

**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

Go Wild in June!

The Wildlife Trust are coming in to lead an assembly at the beginning of June. They are encouraging us to take part in **#30DaysWild**: Go on a minibeast hunt; Sow seeds; Do Nature Art!

Reading celebrations

We love to celebrate reading at Gamlingay Village Primary. It is the gateway to so much other learning – a poem that reflects your emotions in PSHE, the diary entry of a historical figure, a newspaper report on a geographical phenomenon or a science book on how the body works.

Children begin their reading journey at home, before they start school – they learn how to **turn pages** and read pictures.

When children start school in EYFS and Key Stage 1, we teach them to read through reading practice sessions three times a week. These:

- are taught by a fully trained adult to small groups of approximately six children
- use books matched to the children's secure phonic knowledge using the *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised* assessments and book matching grids.
- are monitored by the class teacher, who rotates and works with each group on a regular basis.

Each reading practice session has a clear focus, so that the demands of the session do not overload the children's working memory. The reading practice sessions have been designed to focus on three key reading skills:

- decoding
- prosody: teaching children to read with understanding and expression
- comprehension: teaching children to understand the text.

Once children become **fluent** independent readers, they move on to using Accelerated Reader. Children take a star quiz which guides them to which level of books they should read to challenge themselves. Then, children read books and do quizzes on what they have read; this helps teachers track their understanding of the book, and where they need support. Accelerated Reader tracks the number of books and words that children have read. We regularly celebrate children in assembly who have read over 1 million words. Currently we have some children who have read over 5 million words during their time in Key Stage 2! Every child who reads over a million words gets a **Word Millionaire** Certificate. This half-term, we also awarded a certificate to the class that had read the most books!

We love having a library at the centre of the school – but our avid readers need more books. If you have any books suitable for children over 7, that you are finished with, and they are in good condition, please consider **donating** them to the library. Please hand them in to the school office, saying that they are for the library.

Look out for more news next half-term about our **sponsored read** and special donations.

Focus on Sports Day

On Tuesday afternoon, EYFS and KS1 had their sports afternoon. Lots of parents came along to watch – we had a great time and managed to stay fairly dry! The children worked well in their teams and were really supported by the older children. Thank you to our sports leaders and to Miss Dennison for organising it. A highlight for me was seeing older siblings encouraging their little brothers and sisters. It was also wonderful to see children with SEND needs taking part enthusiastically and the joy and pride on the faces of staff who work with them. We have rearranged our KS2 sports day for **Wednesday 12th June**.

Changes ahead

Change is inevitable, and at this time of year, we begin to think about changes that will happen by September. This includes changes to staffing. At the end of this academic year, as well as Miss Henry leaving, Mrs Thompson and Miss Trace will be moving on. Both Mrs Thompson and Miss Trace began their teaching careers at Gamlingay as trainee teachers, before joining our staff and we would like to thank them for all that they have done (and are still doing) for our pupils.

Mrs Thompson has been a teacher at Gamlingay for almost 14 years. She began teaching at Gamlingay First School. One of the highlights of her time here was moving the school over from the old Victorian school and being part of setting up GVP in its lovely grounds. She says, "I'll really miss all the lovely children and families that I have got to know so well over the years". She has been an invaluable member of staff as a Key Stage 1 teacher and team leader, a mentor for many trainees and early career teachers, working with the ICT team and leading maths. We will miss her and wish her all the best with the future.

Miss Trace has been a Year 6 teacher for almost 4 years, which means lots of practice SATs tests to mark, residentials and many homework club sessions. She has led the teaching of Spanish. Miss Trace is taking up a position at a school in Stevenage.

Out & About:

Some classes have been to Millbrook Meadows as part of the 10-year celebrations. They took part in nature trails.

Maths Pig's Challenge



'Keep Calm and Love Maths; it is the only subject that counts!'

At GVP, we truly believe that Maths is for everyone. Lots of board games help with maths. Maths Pig's Challenge this week is to play a maths game with maths!



Dates for your Diary

- 24th May: INSET Day (no children in school)
- 27th-31st May: Half-term
- 3rd June: New half-term begins
- 5th June: Class photos
- 12th June: Wren class assembly
- 13th June: Robin class assembly
- 30th June-3rd July: Year 6 Residential
- 1st July: Year 2 trip
- 2nd July: Year 3 & 4 trip
- 5th July: Year 1 trip
- 9th July: Year 5 trip
- 10-12th July: Year 6 production
- 18th July: Year 6 leavers assembly

Family time

Take part in #30DaysWild. Get outside! June is such a good time of year to feel inspired by nature, and being in great outdoors is good for all of us – parents and children.

SATs

Well done to all of our Year 6s who completed their SATs last week!

Pupil Voice

In school, it matters to us what our pupils think. We have a school council that meets regularly and shares with members of staff their opinions on various things. Every day, we offer our children the chance to speak to their class teachers using the emotional check-ins, that we set up in the Autumn Term. Lots of children speak to their special person when they need someone to talk to. Recently some children raised concerns about football, and they had a meeting with Miss Henry about their concerns. Some of the boys said that there was a waiting list for football teams outside of school. Our PE lead is investigating.

Meet Mrs Hinton



Job title: School Leadership Partner.
At 10am on a Tuesday, you will probably find me talking with children about their learning.
My favourite book when I was young was the Treasure Seekers by E Nesbit.
When I was at school, I loved performing in school plays.

Mrs Hinton says, "I'm passionate about the arts and spent time as a teenager as a member of professional theatres companies. I've since written numerous school productions (mostly musicals) that have been performed across Cambridgeshire and London. I can often be found in my garden or greenhouses growing a wide variety of fruit and vegetables. As a child I wanted to be a teacher, work in a library, be an actor and be Prime Minister. I've achieved the first three; but think I'll give the last one a miss!