

LEARNING WITHOUT LIMITS

Inspiring and challenging all children and adults to excel in everything they do.



LEARNING AND TEACHING NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 1 • 2026 - 2027

Welcome to a New Year at Gorsefield! ❤️

A new school year means new adventures, new discoveries and new opportunities to shine! We are delighted to welcome all of our children and families to the 2026-2027 academic year at Gorsefield Primary School.

There is so much to look forward to this half term. Across school, children will travel through history, investigate the natural world, experiment as scientists, explore inspirational artists and put their creativity to the test through art and design.

This newsletter gives you a glimpse into the exciting learning taking place from EYFS all the way to Year 6, alongside fun activities to try at home, places to explore together and apps and websites that bring learning to life beyond the classroom.

Inspire,
Challenge,
Excel

WHAT WILL YOU DISCOVER THIS HALF TERM?

DINOSAURS
& FOSSILS

ROMAN
BRITAIN

THE
TUDORS

ANCIENT
EGYPT

ANCIENT
GREECE

THE
TITANIC

CHARLES DARWIN
& EVOLUTION

ANIMALS
& HABITATS

LIFE
CYCLES

AFRICAN FOOD
& CULTURE

PICASSO

MONET

ART, DESIGN
& CREATIVITY

Explore
Create
Discover
Together ❤️



The Titanic



Roman Britain



Ancient Egypt



African Food & Culture



Evolution

Picasso



Monet

Ancient Greece

STAY CONNECTED

The learning doesn't stop here! ❤️

We love sharing the brilliant learning, experiences and achievements happening across Gorsefield. Scan the QR codes to see what we are getting up to and join in with the excitement online.



Follow us on X
See learning and special moments from across school.



Keep up with Gorsefield
Stay connected with news, updates and everything happening in school.

EYFS – This is Me

My Place, My People!

Children will explore their own personal history, discovering how they have grown and changed from babies to toddlers and now children. They will talk about their families and what makes each one unique, before exploring where they belong.

Children will learn about their home address, Gorsefield Primary School and familiar places within the local Radcliffe community.

Brilliant Bodies

Children will discover just how amazing their bodies are! They will name different body parts and investigate how their five senses help them explore the world around them. They will learn how to care for their bodies, exploring healthy teeth, effective toothbrushing, how germs spread and how to keep themselves clean and healthy.

Mystery Sense: Close your eyes while a grown-up gives you mystery sounds, smells or objects to identify - how many can your super senses solve?

Glitter Germs: Put a tiny amount of glitter on one person's hand, shake hands and touch a few objects, watch those pretend "germs" travel before washing them away!

Toothbrush DJ: Choose a two-minute song and turn toothbrushing into a nightly dance challenge!



Brush DJ – Dance along to 2 minutes of music whilst you brush your teeth!



Find Gorsefield, your street and familiar places in Radcliffe together.

Baby Me: Find a baby photo and recreate it now, what differences can you spot between baby you and you now?

Radcliffe Bingo: On your next trip out, see how many familiar Radcliffe places you can spot: shops, parks, roads, transport and other important places in your community.

Mini Memory Museum: Choose three objects or photographs from different parts of your life and create a tiny museum telling the story of *you* so far!



Mirror Masterpiece:

Grab a mirror and create a self-portrait. Look closely at every tiny detail that makes your face *you*.

Funny Face Artist: Pull your silliest, happiest or most surprised expression in a mirror and try to draw it.

Crazy Portraits: Forget pencils! Build your face using pasta, buttons, leaves, wool, bottle tops or anything else you can find, then photograph your creation.



Marvellous Me!

Children will become portrait artists as they explore the features that make every person unique. Using mirrors to look carefully at themselves, they will notice details such as their eyes, ears, nose, mouth, hair and skin. They will then create their own self-portraits, selecting colours purposefully and celebrating the wonderful similarities and differences between themselves and their friends.

Out and About!

Outwood Country Park: Go on a senses walk:, find something colourful to see, something interesting to smell, something rough or smooth to touch and stop to listen for different sounds.



Year 1 – Kings, Creatures and Colour!

Living Wonders

Year 1 will become wildlife scientists, exploring animals and their amazing lives! They will group familiar animals, discover herbivores, carnivores and omnivores, investigate what animals need to survive, explore local habitats and learn how animals and humans grow and change.

Paintbrushes

BANNED!: Create a colourful picture without using a paintbrush! Experiment with sponges, cotton buds, cardboard, toothbrushes or even your fingers to discover which makes the most exciting textures.

Colour Lab: Start with only red, yellow and blue paint and challenge yourself to create as many completely new colours as possible – how many can you invent and name?



Out and About!

Bury Art Museum : Go on an art hunt for portraits, shapes, unusual colours and different painting styles, then choose a favourite artwork to inspire a Picasso-style creation at home.

Heaton Park Animal Centre: Meet familiar farm animals and identify what they eat, what they need to survive and which adults and offspring belong together.

Backyard Beast Base: Head outside and create a tiny wildlife hideaway using sticks, leaves, stones and natural materials, then investigate which creatures decide to move in.

Build-a-Beast Café: Create a restaurant and design the perfect menu for a herbivore, carnivore and omnivore, but be careful not to serve the lion a salad!



Mix it Up

Year 1 will step into the colourful world of Pablo Picasso and Cubism! They will explore unusual shapes, mix primary and secondary colours, experiment with paints, brushes and textures, before combining their artistic skills to create a striking Cubist-inspired self-portrait.

Tudor Times

Year 1 will travel back over 500 years to discover the dramatic world of the Tudors. They will meet Richard III, Henry VII and Henry VIII, explore the Battle of Bosworth and discover how the Tudor dynasty began. Children will investigate Henry VIII's spectacular coronation and meet his six wives!

Crown me King!: Design and make a spectacular Tudor crown using cardboard, foil, gems and anything else you can find, inspired by Henry VIII's magnificent coronation.



Battle of the Roses: Make red and white Tudor roses, choose your side and stage your own mini Battle of Bosworth with toys, figures or homemade characters.

Palace in a Box: Transform a cardboard box into a Tudor palace fit for Henry VIII and some royal guests!

TATE KIDS

Tate Kids – Meet Picasso

Discover Picasso, explore his unusual artwork and try creative art activities inspired by famous artists

BBC Bitesize - Animals

Explore animal groups, diets, habitats, offspring and what animals need to survive!



Year 2 – Curious Minds, Clever Creations

Minibeast Hotel Hunt: Carefully explore under logs, stones and leaves and see how many tiny creatures have made these hidden microhabitats their home.

Who Ate Who? Choose an animal and create its food chain using toys, drawings or real foods from the kitchen – can somebody work out what the arrows mean?

Shoebox Habitat: Transform an old shoebox into an amazing woodland, ocean, rainforest or pond habitat and fill it with animals that would be perfectly suited to living there.



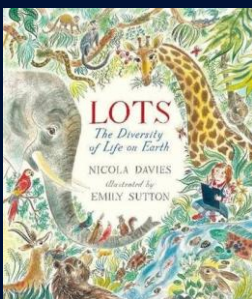
Out and About!

Ribchester Roman Museum:

Explore real Roman artefacts, the remains of the Roman fort and the Roman road that once connected Ribchester and Manchester.



Outwood Park: Investigate everything that moves, turns, spins or rotates – can you identify where wheels, axles and other moving mechanisms are hiding?



Journey through The Diversity of Life on Earth to discover the extraordinary animals, plants and habitats that make our planet unique, exploring how living things survive, adapt and thrive in environments around the world.

Pulling Along

Year 2 will become vehicle designers while investigating how wheels and axles make toys move. They will experiment with wheel shapes and axle positions, discover why parallel axles help vehicles travel straight, then design and construct their own pull-along vehicle.

Toy Grand Prix: Build ramps from books and cardboard and race different wheeled toys down them – which travels furthest and what might make it faster?



Wacky Wheels: Cut circles, squares and triangles from cardboard, attach them to a simple toy model and discover first-hand why wheels really are round!

Junkyard Invention: Raid the recycling for boxes, bottle tops, straws and cardboard and invent a pull-along vehicle.

Boudicca's Battle Plan: Build a Roman fort from blocks, gather two armies of figures and recreate Boudicca's rebellion – who has the strongest battle strategy?

Road Detective: Use a map to trace the ancient Roman route between Manchester and Ribchester and see which modern places now sit along its path.



Habitats: Our Home

Year 2 will become habitat explorers as they discover how animals are grouped, what they need to survive and where they make their homes. They will investigate habitats, explore how animals are suited to different environments and discover where food comes from before building their own food chains.

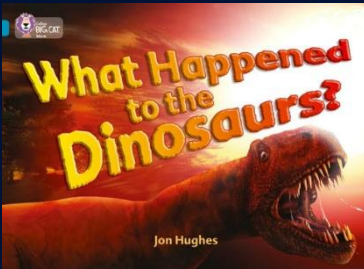
Footprints of Roman Britain

Year 2 will march back into Roman Britain to discover Caesar and Claudius' attempts to invade, Boudicca's famous rebellion and what Roman life was like. They will explore Roman towns, villas and roads, including the Roman road through Radcliffe, before looking at Roman influences of today.



Habitat Explorer: investigate living things found in different habitats and consider why particular animals live where they do.

Year 3 – Prehistoric Paint and a Powerful Past



Step back millions of years and investigate one of Earth's greatest mysteries! Discover the fascinating theories and evidence scientists use to explore what really happened to the dinosaurs and why they disappeared.

Dinosaur Dinner Party: Create the ultimate dinosaur dinner menu, choosing different meals for a herbivore, carnivore and omnivore.

Build-a-Beast: Invent your own dinosaur by combining useful features from real dinosaurs, then explain how each feature helps your creature survive.

Survival Showdown: Choose two dinosaurs and decide which would survive best in a desert, forest or swamp - then battle it out with somebody at home!



Paint to Impress

Year 3 will explore Claude Monet and Impressionism, discovering how artists capture changing light through colour and brushstrokes. They will experiment with colour intensity, different painting techniques and gradients to use in their final masterpiece.

Sunset in a Cup: Mix paints to create as many different sunset shades as possible, arranging them from lightest to darkest.

Paintbrush Olympics: Race through dabbing, streaking, smudging and tiny brushstrokes to discover which technique creates the most interesting effect.



The Land Before Time

Year 3 will journey into the prehistoric world, exploring how dinosaurs can be grouped by their diets and physical features. They will discover how different environments influenced prehistoric animals, investigate adaptations that helped dinosaurs survive and explore how scientists use evidence to understand creatures from millions of years ago.

Out and About!

Manchester Museum: Come face-to-face with a T. rex and other dinosaurs, then investigate their skeletons for clues about diet, movement and survival.



Stone Age Survival Walk:

Head to a local woodland or countryside trail and imagine you are a Stone Age hunter-gatherer. What could provide food, shelter, tools or protection?

From Flint to Forge

Year 3 will journey from the Stone Age to the Iron Age, discovering how life in Britain changed through homes, food, farming, tools and transport, while exploring fascinating archaeological discoveries.

Prehistoric Masterchef: Raid the kitchen cupboards and create a meal using only foods you think Stone, Bronze or Iron Age people could have eaten.

Build your own Hillfort: Use LEGO, blocks or anything you can find to create a defended Iron Age settlement complete with walls, ditches and roundhouses.



Google Arts and Culture: Search **Claude Monet** and zoom right into famous paintings to investigate his colours, tiny brushstrokes, light and Impressionist techniques and more.



SCAN ME

Dino Directory: Explore 300+ dinosaurs and investigate when they lived, what they ate, their body features and how they survived.

Year 4 – From Pharaohs to Food Chains

Eat or Be Eaten?

Year 4 will become wildlife scientists, classifying animals and discovering their amazing adaptations. They will explore food chains, predators and prey across different habitats, before investigating how human actions and natural events can positively and negatively affect environments.

Adaptation Inventor: Invent an animal perfectly adapted to an extreme habitat and label its weird and wonderful survival features!

Food Chain Frenzy: Choose a habitat and create a giant food web using drawings, string or household objects; remove one species and predict what happens!

Planet Protector: Choose one environmental problem and create a mini campaign convincing your family how they could help protect wildlife.



Pyramids and Pharaohs

This half term, Year 4 will journey back to Ancient Egypt, exploring powerful pharaohs, hieroglyphics and the importance of the River Nile. They will uncover the secrets of the pyramids and investigate Howard Carter's incredible discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb and its extraordinary treasures.



SCAN ME

Explore the official website which showcases Awad's incredible murals and see how Ancient Egyptian imagery inspires his contemporary artwork!

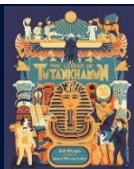
Crack the Code: Create a secret message using hieroglyphics and challenge somebody at home to decipher it!

Tutankhamun's Tomb Hunt: Hide five "ancient treasures" around the house, draw a tomb map and challenge someone to discover them like Howard Carter!

Pyramid Power: Build the tallest freestanding pyramid you can using anything at home – LEGO, cards, cups or even marshmallows!



The Legend of Tutankhamun: Step inside the mysterious world of Ancient Egypt and uncover the incredible story of the boy king, his magnificent tomb and the treasures that remained hidden for thousands of years.



Out and About!

Heaton Park: Explore Heaton Park and classify the animals you spot, then see if you can build a real-life food chain from the plants and wildlife around you!



Manchester Art Gallery: Search for portraits looking closely at profiles, facial proportions, light, shade and the different materials artists have used.

Sketch Yourself

Year 4 will discover the work of Egyptian artist Alaa Awad and explore how he takes inspiration from Ancient Egyptian culture.

They will develop their portrait-drawing skills, investigate proportion, form, light and shade, and master oil pastel blending before creating a striking profile self-portrait inspired by Awad's style.

Mirror Mirror: Grab a mirror, turn sideways and have a go at sketching your own profile – can you capture the shape of your nose, lips, chin and ear?

Awad Makeover: Make a photograph of yourself and redesign your portrait in an Alaa Awad-inspired style using bold patterns, Egyptian-inspired details and a dramatic colour palette.



Year 5 – Through a Different Lens

The Circle of Life

Year 5 will investigate the fascinating life cycles of plants and animals, exploring sexual and asexual reproduction in plants and comparing mammals, birds, insects and amphibians. They will observe plant growth, explore metamorphosis and investigate how gestation periods differ between mammals.

Life Cycles: Choose an animal and create its life cycle using drawings, photos or household objects. Can you label each stage and explain how the animal changes?

Grow it Two Ways! Try growing one plant from a seed and another from a bulb, cutting or sprouting potato. Keep a weekly record and compare how they develop.



Google Arts & Culture: Virtually explore Ancient Greek artefacts, sculptures and architecture and zoom closely into historical objects.

Canva

Import photographs, remove backgrounds, resize and overlap images to experiment with digital layering and photomontage.

Out and About!

Fletcher Moss Botanical Garden: Hunt for plants at different stages of growth and look for examples of seeds, flowers and new plants,

Heaton Park: Go on a photography hunt for water, plants, reflections and natural textures. Experiment with zoom, focus, framing and exposure.

Manchester Museum: Visit the **Vivarium** to see live amphibians and reptiles and make links to reproduction, life cycles and how young animals develop.



Politics, Parthenon and Persians

Year 5 will journey into Ancient Greece, exploring its powerful city-states, Persian Wars, politics and society. They will compare Athens and Sparta, investigate Greek architecture and democracy, and discover how Alexander the Great expanded his empire and spread Greek culture.

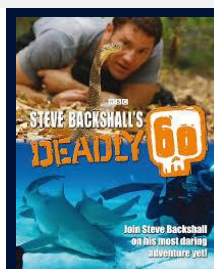
Water Through My Lens: Photograph water in five unusual ways – a reflection, raindrops, a running tap, a puddle or a glass. Experiment with zoom, focus and different angles.

Remix Reality: Collect photographs or magazine images around one theme and cut, overlap and rearrange them to create your own eye-catching photomontage inspired by Sara Cwynar.



Redesigning Reality

Year 5 will explore the work of contemporary artist Sara Cwynar and discover how photography and collage can transform everyday images. They will develop photography and editing skills, experiment with layering and image manipulation, before creating their own striking photomontage.



Join Steve Backshall on an action-packed journey to meet some of the world's most incredible animals, discovering their habitats, adaptations, diets and survival skills!

Athens or Sparta?

Imagine you could live in either Athens or Sparta. Research both city-states and create a mini advert convincing your family which one you would choose.

Build the Parthenon: Use LEGO, blocks, cardboard or recycled materials to recreate the Parthenon. Can you include its famous columns and explain what the building was originally used for?



Year 6 – Survival, Spices and the ‘Unsinkable’ Ship

The Theory of Evolution

Year 6 will uncover how living things have changed over millions of years. They will investigate fossils, inheritance and variation, explore animal domestication and selective breeding, and discover how adaptations and natural selection drive evolution, inspired by the groundbreaking work of Charles Darwin.

Step into the world of Charles Darwin and uncover the revolutionary ideas that changed science forever, revealing how incredible species adapt, evolve and survive in our ever-changing world through the fascinating process of natural selection.



The ‘Unsinkable’ Ship

Year 6 will investigate the tragic story of the Titanic, from its construction and passengers to its final voyage. They will examine class differences, analyse historical sources, debate responsibility for the disaster and consider the ethics of preserving its wreck today. By comparing evidence, children will develop their own informed conclusions.

Design A Survivor: Invent an animal perfectly adapted to survive in an extreme environment. Draw it, label at least five adaptations and explain how each helps it survive.

Evolution in Action: Choose an animal such as a polar bear, camel or penguin and research three adaptations. Rank them from most to least important for survival.



Out and About!

Vajo African and Caribbean Superstore Limited: Explore ingredients such as plantain, cassava, yams and different spices. Compare labels, origins and nutritional information with familiar UK ingredients.

Manchester Museum: Visit the **Fossils and Dinosaurs Gallery** to explore fossil evidence and how scientists use it to understand evolution and changes in living things.



Taste of Tradition

Year 6 will explore the diverse flavours and ingredients of African cuisine, investigating traditional dishes, spices and pastes. They will adapt recipes, compare nutritional values and develop safe food-preparation skills before cooking, tasting and evaluating their own African-inspired dish. Along the way, they will consider what influences the food people eat.

Titanic Detective: Choose one real passenger aboard the Titanic and investigate who they were, why they were travelling, which class they travelled in and what happened to them.

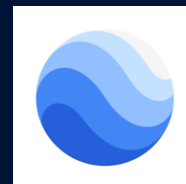
Who Was Responsible?

Investigate the decisions made before and during the Titanic disaster. Create your own responsibility ranking of the people or factors involved and write a short verdict explaining your number-one choice.



African Flavour Explorer: Visit the world-food aisle at ASDA and find five ingredients used in African cuisines. Photograph or list them and research which countries or dishes they are associated with.

Real Meal Showdown: Compare the nutritional labels of two similar meals. Investigate calories, protein, fat, sugar and salt, then decide which you think offers the better nutritional balance and explain why.



Google Earth: Virtually follow the Titanic's journey from Southampton across the Atlantic, locate Belfast where it was built and find the approximate area of the wreck.