



Newsletter

12th January 2024



Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Happy New Year! We hope that you all had an enjoyable and peaceful Christmas and that 2024 will be a fantastic year for you all! This newsletter lets you know about some of our forthcoming events, policies and practices. Further information can be found on our website: <https://www.thegates.bolton.sch.uk/>.

It was lovely to meet all of the children this week and welcome everybody back to school and the children have settled quickly back into routines and demonstrated positive learning attitudes.

It was also lovely to meet some of you at my tea/coffee morning- I will also host another one next Wednesday 17th January at 5.30pm- if you would like to attend, please inform the school office.

The children enjoyed a wonderful pantomime production of Jack and the Beanstalk on Monday morning- a huge well done to the Panto In A Day company and huge thanks to the PTA for funding this opportunity for the children. It was a lovely way to start back after the winter break and everyone had a great first day!

We welcome new additions to our Nursery class this week and look forward to being part of their learning journey and working with their families.

Attached with this newsletter is further information on what your child will learn this half term and also an Online Safety Newsletter which contains information on what the current online trends are and how parents can keep children safe online.

Communication with parents: We ask that you ensure the school office has your most up to date email address so you receive important messages from school, and that you download the SchoolSpider App to view these school communications. Please can I remind all parents how vitally important it is that we have up-to-date contact details for you - in case of an emergency. Kindly inform the school office team as soon as is practically possible if your contact details change.

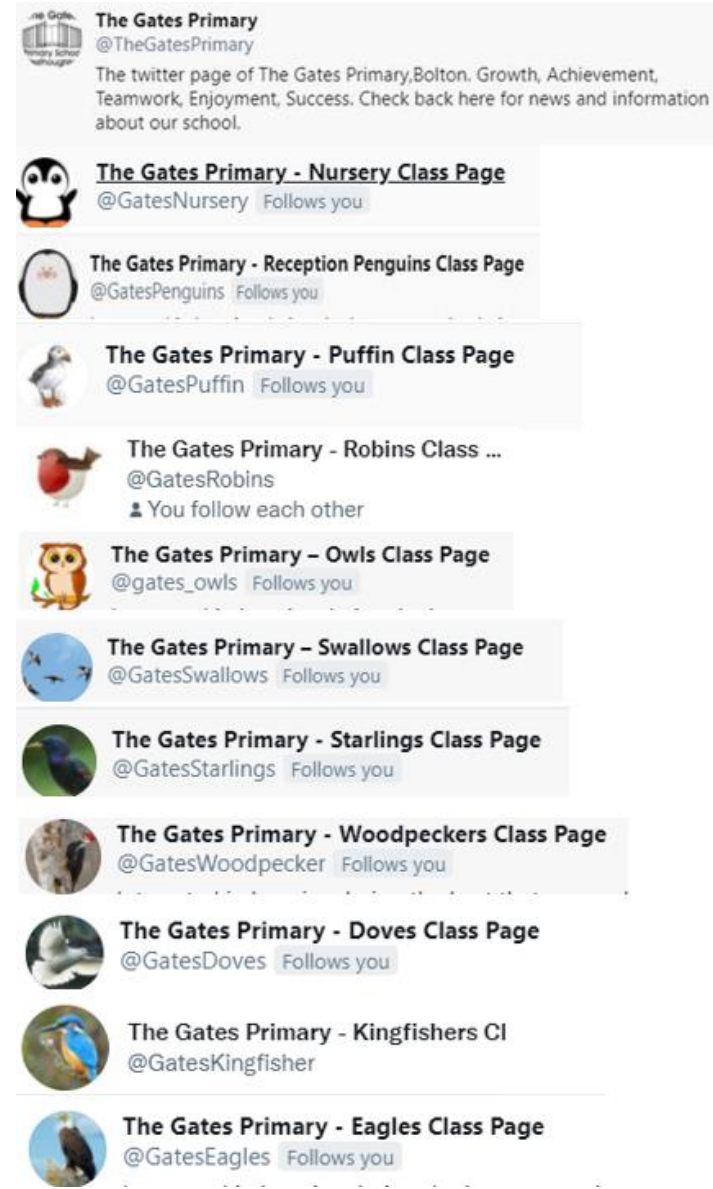
Finally, just to say thank you to everyone for making me feel so welcome during my first week as Headteacher at The Gates and I look forward to sharing updates with you in our Newsletter.

Please remember to follow us on Twitter/X @TheGatesPrimary where you will receive regular updates of the learning within our different classes.

As we embark on 2024, we already have good news to celebrate at The Gates – please see the list of awards presented today in assembly. We appreciate your continued support and positive working relationships with our staff.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Doherty.



Coffee Afternoon with Mr Doherty – Wednesday 17th January 5.30pm

Another Tea/Coffee session has been arranged for next Wednesday at 5.30pm for those parents unable to attend during the morning this week. Please inform the school office if you are likely to attend and we look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.



After school clubs – Spring 1

Please see the extra-curricular clubs that are on offer for this half term. They started this week and last for 5 weeks, finishing the week before we break up for half term.

	Club / activity	Time	Member of staff/school partner	Age of children
Tuesday	Arts and Crafts club	3.20-4.15	Miss Hunt and Miss Sharples	Reception/KS1
Tuesday	Guitar taster sessions	3.20-4.05	Bolton Music Service	LKS2/UKS2
Tuesday	Multisports	3.20-4.15	Kickstarterz	LKS2
Wednesday	Multisports	3.20-4.15	Kickstarterz	Reception/KS1
Wednesday	Radio Club	3.20-4.15	Mrs Jarrett/Mr Price	UKS2
Thursday	Football	3.20-4.15	Mr Horsley and Mr Pryle	Y4/5/6
Friday	Rotary Art Competition Club	12.15-12.45	Mrs Handley	Y3 and Y5

Attendance

The Gates Primary has high expectations for attendance and punctuality from all pupils, at all times. We support children and their families to ensure that good levels of attendance are achieved. Our school target for attendance is at least 96%, however, we continuously strive to achieve 100% attendance for all children



Parents have a vital role to play and that there is a need to establish strong home-school links and communication systems that can be utilised whenever there is concern about attendance. If there are any problems which affect a child's attendance the school will investigate, and offer appropriate support in partnership with families and pupils to resolve difficulties as quickly and efficiently as possible.

There are strong links between attendance and pupil success with their academic performance. Children with poor attendance, or who are late, do not achieve as well as those children who attend school each day and on time.

Pupils with poor attendance will be monitored closely and you may be asked to attend a meeting, at which the reasons for poor attendance will be discussed and support to improve attendance will be offered. Continued poor attendance following the meeting may result in a referral to the Local Authority who may recommend a fixed penalty of prosecution under section 444 of the 1996 Education Act.

Punctuality

The school day starts at 8.50am and registers are taken at this time. To enable all children to arrive safely, classroom doors are open from 8.40am and these will be closed at 8.50am. Any child arriving after this time should access school through the office and will be marked as 'late'. Please ensure that your child arrives on time so they do not miss any learning.

Absence

If your child is not in school, you must let school know by 9am on the day of absence. Safeguarding checks are carried out after this time and if we are unable to account for your child's whereabouts, we have procedures to follow that include messaging home, calling home and, sometimes, visiting the home address. It makes everyone's lives a little simpler if you can let us know in good time of any absence.

Appointments

Routine medical and dental appointments should be arranged out of school wherever possible; however, if this is not possible you should supply school with evidence of these prior to the appointment. We strongly discourage you from taking children out of school during term time; all requests for leave of absence (such as holidays) will be declined unless parents can evidence that it is an exceptional circumstance. If a child is taken out of school and it has not been authorised by the Headteacher it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence and parents may be liable to further action, including the issue of a fixed penalty notice and possible prosecution through the court system. For any appointments during the school day, please bring in a copy of the appointment or letter which confirms this.

It is essential that everyone involved is committed to promoting excellent attendance so the children achieve well in all areas. We appreciate your continued support with this



Keeping Children Safe

In Bolton, all agencies work together with families, to promote the well being of children and keep them safe. We seek to provide help and support as early as possible, to remove any possible barriers, to enable children to develop and achieve well.

By following the Bolton Children's Safeguarding Board (BCSB) guidance and working in accordance with the DFE Documents – 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018' & 'Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2023' we work towards providing timely and appropriate access to services, to help children flourish and keep them safe. There is further information below about the Early Help Offer at The Gates Primary.

At The Gates, parents will be informed in respect of any concerns about their child's welfare, or any action taken to safeguard and promote the child's welfare, providing this does not compromise the child's safety. The full policy for safeguarding children at The Gates can be found on the school website, under Policies.

If you have a safeguarding concern, please contact Mr Doherty or Mr Simpson, our Designated Safeguarding Leaders.

Operation Encompass

Bolton Encompass has been designed to provide early reporting to schools of any domestic abuse incidents that occurred outside of school but which might have an impact on a child attending school the following day. The information will be shared on school days during the school term. Where incidents occur on a Friday, Saturday or a Sunday, the police will contact the relevant school the following Monday. A nominated member of school staff will liaise with the police at The Gates Primary. They will be able to use information that has been shared with them, in confidence, to ensure that the school is able to support children and their families. Information will be shared where it is identified that a child or young person was present, witnessed or was involved in a domestic abuse incident.

We always endeavour to offer the best support possible to our pupils and Bolton Encompass is a beneficial and supportive measure for all concerned children and families.

Personal Development update - Puffins

This week, Puffins have demonstrated the Golden Goal of collaboration when they made sandwiches with their partners by following instructions in English. The children noticed some key features such as numbers and bossy verbs! In Maths, Puffins have demonstrated lots of resilience when learning about tens and ones for the first time and how to partition teen numbers. The class teachers and Mr Doherty were blown away with the standard of homework sent in this week. Puffins class were able to see a pantomime and showed excellent engagement during the performance!



Subject in the Spotlight – RE– Miss Southern

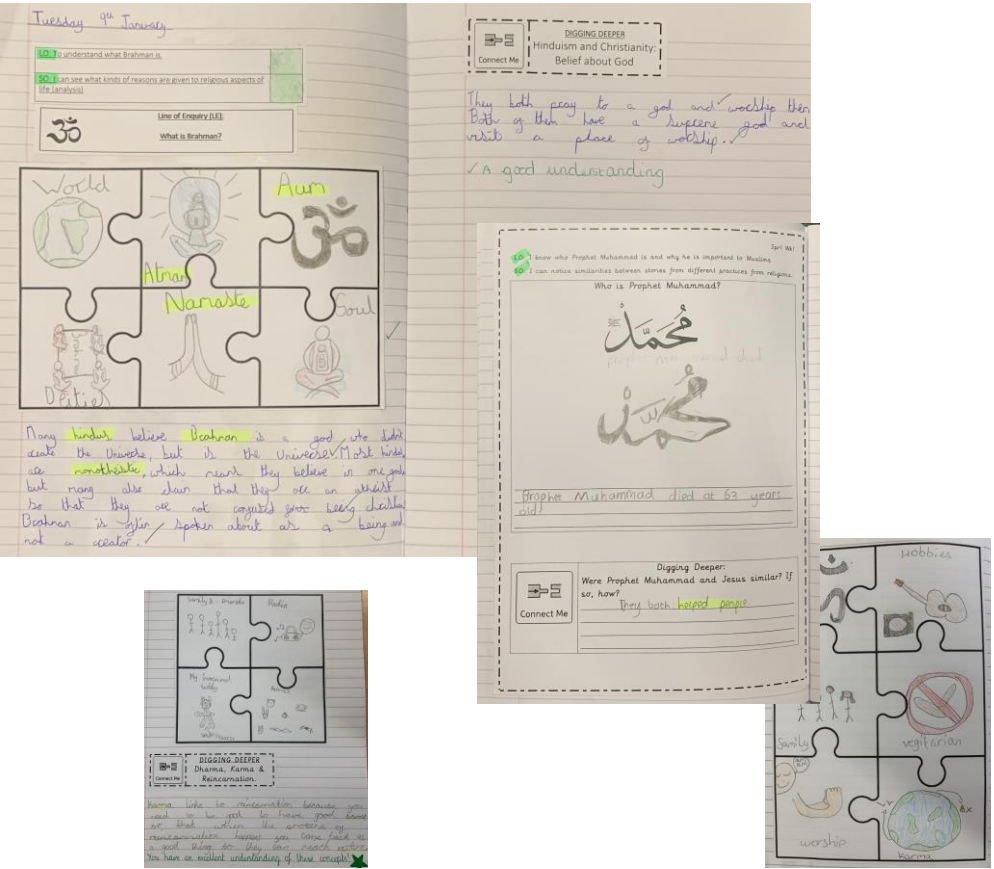
At The Gates, our RE units are based on an enquiry question and what we learn in the unit helps us to answer those questions. We also complete a ‘Digging Deeper’ activity which allows us to think more deeply about what we have learnt and make connections to things we have learnt previously.

In EYFS, the children are answering the question ‘Which places are special and why?’. This week they read the story ‘Dogger’ and thought about what was special in that story. They then discussed what was special to them and went on to learn about what is special to Christians.

Our KS1 children have been continuing the unit ‘Who is Muslim and how do they live?’. This week they learnt about the Prophet Muhammad and why he is important to Muslims. They also compared Prophet Muhammad to Jesus, looking at ways in which they are similar in their ‘Digging Deeper’ activity.

In LKS2, the children are continuing their learning about Hinduism, this time answering the question ‘What does it mean to be a Hindu in Britain today?’. The first lesson was all about Dharma, Karma and Reincarnation. They initially thought about things that were important in their life. Then they watched a video about 2 Hindu children and identified things that were important to them. For their ‘Digging Deeper’ activity, children made connections between Dharma, Karma and Reincarnation.

Our UKS2 children are also learning about Hinduism this half term, answering the question ‘Why do Hindus want to be good?’. Their first lesson was focused on understanding what Brahman is. Children drew different aspects of Brahman on the jigsaw pieces to show how they all link together. Children had to make the connection between Hindu belief about God to Christian belief about God for their ‘Digging Deeper’ activity.



Subject in the Spotlight – Art – Mrs Farrington

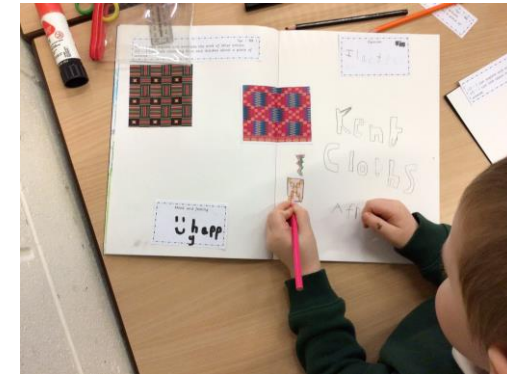
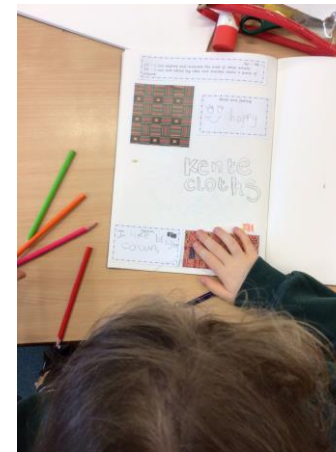
This half term in Art, all children are learning the process of printing. They will learn about a wide range of artists who use printing as their medium and be introduced to a variety of different printing techniques.

In EYFS, children have been using different tools to create different prints. They used cotton buds to help them to create a seasons tree, using and selecting the correct colour to represent their season.

In Key Stage 1, children have been looking at Kente cloths. They looked at a variety of different styles and analysed them: looking at the shapes, colours and patterns that they could see. Then, they created their own artist investigations by choosing 2 different Kente cloths and drawing what they could see in their sketchbooks. They used excellent observational skills and could use great vocabulary when talking about what they could see.

In Lower Key Stage 2, children studied the work of Ernst Haeckel. They discussed his famous paintings and how he combined Science and Art in his pieces to revolutionise his work as a zoologist. The children used their knowledge to create an artist investigation and combined images, words and information to show what they have learnt. This will lead on to the children studying, drawing and printing fossils which will link with their Science topic this term.

In Upper Key Stage 2, children have been studying the artist Beatriz Milhaze, a famous South American artist. They looked at a variety of her works and developed their evaluation skills by discussing the content, style and form of her work. This will lead onto the children creating their own collagraphs to print on to their mixed media final outcome in the style of Beartiz Milhaze.



This week's awards

The Headteacher award has been presented to **Frank Ince** for showing excellent independence this week and trying hard in all his learning.

Our Stars this week, proudly wearing their golden medals are:-

Arella Newsham for an amazing start to Nursery.

Tiffany Elphick for a positive attitude to all her learning.

Sorren Howells for an amazing attitude to learning and always demonstrating the Gates Golden Goals.

Martha Yuen for trying really hard in maths and showing good engagement.

George Pettigrew for his superb attitude to his learning right from the beginning of this week.

Lincoln Knapman for returning to school ready to learn and for showing amazing progress.

Hugo Smith for excellent engagement in all lessons.

Florence Gaskell for being so supportive to her peers.

Jacob Barr for his brilliant effort and engagement in his maths.

Ethan Brandwood for his resilience and hardworking attitude.

Emmy Melia - a role model to others in all areas.

Our Always Child this week is **Evelyn Seddon**.

Well done to our winners!



Term Dates for your diary



Wednesday 17 th January	Parent Coffee Evening with Mr Doherty 5.30pm
Thursday 18 th January	PTA pop up shop – 3.20pm
Thursday 8 th February	EYFS Stay and Learn – 2.00pm
Monday 12 th February	Valentine’s Day Disco – PTA. Time to be confirmed.
Thursday 15 th February	Parent Evening – 3.30-6.30pm
Friday 16th February	Break up for Half Term
Monday 26th February	School reopens for Spring 2

Free School Meals

There are 2 types of Free School Meals

1. Statutory Free School Meals

If you already receive housing benefit or council tax support, or have recently applied, you don't have to do anything.

If you don't receive housing benefit or council tax support, you need to apply for free school meals.

www.bolton.gov.uk/free-school-meals-clothing-allowance/free-school-meals-help-school-uniform

2. Universal Free School Meals

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 your child will already be receiving Universal Free School Meals, however, it is still very important that you complete the Free School Meals application (if you are eligible to claim) as having this eligibility entitles you to receive help with other school provisions such as some school trips or clubs etc...

Please click on the link below and follow the advice and guidance on how to apply online.

If you need any help completing the form, please contact the office via email on office@thegates.bolton.sch.uk

<https://www.bolton.gov.uk/free-school-meals-clothing-allowance/free-school-meals-help-school-uniform>