.



### Year 3

We have already begun a very exciting topic on 'Knights and Castles'. Some amazing models of castles, made by the children during the holidays have already added interest to the classroom displays. We will be reading 'The Stained Glass Window' by Penelope Lively and finding out all about the life of a knight and The Crusades. We are looking forward to a visit to Windsor Castle to investigate the materials used for building and the subject of heraldry. We will be exploring lots of other materials through the course of the science topic and finding out all about magnets. Over the next few weeks we will be reading a range of adventure stories and learning to write our own, based in a castle.

At home you could look for lots of different materials around the house and garden and challenge your child to find the same object made with a number of different materials eg a cup - paper, china, plastic, metal. Ask them to explain to you why they think they are not all the same.

### Year 4

We have begun to examine non-fiction texts that explain how things work or happen. This fits very well with our topic on 'Natural Disasters' where we will be looking at the causes of earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, etc. The children will be using a new app on their ipads to create a presentation (on a disaster of their choice) with a mixture of text, pictures and their own voice. We will be visiting the Natural History Museum in January and will have some visiting speakers to explain about volcanoes and the work of the charity Shelter Box. In science, we will begin by finding out about the properties of liquids and solids and different methods of separating them.

#### **At Home**

Please encourage the children to watch newsround and read the newspapers, making notes on any natural disasters that occur.

Could you also check that all uniform is clearly labelled with your child's name as some of them are wearing off now.

### Year 5

#### **ICT**

In ICT in Year 5 this term we are learning about effective internet searching. In this topic we learn the basics of how the internet works and how to improve our searching skills. We look at refining our searches through key words, Google Advance, the use of maps, review sites and voice powered searching (such as Siri).

#### **Science**

The Spring Term focuses on Physical Sciences starting with the topic 'Earth and Space' where we investigate facts regarding the Earth, Sun and Moon as well as our Solar System and beyond; the term concludes with 'Sound', where we look at how sound is generated, how it travels and how we hear it.

#### **RE**

This term we are considering the events of the Exodus and the story of Esther. These stories reveal God's great rescue plan for his people. This will tie in with what we will be looking at towards the end of term: Why did Jesus die and why is Easter celebrated at Passover time?

## Year 6

### ICT

In ICT in Year 6 in this term we are looking at checking information for Errors. We learn about reasons why we may come across incorrect data and we use different tools to analyse data to look for mistakes. Some of these tools include Graphing, spell checkers and formulas in Google Sheets.

### RE

This term we are continuing to look at Buddhist Philosophy. We are also going to be considering Christian beliefs at the same time as we look at the overall theme of religious expression through the Arts. Towards Easter, we will examine the historical accounts of Jesus death and resurrection.

### Science

The Spring Term focuses on Physical Sciences starting with the topic 'Forces in Action' where the children consider forces all around us - both 'contact' and 'non-contact'. We investigate gravity, air resistance and upthrust, amongst others. In the second half of term the topic is 'How We See Things', considering light, reflections, shadows and how the eye works.

## School Term and Holiday Dates September 2015 – July 2016

Please note change to previously published dates for the start of the Autumn 2015 term.

	Open on morning of:	Close at end of afternoon on:
<b>Autumn Term 2015</b>	<b>Thursday 3 September</b>	Wednesday 21 October
	Monday 2 November	Friday 11 December
<b>Spring Term 2016</b>	Tuesday 5 January	Friday 12 February
	Monday 22 February	Wednesday 23 March
<b>Summer Term 2016</b>	Thursday 14 April	Thursday 26 May
	Monday 6 June	Wednesday 13 July

## Latest Sports News

Please could parents ensure that all children in Years 3 to 6 have football boots and shinpads for every PE and games session this term. Years 4 to 6 will also need their gumshields in school. Finally, please be reminded that all PE kit needs to be clearly named, including footwear.

## From the Office

### Diary Dates

<b>Wednesday 14 January</b>	School Development Update Meetings for Parents EYU–Year3 1830-1930 School Development Update Meetings for Parents Year 4 Year 6 2000-2100
<b>Thursday 15 January</b>	ISA U11 Football Tournament
<b>Tuesday 20 January</b>	Meeting for EYU Parents entering Reception September 2015
<b>Thursday 22 January</b>	Year 2 visit to Mandir; 1900 Parents Internet Safety Meeting (Year 4, 5 & 6 parents)
<b>Saturday 24 January</b>	ISA National Swimming Gala – London Aquatic Centre Cross Country - Hervines
<b>Friday 13 March</b>	Reception trip this term will be to Tring Museum <b><i>(please note this an extra date not included on the term dates listing)</i></b>

### Skiing Trip Final Deposit Now Due

Parents are reminded that the final balance payment of £900 is due by Friday 15 January and this can be paid by BACS (same account as school fees) or cheque payable to Gateway School Limited.

### Uniform

Louise apologises for not being in school today, however, any orders made online over the weekend will be in the uniform box at 0830 on Monday morning.

### Art and DT request

The art and DT department are on the lookout for the following items if you have them spare:

- small emulsion matchpots (any colour)
- clean paper coffee cups
- broken or unwanted jewellery
- strong cardboard tubes
- buttons/beads/bells
- ribbon

Latest News



Latest Video



Latest Photos

