



Class Reference Information:

Reception

Robin & Wren
(EYFS/ Foundation Stage)

Key Stage 1 (KS1)

Year 1: Swift & Nightingale, Year 2: Woodpecker & Kingfisher

Lower Key Stage 2 (LKS2)

Year 3: Osprey & Falcon, Year 4: Buzzard & Skylark

Upper Key Stage 2 (UKS2)

Year 5: Kestrel & Red Kite
Year 6: Owl & Eagle

Happy New Year to all of our families. We hope that 2024 is off to a good start for you and that you had a good break over Christmas. There is something lovely about a new year and a new start.

A word from the children:

Since it has been 2024 for a few days now, we are talking about goals for the new year. Three to be exact. People all around the world are claiming that they will be aiming to be healthier and sportier. So, I'm going to ask some people about their goals for the new year.

I asked Ben from year six and he replied doing a backflip with his Traxxas RC car, catching a badger with his camera trap, and making a humane mouse trap. I asked him what three things he wanted to improve in school. He said to improve in handwriting, his RE and grammar.

I asked Coco from year six what are your three goals for 2024: Starting a crochet business, raising over £20 for charity through her shop and getting fit. Has she got three achievements that she wants to improve in school? She commented to work on her handwriting, do well on SATs and be more understanding.

When we were in Miss Slater's assembly, she talked about what you want to do when you're older. I want to try to bungee jump at least once and travel the world.

I asked Ted from year one: What is your goal outside school? and he said to play outside. I asked a TA she responded: To get fit, have more fun and see friends that she hasn't seen in a while. I also asked her what she wanted to achieve in school, and she said to do more courses and be tidier. I asked Rosie from year five what she wanted to accomplish in school, and she commented that she wanted to get better at maths, geography and climbing on the climbing frame.

Art at GVP

We aim for children to develop their skills and knowledge to become confident artists. We introduce lots of activities and experiences where children can use a wide range of resources and mixed media. This is what we did in the Autumn Term:

- In Foundation stage, children have loved creating their very own Gruffalos out of cereal boxes.
- In Year 1 and 2 children explored Art across the curriculum. They studied Frida Kahlo self-portraits, looking carefully at their own facial features and shapes before completing their own self-portrait.
- In Year 3 and 4, children studied the artist Quentin Blake, looking at his illustration styles and studying emotions, colours, body position and props. Someone even won a Blue Peter badge for their amazing illustration.
- Year 5 and 6 made links within English creating an illustration using chalk and oil pastels to create artwork called Dark Skies linked to poetry.

Special Person

As part of a whole school initiative to help improve emotional wellbeing, all children have had a chance to pick a special person since coming back after the festive period. The special person is an adult in school that they feel safe to talk to. They will have the opportunity to go and speak to their chosen adult whenever they feel necessary to regulate, talk through their feelings and to hopefully improve their day. We are excited to see the positive impact this will have on our children. Please speak to your children about who their special person is. Any questions, please speak to your class teacher. We will be carrying out pupil voice with the school council next week to find out what else the children feel we can do to support their emotional wellbeing.

Focus on Early Years

In Early Years, we are always looking on how to improve our provision to enhance the children's learning. We follow the curiosity approach, which enables us to create a home from home environment. We are on the hunt for house items that will make our home corners look more homely such as:

- Rugs
- Cushions
- Kitchen equipment and utensils
- China tea sets
- Metal utensils and containers
- Ornaments
- Lamps
- Quirky items
- Clocks
- Traditional telephones
- Blankets
- Pots and pans etc.

We are also working on enhancing our outdoor area and we are looking for the following items:

- Cable drums of all sizes
- Tree stumps
- Guttering
- Outdoor games
- Plant pots and gardening tools for children
- Watering cans
- Sand toys
- Imaginative play toys (such as rockets, dolls house, miniature figures etc)

If there is anything you feel you can donate, please speak to Mrs Halawa (Wrens) or Mrs Blackaby (Robins).

Maths Pig's Challenge



Meet Maths Pig – she says 'Keep Calm and Love Maths; it is the only subject that counts!

Maths Pig is going to regularly bring a family challenge. We hope that the love of Maths is something that can grow at home.

Oldest Living Woman

The oldest living woman is Kamato Hongo of Japan. She is 115 years old.

How many months has she lived? How many days (not considering leap years)? How many hours? How many minutes?

Meet Miss Henry



Job Title: Head of School

On a Thursday at 10am,

I might be writing the school newsletter.

One of my favourite children's books when I was young was *Heidi* by Johanna Spyri.

When I was at school, I used to recite poems at festivals.

Family Time

Go for a walk in the woods and talk about places that are special to you and what your favourite season of the year is. How many colours can you spot in the woods in winter?

Did you know that every week Premier Sport come in and run sports activities at lunchtimes? They are now covering some of our PE lessons.

Dates for your Diary

15th Jan: Year 4 Egyptian Day

19th Jan: Year 3 Egyptian Day

22nd Jan: Bright Monday –

Wear something bright & cheerful!

25th Jan: Year 6 SATs learning café

29th Jan: Year 5 Greek Day

30th Jan: Year 1 Phonics learning café

30th Jan: Year 6 Greek Day

Goodbye

This week we are saying goodbye to Emma Reynolds. Miss Reynolds has had various roles at GVP. She will certainly be missed as our Forest School teacher, and we wish her all the best as she continues to pursue this interest.

Reminders

Our lost property at the front office is overflowing. We have returned all named items. Please check for missing items before next Friday, when the items will be passed on.

Parking in the car park is only for staff, taxis, and blue badge holders.