LEARNING WITHOUT LIMITS

Inspire, Challenge, Excel.

Gorsefield Primary School

LEARNING AND TEACHING NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2 • 2026 – 2027

Our Learning Continues...

The second part of the autumn term is here, and there's even more to look forward to at Gorsefield!

Across school, children will build on their prior learning, develop new skills and explore exciting new ideas through inspiring topics, practical investigations and creative projects.

This newsletter gives you a glimpse of the fantastic learning taking place from EYFS to Year 6, alongside fun activities, places to visit and online links to continue the learning at home.



WHAT WILL YOU DISCOVER THIS HALF TERM?

- HEALTHY BODIES
- ELECTRICAL CIRCUITS
- THE CIRCULATORY SYSTEM
- LIVING THINGS
- CLASSIFICATION & HABITATS
- SEASONS & CHANGE
- ROYAL HISTORY
- PORTRAIT ART
- SKETCHING & TONE
- FOOD TECHNOLOGY











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.

OVERCOMING BARRIERS · CELEBRATING INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCE · EMBRACING CHALLENGE

FORWARD AS ONE
A PROUD GORSFIELD SCHOOL

Year 1 – Senses, Seasons and Smoothies

Food Technology – A Healthy Mixture!

This half term, Year 1 will learn how breakfast helps us start the day well, discover the difference between fruit and vegetables and describe food using their senses.
At the end, children will design and make their own smoothie breakfast bowl topped with granola and chopped fruit – a delicious, healthy creation that shows off their new skills!

Seasons of Change

Year 1 will become curious scientists as they explore the changing seasons and discover how their five senses help them understand the world. They will investigate sights, sounds, smells, tastes and textures, identify light and sound sources, and explore how weather and daylight change throughout the year.

Me, Radcliffe and The World

This half term, Year 1 will explore our local area and the wider world. They will look at where we live, identify simple physical and human features (such as hills, rivers, houses, shops) and begin to use maps, atlases and globes to locate the UK, its countries, and some of the world's continents and oceans.



Toca Nature: An app where you can build and explore natural landscapes.

goodFOOD

BBC GoodFood Kids Recipes: Easy and fun cooking projects for all ages!

Mini Chef Missions!

Taste test: let your child mix two or three fruits and describe how each tastes and smells.
Chop challenge: help them safely chop soft fruits using the "bridge" grip.
Design it: draw or plan your family's own breakfast bowl – what would go on top?

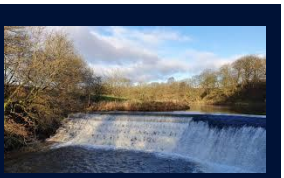
Seasons at Home!

Senses walk: go on a senses walk in your local area.
Seasonal Snapshot: Choose a tree near your home and take a photograph of it each week. Look closely at its leaves, branches and surroundings. How does it change as autumn turns into winter?

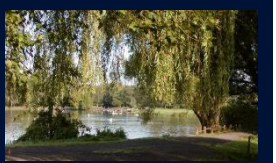
Little Explorers!

Spot the feature: go on local walk, spot and label thinks like 'hill,' 'river,' 'house,' 'park.'
Globe spotting: Use a globe or atlas to identify the Uk.
Map making: create a simple map of your route from home to school and mark key landmarks.

Out and About!



Burrs Country Park: spot human and physical features.



Moses Gate Country Park: explore open spaces to observe lights and shadows. Explore weather patterns.



Bury/Bolton Market: browse fruit and vegetable stalls, talk about where food comes from and what's in season.
Heaten Park Community Garden: see real fruit and vegetables growing.

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Year 2 – Healthy Hearts and Royal Arts

Pencil to Portrait!

This half term, Year 2 artists are exploring portrait drawing through pencil work, inspired by British artist Juliet Pannett, who famously sketched the Queen. They'll learn how to use tone, shading, and proportion to bring faces to life and will create their own detailed portrait of a member of the Royal Family to showcase their skills.

Masterpieces from Home!

Portrait Challenge: sketch a family member's face using shading and tone. It's a pencil only task!

Mirror Magine: try a mini self-portrait using a mirror to check facial features and proportions.

Royal Inspiration: look at photographs of a royal family member. What details can you spot to include in a portrait?

Crowns and Coronations

This half term, Year 2 historians are exploring royal history, learning about monarchs from Henry VIII to King Charles III. They'll discover what a coronation is, how the role of a monarch has changed over time, and how key events like the Spanish Armada helped shape the world we live in today.

Monarchs

Out and About!

Manchester Art Gallery: explore the portrait gallery and sketch famous faces in the family area.



Bury Art Museum Family Workshops: free workshops for all ages – go and polish your sketching skills!

Local park: practise movement, exercise and team games to stay healthy!



Monarchs at Home!

Family Tree: create your own family tree and compare it with a royal one.

Royal Role-play: act out the coronation – who will be the monarch?

Mini Museum: draw or print pictures of different crowns or royal artefacts and make your own "palace display."

Discover, Test, Explore

Blindfold Challenge: navigate safely with one sense missing – what do you notice?

Healthy Choices: plan a day of balanced meals.

Sleep Detective: draw a bedtime routine showing how light affects sleep.

screens.

Healthy Habits

Year 2 will discover how to keep their bodies healthy, happy and safe! They will explore their five senses, investigate balanced diets, exercise, hygiene, and learn how medicines help us. They will also discover why sleep is so important for our health and wellbeing. they will learn how everyday choices can help them stay strong, healthy and ready for anything!



Sketchbook App experiment with tones and shading.



Get your body moving with short videos full of energy!

Year 3 – Bodies, Builders and Beyond

Anatomy Adventures!

Build a Body: Use straws, cotton buds or pasta to build your own human skeleton and label key bones like the femur, skull, and ribs.

Muscle Power: do arm curls with a small bottle of water - which muscles work hardest?

Move it, Measure it : time how many star jumps you can do in a minute - can you beat your record next week?

Move It!

Year 3 will discover the incredible workings of the human body! They will investigate how skeletons and muscles support movement, explore how joints work and discover how bones protect vital organs. Children will also investigate food groups, balanced diets and the importance of exercise.

Out and About!

Manchester Museum: explore global artefacts, including volcanic rock samples and geology displays that link to Mount Vesuvius.



Eureka!: perfect for exploring how gears, pulleys and levers turn ideas into inventions.

Manchester Science and Industry Museum: see early machines and moving inventions that inspired modern engineering.

Me, Radcliffe and Naples

This half term, Year 3 geographers are travelling from Radcliffe to Naples. They will compare weather, land and lifestyle in the UK and Italy, discover what it's like to live near Mount Vesuvius, and learn how green-belt land helps protect nature close to home.

Global Explorers!

Map Mystery: Use Google Earth or an Atlas to find the UK and Italy – how far apart are Radcliffe and Naples?

Volcano Builder: Create a mini Mount Vesuvius using a cup, baking soda, and vinegar for a safe "eruption."

Postcard from Naples: Write a postcard as if you lived in Naples - describe the sights, sounds and smells.



Barefoot World Atlas

Crazy Gears



The Eatwell Guide

Explore how to create a balanced meal.

Ideas into Motion

This half term, Year 3 engineers will discover how cams, axles, and followers bring movement to life. Inspired by Eric Williamson, founder of *Timberkits*, they will design and build their own moving cam model, exploring how precise cutting, measuring, and design make mechanisms move smoothly.

Motion Missions!

Mechanism Hunt: look around the house for everyday moving objects (clocks, toys). Which parts move and how?

Cam Creator: Use cardboard circles and split pins to make your own mini-cam that lifts a paper "follower."

Engineer Challenge: design a toy that moves using only recycled materials.

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Year 4 – From Threads to Tracks

BBC Bitesize

Stitching

Google Earth - explore Radcliffe, canals and railways in 3-D.

Thread It, Stitch It, Try It!

Bag Detective: look at different bags at home - what materials and fastenings are used? Why were those choices made?

Fabric Hunt: visit a local craft or fabric shop (Abakhan or Dunelm) to spot different materials and fastenings.

Sew Simple: Practice basic stitches on old fabric scraps or paper plates with holes punched around the edges.

'Knot' Your Typical Design

This half term, Year 4 designers will be diving into the world of textiles to create their very own sports drawstring bags. They will explore how everyday products are designed and constructed, practice key sewing techniques like hems and running stitches. By the end of the unit, children will have transformed simple fabric into a stylish, functional product they can proudly use!

Out and About!

The Whiteworth Gallery (Manchester): explore over 20,000 textiles from the 3rd century AD to now!



Irwell Sculpture Park: follow the route from Radcliffe to Bury; spot human and physical features.





Radcliffe Market Food Hall: talk about food groups and balanced diets while browsing stalls.

It's Electrifying!

Year 4 will become electrical engineers as they explore the exciting world of electricity! They will investigate how circuits work, discover the importance of switches and identify materials that conduct electricity. Children will put their knowledge to the test by designing and creating their very own electrical products!

Electric Fun!

Electricity Detectives: Hunt around your home for electrical appliances. Which use batteries and which plug into sockets?

Circuit Challenge: Using a battery-powered circuit kit, build a circuit that lights a bulb. Can you add a switch?

Inventor's Workshop: Design an exciting electrical invention! Draw and label its battery, wires, switch and bulb. What will your invention do?

Weaving Through Waterways

This half term, Year 4 will explore how Radcliffe has changed over time from rivers and canals to mills and railways. They will use maps, study how water shaped the town, and discover how the Industrial Revolution transformed local life.

Map, Move, Discover!

Transport Timeline: draw a timeline showing how people travelled in the past - on foot, by barge, then by train!

Map Masters: Practice grid references using a simple 4-square grid drawn at home, can you plot your bedroom furniture or route to school?

Canal Vs River: Compare a photo of a canal and a river, what differences can you spot?

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Year 5 – Bodies, Brands and the World Beyond

Brand, Design, Print

This half term, Year 5 designers are becoming fashion innovators! Inspired by Lucy Greenwood, they will explore how colour, shape and font attract audiences before creating their own clothing brand and T-shirt design complete with digital logos and a class catwalk showcase.

Couch Couture

Logo Detective: Hunt for logos around your home (food, clothing, gadgets). What do their colours and fonts say about who they're for?

Mini Mood Board: Cut or print images, colours and fonts that show your personal style - sporty, bold, elegant or playful!

T-Shirt Transformation: Use an old plain T-shirt and fabric pens to test your own fashion idea.

Canva

Design digital logos, posters or clothing brand mock-ups.

Explore the circulatory system!

Foodmiles.com

Track how far your food has travelled before reaching your plate!

At the Heart of Everything

Year 5 will explore the incredible human body, discovering how the heart, blood and circulatory system work together to keep us alive. They will investigate how exercise affects our pulse, explore the impact of harmful substances and discover how our bodies change as we grow older.

Out and About!

Smithills Open Farm: see first-hand how food is produced and talk to farmers about local crops.



Afflecks, Manchester: a creative hub full of independent clothing brands - perfect to spot unique logos and brand designs.

Falshaw's Farm Shop (Bury): spot local produce and trace where your food comes from.

Body Science at Home!

Pulse Race: Time your heart rate before and after jogging on the spot, how quickly does it return to normal?

Lung Power Test: Blow through a straw into a cup of water - what happens to the bubbles when you blow harder?

Body Map Challenge: Draw a body outline and label where the heart, lungs and blood vessels are.

From Farm to Fork

From ancient Greek trade and the Islamic Golden Age to modern farming and global imports, year 5 children will discover how food production, trade and tourism shape communities past and present.

By the end of the unit, they will understand how geography, culture and economy work together - from farm to fork.

Taste the World!

Food Origins: Check the labels on your fruit and vegetables - can you find five different countries of origin? Mark them on a world map!

Fair Trade Finder: Look for the Fairtrade logo while shopping. Which products are fairly traded, and what does that mean for farmers?

World Plate Challenge: Pick a country (like Greece) and plan a meal using foods that come from there. Can you find out how the climate helps them grow?

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Year 6 – Survival, Sculpture and Sustainability

Sculpting the Sea

This half term, Year 6 artists are diving into the world of sculpture and sustainability! Inspired by Cuban-born artist Steven Rodrig whose art raises awareness about endangered marine life, children will experiment with shaping plastic, bending wire and designing 3D forms before creating their own recycled sea-life sculptures.

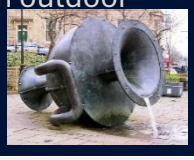
Out and About!

Recycling Discovery Centre (Raikes Lane, Bolton): see how waste is sorted, reused and turned into energy.



Manchester Museum's Nature's Library: examine fossils, endangered species and evolutionary change first-hand.

Irwell Sculpture Trail (Bury to Salford): spot recycled art and natural materials in outdoor sculptures - link to your own Rodrig-inspired sea creations.



Existing, Endangered, Extinct

Year 6 will explore the fascinating diversity of living things, learning how to classify invertebrates and microorganisms. They will investigate why some species become vulnerable, endangered or extinct, discovering how environmental changes threaten survival.

Exploring Eco-Art!

Recycled Treasure Hunt: Collect clean plastic, car wire at home, what sea creature you could sculpt?

Plastic Free Challenge: Try a day using as little plastic as possible and record what items were easiest or hardest to replace.

Mini Marine Gallery: Use bottle caps, cardboard and string to create tiny ocean creatures - display them together as your own "reef"!

Investigating Cells to Species

Minibeast Detectives: Explore your garden or loca park. Find different invertebrates and create a classification key using their features.

Microbe Mission: Check food labels and fridges for yeast, yoghurt or cheese — can you spot the "helpful microbes"?

Endangered Detectives: Pick an endangered animal (like the red squirrel or sea turtle) and research what's being done to save it.

Eco Challenge App Take daily sustainability missions.

Google Earth Voyager travel the world virtually to explore climate zones.

Seek by iNaturalist snap plants and animals to instantly identify species and discover how they've adapted.

Climate Control

Year 6 geographers are exploring how our planet is changing - from local landfill sites to global weather extremes. They will investigate how waste, recycling and deforestation affect the carbon cycle, and how global warming shapes climates and storms worldwide.

Mission: Planet Earth!

Rubbish Review: Check your bins - what's recycled, reused or wasted? Can you reduce it?

Weather Watch: Track daily weather for a week and record your own mini forecast.

Clean up!: Join a community litter pick or beach clean and see the difference small actions can make!