

Class Reference Information:

Reception
Robin and Wren
(EYFS/Foundation Stage)

Key Stage 1 (KS1)
Year 1: Swift, Nightingale
Year 2: Woodpecker and Kingfisher

Lower Key Stage 2 (LKS2)
Year 3: Osprey, Falcon,
Year 4: Buzzard and Skylark

Upper Key Stage 2 (UKS2)
Year 5: Kestrel, Red Kite
Year 6: Owl and Eagle

Happy Holidays! We hope that all the children have a well-earned rest next week. Both children and staff have been working very hard over this half-term, and all the new beginnings of a new school year use up lots of energy, so everyone is ready for a week off. It is amazing to think how much change can happen in 7 weeks – we don't always see it in the children, but this week we have had a few class assemblies and they have learnt so much. It has been wonderful to see their confidence, knowledge and social skills grow.

One of the recent highlights for our school was a visit from BMX Academy. The facilitator demonstrated some of his tricks in an assembly for Years 1-6 and he spoke to the children about 'flearning' – learning from failures. He shared with the children how he learnt all the tricks by saying to himself, 'I can't do that – yet!' It was inspirational when he shared stories from his own childhood of how he was able to transfer what he learnt on a BMX into a maths lesson on adding fractions!

In a recent assembly, we explored our brains and how we have a part of our brain which is our 'thinking brain' and part of our brain which is our 'feeling brain'. We spoke about this to help us understand how we behave. If you are interested in reading more about our brains, a book which is recommended by some of our staff is 'My Hidden Chimp' by Steve Peters. Amazon says the following about the book: *My Hidden Chimp* is an effective and powerful new book that offers parents, teachers and carers some ideas and thoughts on how to help children to develop healthy habits for life.

In our behaviour policy we promote prosocial behaviours: greeting people, saying thank you, standing to the side to let people past. It has been lovely to walk around the corridors and have children smiling, using names and asking members of staff how they are. We have had a few visitors in school recently that have commented on how lovely the school is. Well done children – we are very proud of you. It is great when these behaviours are noticed by members of the public as well when children are in the village – at the skatepark and on their bikes.

English

At GVP, we strive to introduce children to a variety of engaging and diverse texts with rich vocabulary and a variety of character types. Pupils develop a love of reading, and are equipped to have a strong command of the spoken and written word. Key texts are used as an inspiration for writing and opportunities are given to write across a range of subjects. Discrete lessons in phonics, spelling and early reading ensure pupils develop the skills needed to be successful learners.

Reading:

At the end of each half-term, we like to celebrate great reading. In Key Stage 2, we use Accelerated Reader. After children read their books, they do a quiz. If they pass the quiz, it counts the number of words in the book. Some children have read millions of words! Lots of books from the libraries and shops are on the AR system (and not in our school library) so do encourage your children to do quizzes at school on books they read over the holidays.

Reminders:

We have lots of lost property again. Please do check the front office for forgotten items. It is so helpful if everything is named. As we come into the winter season, please name hats, gloves, scarves, coats!



All teachers were excited to introduce Power Maths this academic year for the first time. The children have enjoyed this new scheme so far, which is based on White Rose Maths. The scheme continues with our Mastery approach to teaching maths, to ensure that children have a deep mathematical understanding.

PSHE:

In EYFS we have had a busy half term settling into our new classrooms and making friends. We have been learning new names, new faces and new ways of becoming independent. We have also been learning about how to keep our bodies healthy, how dental hygiene is important and learning different body part names.

In KS1 we have been exploring fabulous friendships! We have talked about what a friend is and what qualities make a good friend. We have talked about feeling lonely, and what happens when friends fall out and what we can do about it. The half term ends with the NSPCC pants lesson.

In Lower KS2, we have been learning about caring friendships. We have been discussing the benefits of friendships to our mental health and our lives. We have also been learning about loneliness and strategies to include others.

In Upper KS2, we have also been learning about caring friendships. We have learnt about how friendships can change over time and strategies to resist peer pressure. The children have been discussing how to apply conflict resolution to various contexts to support them socially.

We are currently reviewing our RSE policy. The parent consultation for the RSE policy is on Wednesday 1st November at 9am. If you are interested in attending, please ensure you send the form to the office by Friday 20th October.

Mrs Halawa, PSHE coordinator

Charity Appeal

Hello all,

I am Miss Vincent, and I teach Buzzard class. If you were at GVP the last couple of years you may remember our PJ challenge. GVP has been a brilliant source of support for the charity and for putting a smile on children and families faces at Christmas.

If you missed it here is the story behind the pyjamas: In my previous school I had the immense pleasure of teaching Flo in year 1. She was the bravest pupil I have ever taught. When she was 4 years old and due to start school she was diagnosed with ALL (Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia). One Christmas Flo was poorly and woke up in hospital on Christmas day. A charity "Children's Hospital Pyjamas" was on hand to make the day feel more special. For every child in hospital on Christmas day, they aim to give them a shiny new pair of pyjamas. A little thing to some, but to Flo and her family it was the best thing, and gave them all a reason to smile. Flo's Mum, Nikki, always says for every pair of pyjamas it is a reason for a child to smile at Christmas. Thankfully Flo got to ring the all clear bell in year 2. The last 4 years Flo's family have been collecting pyjamas for this brilliant charity, a charity I too have been supporting with them. Although I no longer teach Flo, I would love to still support the family and the charity. So my plea to you at Gamlingay Village Primary – can we collect some comfy new pyjamas and make even more children smile this Christmas? 😊

Deadline:

- If you would like to join in ... please pass on your pyjamas to your class teacher who will pass them to me
- The last date for collection is: Thursday 30th November 2023

The rules:

- Any size from newborn to aged 18
- Nothing too fluffy/fleecy – it can get hot in the hospitals
- No Christmas logos – any spare will be used for emergency admissions during the year
- They have to be new

I (and the Morrison family) thank you all in advance.



Miss Vincent.

[Children's Hospital Pyjamas – Spreading Love Through Comfort \(childrenshospitalpyjamas.co.uk\)](http://childrenshospitalpyjamas.co.uk)

Friends of Gamlingay Village Primary has

secured funding from the Co-op as one of their chosen charities from 22nd October for a year. This money will be used to buy picnic benches for the school site. If you are shopping at the Co-op, show your support of FGVP!

Coming Up

Monday 30th Oct:
Return to School
 Wednesday 1st Nov:
RSE Consultation @ 9am
 Wednesday 1st Nov:
Parent Consultations
 Thursday 2nd Nov:
Parent Consultations
 Sunday 5th Nov:
FGVP Fireworks display
 Wednesday 22nd Nov:
Flu vaccinations
 Friday 1st Dec:
Decoration Day
 Friday 15th Dec:
FGVP disco
 Wednesday 20th Dec:
Last day of Autumn Term