

Newsletter

6th October 2023



Dear Parents and Children,

Parents' Forum

Thank you so much to all the parents/carers who attended the Parents Forum last Friday and to the PTA for providing refreshments. I really enjoyed getting to know everyone a little better and finding out your views on school improvement. I have typed up the minutes from the meeting, with any actions addressed added in bold for your information – these are attached to the newsletter. We will continue to work on school priorities and I will continue to welcome any feedback before the end of term.

Online Homework

Homework, which is set online, is dependent on our families and children having appropriate technology and devices at home and access to the internet. If your child cannot access the online homework set by school, please contact your child's class teacher. We will endeavour to help by either providing a device on a temporary basis or by providing an alternative paper-based activity.

Enrichment Opportunities

Our children have enjoyed a variety of enrichment opportunities over the last 2 weeks, including a fantastic 10 pin bowling visit to Hollywood Bowl. UKS2 children thoroughly enjoyed their library visits, despite walking in the rain! UKS2 children took part in the Cross Country last Thursday at Moss Bank Park. Black History Month has started in school with lots of learning linked to a significant female. The theme is 'Celebrating our Sisters'. Work from each class will be showcased in assembly next week. Year 3 and 4 are also looking forward to their visit to the Lowry next week.

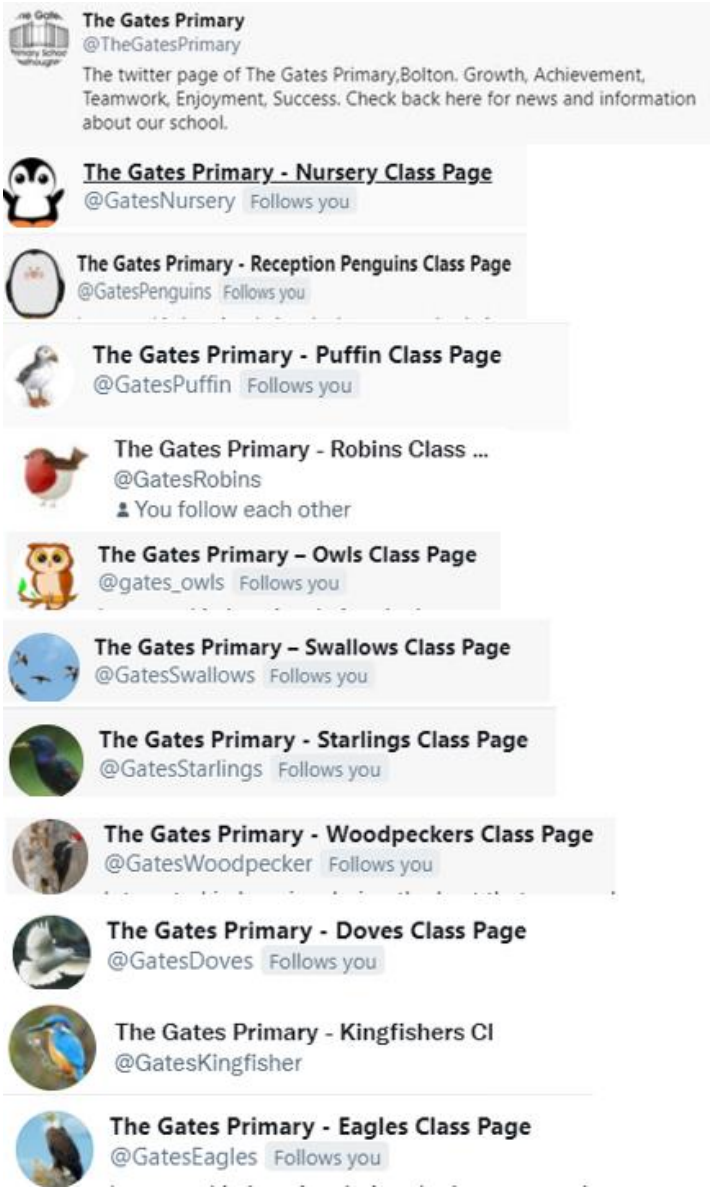
Don't forget!

The school photographer was in on Wednesday for individual photographs. Please remember to place your order direct with the photographer using the sheet your child brought home this week.

Also, please support our wonderful PTA by reserving your child's place at the Halloween disco next Tuesday!

Have a lovely, relaxing weekend.

Mrs Vicki Guest





Open Morning for prospective parents September 2024 – 12th October

We are holding our Open Morning next Thursday between 9.00-11.00am. Some of the pupils will show parents around our lovely school and there will be a chance to meet with some of the leadership team in the hall and ask any questions you may have whilst enjoying some refreshments.

There will be a presentation from Mrs Guest at 9.00am and 10.00am but please pop in at any time – there's no need to book.

We look forward to welcoming you to The Gates Primary.

Book Fair – Monday 16th October – Thursday 19th October

We look forward to the Travelling Book Fair visiting The Gates from Monday 16th October. Children will be able to visit the fair during the week and browse the selection of books on offer.

The fair will be open for parents to browse and purchase books on Monday-Wednesday immediately after school each day and also during Parent Evening on Thursday from 3.30-6.00pm. This will be in the main hall and parents should access this from the external hall door at the side of school.

This year the book fair offer an online payment method so you don't need cash. You will also be able to order any books on the list provided if there isn't a copy on the shelf.

Parent Evening Thursday 19th October

Invites for parent evening have been issued on Spider. Please check your account and book your appointment with your child's teacher.

Meetings will be held in the hall so please enter through the side doors directly into the hall.

If you are unable to attend on that day please contact your child's teacher via the office to arrange for an alternative time.

Harvest assembly and donations

Swallows will be leading this year's Harvest assembly on Friday 20th October at 9am. Parents are welcome to attend in the morning.

We will be collecting food donations for the Harvest display and all items will then be delivered to Urban Outreach for use in their food bank. There is a food list of preferred items attached and these should be brought into your child's classroom on the day of the assembly – we will send reminders out. Thank you in advance for your kind support.



Volunteers

We invite parents, carers or grandparents to become volunteers in school to help in class listening to children read.

If you are able to commit to a regular weekly slot please contact the office and we can let you have copy of the application form – please do not be put off by this as it's pretty straightforward, but necessary part of our safeguarding procedures. You will need to complete this and we will ask for a couple of references as well as processing a DBS check for you.

We look forward to seeing some of you supporting the children in class.

Lost Property

Any coats, jumpers or other items of clothing left in or around school that does not have a child's name in it will be placed in the Lost Property box.

If your child misplaces any clothing please encourage them to look in the box – it is in the main corridor for all to access it.

The Lost Property box will be put outside the main office each Thursday so that parents can have a good look if items are still lost.

Admission to Reception - September 2024

Applications for Reception places for children born between 1st September 2019 & 31st August 2020 for reception 2024 open online on 1st September 2023.

The closing date is 15th January 2024 and places will be confirmed in April 2024. Please apply online or share this information with any interested parents.

<https://www.bolton.gov.uk/admissions/primary-school-places-1>

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.

Subject in the Spotlight - Science

I am thrilled to bring you the latest updates on our exciting Science curriculum for this half term. Our school is buzzing with engaging learning experiences, and I can't wait to share the highlights with you. Let's now take a look at what the children have learnt so far:

EYFS Update:

This half term, our Reception and Nursery classes have embarked on a meaningful journey of discovery. They've been exploring the beautiful concept of how we are all alike yet wonderfully unique individuals. Additionally, they've been keenly observing and learning about the remarkable developmental transformations from their baby and toddler years to their current stage of growth and development.

Key Stage 1 (KS1) Update:

This half term, our young learners in KS1 have been actively engaging with the natural world around them. Here are some of the exciting highlights of their journey:

1. Exploring the Great Outdoors: Children have had the wonderful opportunity to venture into the outdoor environment, where they've used their senses to observe and connect with the world in a hands-on way.
 2. Investigative Spirit: Encouraging their inquisitive nature, students have pursued a line of inquiry by delving into the intriguing question: "Do taller people have bigger feet?" They've made predictions, conducted experiments, and eagerly arrived at their conclusions, fostering their critical thinking skills.
 3. Fascinating Anatomy: Our young scientists have been expanding their understanding of the human body, delving into the intricacies of our body parts. This knowledge not only educates but also sparks their curiosity about the incredible human form.
- It's been a dynamic and enriching half term for our KS1 students, and we're thrilled to witness their growth and exploration as they continue to thrive in their learning experiences.

Lower Key Stage 2 (LKS2) Update:

This term, our LKS2 students have been diving into the fascinating world of human biology and nutrition. Here's a glimpse of their enriching journey:

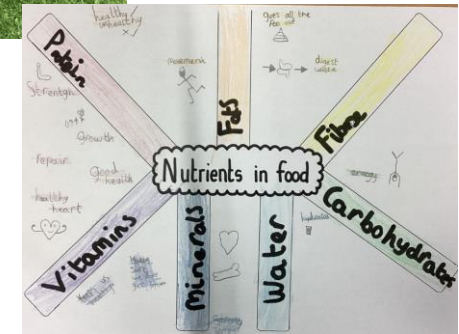
1. Muscle Mastery: Children have been eagerly exploring the intricacies of our body's muscles. They've gained an understanding of how these remarkable structures contract and relax, a fundamental concept that empowers them with insights into the body's movement and function.
2. Nourishing Knowledge: Our young scholars have also delved into the essential food groups and their roles in sustaining a healthy body. They've learned about the specific nutrients each group provides and the significance of a balanced diet in maintaining overall health and well-being.

These engaging topics not only educate our LKS2 students but also instill in them the importance of taking care of their bodies for a lifetime of good health.

Upper Key Stage 2 (UKS2) Update:

In the realm of light and physics, our eldest students have been delving into intriguing concepts. Here's a glimpse into their illuminating journey:

1. Shadow Play: Our UKS2 students have been on a quest to comprehend the captivating relationship between light and shadows. They've been exploring how light affects the size and shape of shadows, unlocking the secrets behind this fascinating interplay.
 2. The Straight Path of Light: These budding scientists have been uncovering the mysteries of light's behaviour, specifically its propensity to travel in straight lines. This fundamental understanding lays the groundwork for their exploration of the wondrous world of optics and vision.
- The quest for knowledge continues to shine brightly in our UKS2 class as they explore the wonders of light and its intriguing properties.



Subject in the Spotlight - PE

Curriculum PE

This term the children have been learning Gymnastics and Agility, Balance and Coordination (ABC's) skills. In Gymnastics they have practised gym shapes, balances and rolls, and are now creating sequences using these. In ABC sessions the children are developing their agility, balance and coordination skills through a range of activities including SAQ and team games.

Active Lunch-Times

Kickstarterz' award winning coaches, Jonny and Sam, create fun and inclusive activity sessions daily, including multi-skills, dance and team games. Active Lunchtimes consist of 20 different activities developed with the intention of encouraging as many children as possible to be active.

Autumn 1- Sporting After School Clubs

Key Stage 1-Kickstarterz Multiskills Club.

Year 3 and Year 4- Kickstarterz Multi-Sports Club

Year 5 and Year 6 –Multi-Sports Club with Mrs Handley

Personal Development update - Doves

Doves have had a fantastic week this week and have been demonstrating a variety of The Gates Golden Goals. For their Big Question, 'what contributions should be celebrated in Black History Month?', the children have been researching significant individuals from the black community. They used their independence to find out how these individuals have made a positive contribution to society. As well as this, the children have shown fantastic engagement and respect whilst on our trip to the local library. They learnt about the organisation of books and worked together to find a range of books and authors.



Weekly Awards for last 2 weeks

The Headteacher awards were awarded to **Jamie Lenihan** for his great contributions in RE and **Oliver Knight** for excellent progress in his handwriting.

Our Always child is **Rosie Ellis-Poole**.

Our Stars for last week and this week wearing the golden medals are:-

w/c 25/09	w/c 02/10
Viharika Sripada for her positive attitude towards her learning	Hudson McLaren for growing in confidence and independence in his self care
Leon Hakim - for his brilliant handwriting and phonics	Mia Callaghan - for her positive happy attitude and always trying her best.
Chester Hazeldine - for developing his independence	Cody Crowther for excellent engagement in school and at home.
Emily Loughlin - Has been noticed by different members of staff for trying her best and being helpful.	Sofia Kelly - For producing some super independent writing. (No photos)
Sonny Howells - For some outstanding engagement and support of his table partners.	Millie - Rose Mills - For showing excellent engagement and trying her best to be kind and helpful to others. m
Cobi Beardsley for fantastic engagement in all lessons.	Archie Moss for showing commitment to making progress, especially in Maths.
Dougie Power for super engagement in all lessons.	Viraj Sripada for increased independence and working extremely hard across all lessons.
Emily Young for excellent engagement, respect and independence	Tilly Crowther for being so helpful and supportive. Tilly always tries her best and is always willing to support others
Willow Speakman for showing great enthusiasm in her learning, showing engagement and always being ready to learn.	Archie Leech - for showing fantastic independence and progress in Maths this week
George Shaw for his progress and collaboration in all lessons.	Jack Price for demonstrating an attentive attitude towards his learning.
Lucy Evans - for being an all around role model	Hayley Tang - outstanding independence and engagement in all areas. A role model to others

Well done to our winners!





PTA Update page

Halloween Disco

If you want a Halloween disco ticket, please send the correct money into school with your child. Please note you will not be able to purchase tickets on the door at the event. The ticket price includes a drink and a hotdog. Our younger children (EYFS and KS1) attending will require an adult to collect them at the end of the school day from their classroom and accompany them into and during the disco. There will be a spooky café to purchase any additional drinks and other pocket money items.

Children do not have to dress in a Halloween costume but if they do, there will be a prize for best spooky outfit. As the EYFS and KS1 disco is immediately after school, children can bring their change of clothes/costume into school in the morning and the staff in the classroom will help them to get changed before the end of the day. We look forward to seeing you there.

Non-Uniform day

There is a non-uniform day coming up on the 17th November. We are asking of donations of bottles on the day.

Can you Help?

The PTA are looking for donations of wool. If you have any lying around your house that you no longer need or are able to purchase some to donate we would be very grateful.



Gallery



Term Dates for your diary



Autumn 1	
Tuesday 10 th October	The Lowry Industrial Scenes Workshop - Robins
Tuesday 10 th October	Halloween Discos – from 3.20pm – see PTA updates for details
Wednesday 11 th October	The Lowry Industrial Scenes Workshop - Puffins
Thursday 12 th October	The Lowry Industrial Scenes Workshop - Owls
Thursday 12 th October	Open Morning for prospective Reception/Nursery parents 9.00-11.00
Tuesday 17 th October	Y5/6 Netball Festival – 4.00-5.30pm, St Joseph's High School (invitation only)
Wednesday 18 th October	Y5/6 Football tournament at Westhoughton High School – 2.45-4.30pm (invitation only)
Thursday 19 th October	Parent Evening 3.30-6.00pm
Friday 20 th October	Swallows Harvest Assembly - 9.00am (please note change of class)
Friday 20th October	School closes for 2 week half term holiday
Monday 6th November	School reopens for Autumn 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.

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>