



THE GATEWAY NEWS

Keeping you informed

www.gateway-pri.kent.sch.uk

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NEWSLETTER 3

19th December 2025

Welcome to our winter newsletter. Let me begin by thanking the PFA committee, parent helpers and staff for all their hard work in making our Christmas Fair such a success. We raised £2,067.



Thank You to Cool Dynamics who generously donated £500 to our school in support of the Christmas Fair.



We also loved seeing their festive Elf on the Shelf join in the fun - it brought so many smiles. Thank you for being such a wonderful part of our school community.

SPORT

A group of children from Year 5 and 6 represented the school in a football match against Sedleys School. After dominating in the first half, unfortunately Sedley's were too strong in the second half and beat us 3-2.

This term, a team of boys and girls from Year 3 and 4 were invited to Tottenham's football academy to complete a workshop. The day began with a healthy eating workshop followed by a football festival with the 9 other teams attending on that day.



BABY NEWS

Congratulations to Miss Jones, Herons teacher, who is expecting her first child towards the end of the academic year. We want to wish her all the best for the coming months.



STAFF

We will be saying farewell to Miss Jackson in the office at the end of this term. She will be missed by the staff and children. We wish her all the best for the future.



We welcome Mrs Sahota who has joined The Gateway this term in the office.

SCHOOL TRIPS

Eagles - Kent Life

Eagles had a fantastic day at Kent Life immersing themselves in the history of World War Two. They worked with a RAF navigator; learnt how to dig for victory; made rag rugs; learnt about the role of an air raid precaution guard; experienced a WWII home and shop; marched with a home guard; and experienced the life of an evacuee. The tractor ride was a lot of fun too and the winter sunshine was perfect for our day!



Swallows - Kent Life

Swallows enjoyed their trip to the Roman experience at Kent Life, where they had the opportunity to step back in time and discover



what life was like in Roman Britain through drama, role play and hands-on activities. They met a Roman centurion who taught them the skills of a

Roman soldier, even practising with shields and forming their own impressive tortoise formation. The children explored the differences between the diets of rich and poor Romans, gaining insight into daily life at the time. To top it off, they met the fierce Boudicca and worked together to plan to take down the Romans. The class had a fantastic day, fully immersing themselves in their learning and deepening their understanding of this fascinating period of history.

CHRISTMAS SHOW

Our Christmas play, *Countdown to Christmas*, was a wonderful success. The children worked very hard learning their lines and practising their songs. They showed great confidence and everyone did an amazing job on stage.

The play was full of festive cheer, with lots of singing and laughter throughout. It was truly a joy to watch the children shine.

Well done to all the children for such a fantastic performance!

FESTIVE FARMING QUEST

Part of our school's science curriculum involves providing our children with experiences which stretch and challenge their thinking. Years 3, 4 and 6 participated in a virtual work experience event with the National Farmer's Union; this involved learning about the role of a camel carer, a vet, a festive pudding apprentice, a turkey farmer and a mistletoe grower. The children learnt about careers they wouldn't normally be introduced to in primary school and many were inspired by the wide diversity of farmers represented in these careers.



NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

To further enrich our children's learning in science, Eagles Class participated in an online workshop with The Natural History Museum. Lots of learning about Charles Darwin, lizards, horses and dogs was explored. They went back 250 million years ago to notice how living things were first identified in the sea, then on land around 400 million years ago and that some living things such as grass were not identified until around 60 million years ago. Having completed their missions, Eagles became experts on the following enquiries:



What is evolution?

Why does evolution happen?

How does evolution happen?

Many Eagles felt inspired to visit or make a return visit to the NHM and we hope they are able to do this during the holidays!

ANTI-BULLYING WORKSHOP

Kestrels took part in an inspiring anti-bullying workshop delivered by *Bully Beats*, where creativity and teamwork took centre stage. The day began with pupils experimenting with a range of sounds - including body percussion - to create and record unique rhythms. Working collaboratively, they shared ideas, crafted powerful anti-bullying lyrics, and even designed their own CD case covers. Throughout the workshop, the children recorded musical parts, built rhythms and rhymes, and demonstrated fantastic teamwork, kindness, and enthusiasm. It was a fun-filled experience that reinforced an important message in a memorable way.

<https://on.soundcloud.com/91jiCMNlyUzixK56C6>

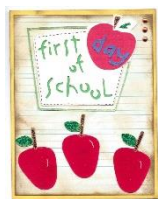
PARKING

Please remember that it is illegal to park on the yellow zig-zag lines in front of the school during certain times. If you do so then you can be fined and receive penalty points as a result.

Please be respectful of our neighbours in Milestone Road and do not park on or block their drives.

STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2026

If your child was born between 01.09.21 and



31.08.22 now is the time to apply for a school place.

Applications will need to be made via the Kent County Council website

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/primary-school-places>. The deadline for applications is Thursday 15th January 2026.

LATENESS

As part of our drive to improve attendance at school we regularly review our attendance data which includes late marks. Parents have to get their child to school before the gates close at 9am to ensure they are not late. I understand that sometimes there is additional traffic in the local area which I take into consideration on certain days. Please ensure that your child is in school before the gates close at 9am. This will also give them the opportunity to complete their early work activities which can account for almost an hour's worth of learning time a week if they come in when the gates are opened.

In the new year I will be contacting families to discuss attendance and punctuality but if you would like to discuss your situation or need support then please contact the school office.

	Attendance
Swans	94%
Hérons	95%
Kingfishers	95%
Swallows	97%
Woodpeckers	97%
Kestrels	96%
Eagles	94%

IMPORTANT DATES

19 th December	Last Day of Term 2
16 th January	Woodpeckers Swimming start
12 th February	Last Day of Term 3
13 th February	Staff Development Day

We wish you all a Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year

First Day of Term 3
Monday 5th January 2026