



Gatten and Lake Primary School
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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school everyone! It has been a fantastic week in school. We were delighted to see every single child walk through the gates on Monday morning, well equipped for the day and week ahead! We started the week with a 'no pens' day... what a novelty, but a great way to reintegrate into school life and learning again. As the week has progressed, we have reintroduced systems and structures to get back to the 'normality' of school days. The children, throughout all classes, have had wonderful opportunities and experiences this week... each class is represented below.

Next week, we will return to a more structured approach in the classroom, to ensure we return to the focus on learning and progress for every single child. If anyone has noticed any concerns they would like to discuss please remember, come and chat to us so we can help. Thank you.

Reception:

Reception Class have jumped into opportunities to climb and balance and use their biggest muscles! The trikes have been taken 'off-road', some children have been 'over the top' for the first time and we've had lots of time to dig in the sandpits and run and hide in our woody areas. The children have most embraced seeing much missed friends and spending time talking and playing together.



Year One:

Well what an amazing week. It has been absolutely brilliant having all of the Year 1 children back in school. It's been a week of settling back in, socialising with friends and being creative. We took a trip to the moon and watched a lunar pod land on the surface of the moon, using the Virtual Reality headsets and we've had the glockenspiels out catching up with a bit of music. It has been a great first week back.



Year Two:



This week Year 2 have enjoyed getting creative with vegetable printing. The children cut the celery and pulled apart the stalks to create a rose shape. They then printed the stalks on paper and painted on stems and leaves to make beautiful, floral patterns - perfect for spring. The class used their designs to make Mother's Day cards.

Year Three:



For science week, Year 3 carried out some practical investigations related to our current topic of light.

On Tuesday, we considered different materials and discovered that some reflect light better than others. We wrote messages using mirrors and discussed how the writing appears the opposite way around.

Then on Wednesday, we investigated how shadows are formed and what happens when an object gets closer to a source of light. Fantastic investigations, Year 3!

Year Four:

It has been a fun-filled first week back in Year 4! We began our week by having some much needed catch-up time with our friends. This was followed by a whole class craft activity, in which we all made some beautiful paper roses. We put all of them together, combining individual work into one collective piece. All the roses are now in a vase on display in the classroom and it makes a lovely feature. The children have also enjoyed other craft activities, poetry, taking part in science experiments, physical activity and of course, using the new VR headsets! What a fantastic first week back!



Year Five:



Year 5 had a fantastic week enjoying a variety of activities including making catapults, hovercrafts, going on a nature hunt, completing PSHE activities, learning the Fresh Prince of Bel-Air in music and using the VR headsets. Experiencing this new technology was a wonderful opportunity for the children to explore some of the places we have been learning about including Ancient Egypt. The children visited some temples, the Parthenon on the Acropolis in Athens and saw the pyramids in Giza! No flights needed and this experience really brought the places they had studied to life! For fun we also got to go diving with sharks and visit Stonehenge- a setting we have heard about in our book we have been reading in class.

Year Six:



It's been a fantastic first week back for Year 6 and the children have completed a range of discussions, games and challenges.

This week, Year 6 started a Classroom to 5k challenge. This is a challenge to build resilience, to work upon teamwork and to improve all round health, fitness and stamina.

By the end of a 10 week period, children will hopefully be able to run for 5 kilometres. The class have been loving the challenge this week and have already improved their pacing and stamina.

Railway Bridge Closure

You'll be very pleased to know, the final scaffolding for the bridge will be taken down over today, Friday and the weekend and the finishing touches will be done to ensure the bridge is reopened for use by Monday. Thank you for those not able to use the bridge during the Lockdown and this week. The bus has been a reliable service for those who have used it – so thanks to the companies involved in organising this for us to use. I know many have clocked up a few extra miles each week by walking an alternative route too. Hopefully, we will be back to usual routes to school, from Monday ☺

Financial changes

During the pandemic and over this last lockdown I appreciate many family circumstances have changed, including financial. We are here to help you, where we can. This may mean that you are eligible for Free School Meals – which releases more funding and benefits to you as a family, with how we can use finances within school. <https://www.iow.gov.uk/Council/OtherServices/Free-School-Meals/Tasks>

Even if you do not qualify for Free School Meals funding initially, we do have other schemes that may be able to assist you. Please send us a message or catch us in the morning to see how we can help you. ☺



VR Headsets

As a school we have recently purchased a class set of VR headsets. This substantial purchase is to ensure we maintain the educational focus and delivery, through effective technology in the technological times we are in and is also to ensure we bring experiences to the children. We would usually be participating in educational visits to engage children in real life opportunities, and whilst these cannot ever replace a first hand experience, they do allow the children to explore aspects of the curriculum they may never be able to see in such a way. This week, Year 6 have visited China! Year One landed on the moon! Lots of classes swam with sharks!! There is a wealth of opportunities for all the children. However, just to reassure you, these are used with very clear instructions for health and safety reasons. The children must be seated, must only use them for short periods of time, with plenty of breaks, with expectations for appropriate behaviour when using this technology. The children have thoroughly enjoyed the experience of using these headsets. We are proud that we are in a position to be able to offer the children this type of resource and experience. There are pictures of the children using them on the Class Blogs.

Homework

This is just to let you know that we have made the decision for there to be no homework between now and the Easter break. This will allow everyone the time to settle back into school and to give all adults at home a break from school work too at this time. Please use this opportunity to spend more time reading together, building reading fluency and comprehension. You might also like to use some time to have a look at the link here <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/50-things-to-do-before-youre-11--activity-list> which is a National Trust list of 50 things to do before you are 11¾ years old!! It's a great list – we will do some of these tasks in school too – but you might want to try these at home - adults included too of course!

Attendance

WOW! Our attendance this week was 99.56% It has been wonderful to everyone back to school on Monday and Tuesday with 100% attendance on both days!

Mother's Day

Happy Mother's day to all mummies, carers and extended family for the role they play in children's lives. Today, the children will be bringing home a little 'something' to show appreciation for all you do.... And especially this year with the additional pressures of remote / blended learning. **THANK YOU.** 😊 We hope you enjoy the weekend. 😊

Whilst school reopened this week to all children as part of the roadmap set by the Government, there are still many restrictions in place in order to keep everyone safe.

But, just a reminder please, please, please remember to stick to the Government rules...

- Remain in your household bubbles only
- Hands, Face, Space at all times
- Inform school of any illness / positive cases so we can inform trace and trace as soon as possible

Any illness **MUST** be reported to school as soon as possible. Any children or adults experiencing any symptoms of COVID must be tested using a full PCR test at the testing centre and remain in isolation until the test result is returned. Many thanks for the part you play in keeping everyone as safe as possible.

Have a wonderful weekend. I know there are many tired children at the end of this first week back to school. Use the weekend to recharge and rest ready for another week in school.

Rebecca Day - Headteacher

