



Newsletter

8th September 2023



Dear Parents and Children,

Welcome Back!

I hope you all enjoyed the summer break and made some lovely family memories. It has been an absolute joy to welcome the children back to school over the last week or so. Of course, a very special welcome to our new Reception families. We are so pleased you have joined The Gates 'family' and we are already incredibly proud of your little ones. They have settled into life at The Gates brilliantly!

I have also had the pleasure of being made to feel extremely welcome in my first week as Executive Headteacher at The Gates. I will be sharing my time between The Gates and Lostock Primary School over the Autumn Term. I feel privileged to be leading such a wonderful school. I am working alongside an excellent staff team who are so incredibly committed and passionate about all the children in their care. I have really enjoyed getting to know the children, who have spoken confidently in my assembly earlier this week and have demonstrated fantastic behaviour for learning around school. It has also been lovely meeting some parents, carers and other family members at drop off each morning.

Parents' Forum - Friday 29th September at 10am

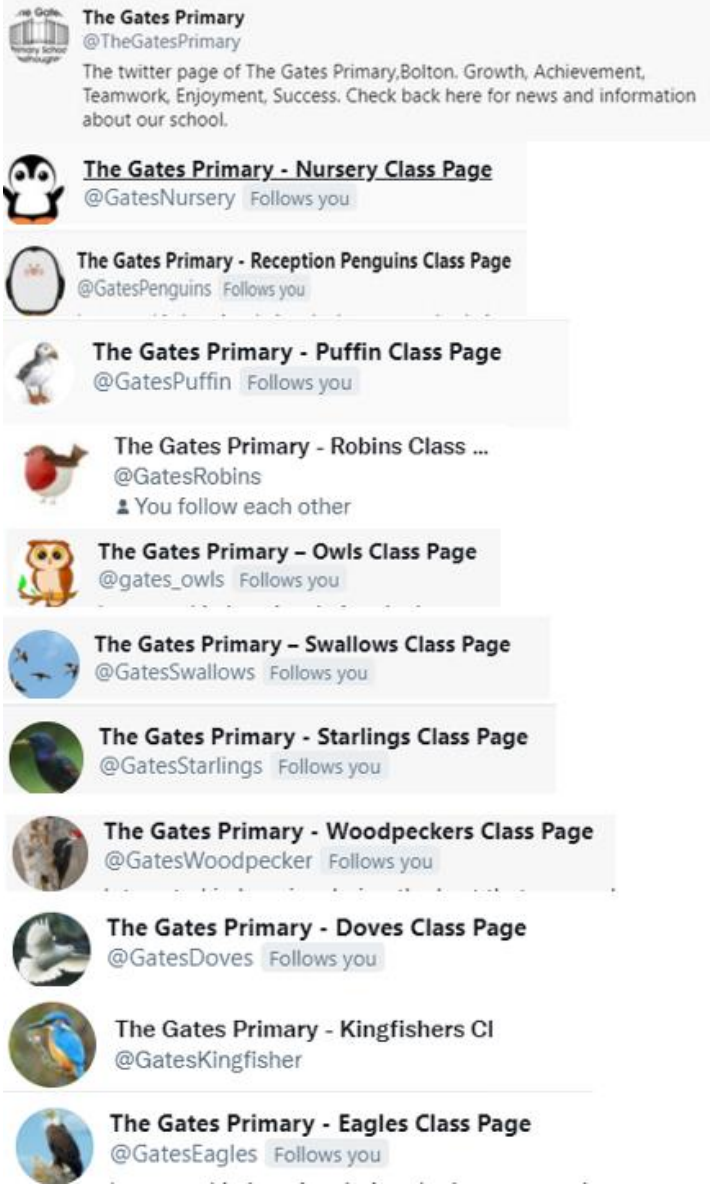
I am very much looking forward to maintaining all the wonderful aspects of life at The Gates and will continue to drive school improvement throughout the year. Our School Development Plan outlines our school priorities for the year and I would love to hear your thoughts and ideas. Therefore, I will be hosting a Parents' Forum on Friday 29th September at 9.30am in school. If you would like to attend and/or if you have any AOB you would like to discuss (linked to whole school improvement, not individual children or classes), please inform the office by 9am on Thursday 21st September.

Geography Quality Mark

We have already received some fantastic news to start off the new school year. We have achieved the Geography Quality Mark Gold Award, which is a great achievement and demonstrates just how wonderful The Gates Geography curriculum is. Special thanks to Mr Pryle, our Geography Subject Leader, for all his hard work on this.

This certainly promises to be an exciting term ahead!

Mrs Vicki Guest



Applications for Secondary School for Sept 2024

Children who are in year 6 will transfer to Secondary School in September 2024. You can now access the Bolton Council school admissions website and make an application for a secondary school place.

Please go to www.bolton.gov.uk/admissions

Guidance notes about how to apply are available on the website.

Please check directly with schools about arrangements for open days/school visits.

If you have any problems using the online application form or website or you need assistance and advice about school admissions, please contact the Pupil Services team on admissions@bolton.gov.uk.

The closing date for applications is the 31st October 2023.

School Uniform/PE Kit

Our children look incredibly smart in their school uniform this week, thank you. In a change to last year, we politely request that PE kits are kept in school for the week. Kits may be taken home to wash on a Friday, but will need to be brought back into school on a Monday. We understand trainers can be expensive, so if your child does not have an additional pair of trainers for home, these can, of course, be taken home after each PE lesson, as long as they are back in school for the next lesson. Thank you for your support.



Contact details

Please can you ensure that you update school if you change phone numbers, email address or you move house.

In an emergency situation, we need to contact parents/carers immediately so we must have your current phone numbers to enable us to get in touch.

Email addresses are used to send newsletters and paperwork so any changes to these also should be updated with school.

What my child will learn this half term

We have attached to this newsletter what your child will learn during Autumn 1 on the Class Curriculum Newsletter and how you can help your child at home.

The Homework Topic Web has also been sent home. The homework supports what the children are learning in school this term and is a great way for parents to get involved. The homework is linked to subjects such as: Science, History, Art, DT, Geography. Last year we had a lot of great homework, lots of creativity and imagination used, so we look forward to seeing the work and creations this half term!

Personal Development update - Eagles

Eagles have had an exemplary first full week back and have wasted no time in demonstrating The Gates Golden Goals in their learning. Already this week, children have shown collaboration and engagement during a Science enquiry to find out 'does light only travel in straight lines?'. We started our topic on World War 1 by researching some key events - children then demonstrated independence and resilience by creating detailed timelines. Overall, the engagement in all lessons has been outstanding and this has led to strong progress already over a short space of time.

After School Clubs – Autumn 1

	Club / activity	Time	Member of staff/school partner	Age of children
Tuesday	Multisports	3.20-4.15	Kickstarterz	KS1
Wednesday	Multisports	3.20-4.15	Kickstarterz	LKS2
Thursday	Reading Leaders	12.00-12.30	Mrs Lenagan	LKS2/UKS2
Friday	Cross Country	12.15-1.00	Mr Simpson	UKS2
Friday	Team Games	3.20-4.15	Mrs Handley	UKS2



Attendance and Punctuality

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 at 'late'. Please ensure that your child arrives on time so they do not miss any learning.

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 Head Teacher 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 Simpson or Mrs Guest , our Designated Safeguarding Leaders.

Operation Encompass

Our school works in partnership with Bolton Safeguarding Board and Greater Manchester Police on a project entitled "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.

Weekly Awards

The Headteacher award goes to **Alex Stephens** - excellent work ethic, engagement and helping others.

Our Stars of the week this week wearing the golden medals are:-

Jimmy Glover- for being a kind friend

Ada-Grace Hulme - for being a really kind friend to our new friends.

Esme Riley - for a brilliant start to the school year

Ava Douasse - for having a great start to the school year and following the Gates Golden Goals

Evelyn Seddon - for showing excellent engagement this week and a super start to Y2

Henry Alldred - for being nothing short of outstanding this week.

Ada Holland - for a truly fantastic start to Year 3!

Faith Anderson-Ashton - for working hard and being helpful.

Caitlin Holden-Green - For a great start to Year 5 and her brilliant contributions in class

Keiji Gregory - for demonstrating a brilliant work ethic already

Bea Draper - for her enthusiasm in class, always willing to help others

Well done to our winners!



PTA updates



What is the PTA?

A PTA is a Parent Teacher Association, an organisation with a mission to make the school a better place for children to learn. The Gates Primary School PTA brings together parents, teachers and children to raise funds and strengthen the school community. Money raised is spent on things that the school budget does not cover. The PTA purchased a number of items for the children last year including Y6 school leavers hoodies and the drumming session during Health and Fitness week as a few examples.

Why should I join the PTA?

There are many reasons why you should join your PTA. From making new friends and getting to know the school environment, through to helping raise much needed funds and making a difference to the children and school community. All of these things help you grow in confidence as a parent, and it feels good to know you are making a difference for your children and for generations to come. If anyone is interested in joining, please send an email to thegatespta@gmail.com or leave your details at reception.

Who are our members?

Chair: Samantha Richards

Vice Chair: Nicola McPherson

Treasurer: Derek Price

Committee Members: Christine Tyrer, Doreen Magee, Susan Hornby

What will be expected of me?

There is no expectation on any parent volunteer; any amount of time you can give to the PTA will always be well received. There are a variety of ways you can get involved, from engaging with social media activity, attending PTA Meetings through to volunteering at events or coordinating events. Even donating preloved items, raffle prizes or suggesting brilliant ideas are ways of getting involved.

What's happening this term?

The PTA have already had the first meeting of the school year and we have many events planned in the diary. We are asking for donations of unwanted gifts and soft toys that are no longer wanted.

- There is a Halloween disco currently being planned – the exact date is still being decided. The PTA will be selling tickets to the disco nearer the time – please watch this space for more details on the date but a single child ticket is £3 and a family ticket for 2 or more children is £6. This includes a hot dog and unlimited juice for the children. Tea coffee and snack for parents will be available to purchase at the event.
- We have a number of non-uniform days planned in – they will be published on the newsletter dates. For families with more than one child please only donate what you can.
- The Toast Post will be available every Thursday at school break time at 20p per slice. Please send your child into school with money. The office are unable to take money down to class.
- Pop up shops are once every month we will advise of the dates however this is weather permitting.
- Last request! We are asking for donations for raffle prizes. Any parents wishing to make a donation or that work at a company that can help with events/raffle prizes we can arrange to collect anytime, you can leave with the office staff or please email thegatespta@gmail.com

We hope everyone has a wonderful time this year in school.

Term Dates for your diary



Autumn 1	
W/c 11 th September	After school clubs start
19 th September	Y6 Heights and Weights
21 st September	Y5/6 Cross Country Event – Moss Bank Park 4pm
28 th September	Y5/6 Cross Country Event – Moss Bank Park 4pm
29 th September	Parent Forum 9.30am (please register with the office)
3 rd October	School photos (individual)
3 rd October	Y 3/4 Football Festival Ladybridge High - 3.00-4.30pm.
w/c 9 th October	Last week for after school clubs
10 th October	The Lowry Industrial Scenes Workshop - Robins
11 th October	The Lowry Industrial Scenes Workshop - Puffins
12 th October	The Lowry Industrial Scenes Workshop - Owls
12 th October	Open Morning for prospective Reception/Nursery parents 9.00-11.00
19 th October	Parent Evening 3.30-6.00pm
20 th October	Y5 Harvest Assembly - 9.00am
20th October	School closes for 2 week half term holiday

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.

Apply for free school meals: www.bolton.gov.uk/free-school-meals-clothingallowance/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 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>