



Newsletter

20th October 2023



Dear Parents and Children,

It has been an extremely busy two weeks in school. Firstly, thank you so much to our wonderful PTA for organising the Halloween Disco. The children had a fabulous time and we raised vital funds, so thank you to all our generous parents/carers too. On the same day, we hosted our Open Morning for prospective parents. It was lovely to meet so many new faces (and some familiar ones too). Our Year 6 pupil leaders were incredible ambassadors for school. They took families on a tour of the school and really did impress all involved. They were confident, articulate, enthusiastic and we are so proud of them. We are also extremely proud of Swallows, Woodpeckers and Starlings after their visit to The Lowry. They represented school well and thoroughly enjoyed the workshops.

This week has been equally as eventful. Congratulations to our fantastic Year 5 and 6 netball team, who played well at the netball festival and to the Year 5 and 6 football team, who also made us proud at their football tournament. Fantastic team effort from all involved! We also welcomed back the Book Fair. It has been great to see so many children browsing the books. We hope they enjoy reading the books they selected. We also hosted a local community 'Bright Leaders' project this week. Pupil Leaders from ten local schools are working together in collaboration to lead three charity events over the school year. We cannot wait to find out more about their plans. Finally, just this morning, Swallows led our Harvest assembly. They did an amazing job of informing the school all about Harvest - the assembly was enjoyed by all. Thank you to parents and family members of Swallows class for joining us. Thank you also to all parents for your very kind donations of food. Urban Outreach are collecting them from school this afternoon and I know your generosity will make a huge difference.


In other news... we are pleased to inform you that we have a new climbing frame and our existing outdoor trail has been repaired. The children are enjoying playing on them already. Please ensure children are supervised by parents if accessing the equipment before and after school.

Please also take a look at information on this newsletter about eligibility for free school meals and Pupil Premium Grant funding. We know that there are families who could be entitled to free school meals if an application was made. Please don't miss out if you think you could be eligible.


Finally, another huge thank you for a fantastic half term. We hope you enjoy some family time during the well-deserved half term break. See you in two weeks!


Mrs Vicki Guest





**The Gates Primary**
@TheGatesPrimary


The twitter page of The Gates Primary, Bolton. Growth, Achievement, Teamwork, Enjoyment, Success. Check back here for news and information about our school.


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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>



Parent conduct

Please can we remind parents and guardians the importance of acting with mutual respect, tolerance and common decency when they are in the vicinity of the school.

School takes any concerns raised seriously and we are committed to ensuring a positive relationship with our neighbours and we ask that all visitors to the school site and surrounding areas supports the respectful ethos of our school by setting a good example in their own speech and behaviour towards all members of the school community and neighbours.

Odd Socks Day – Monday 13th November

To mark the start of Anti Bullying Week, we will be holding an Odd Socks Day on Monday 13th November. On this day, children can come to school wearing their uniform with odd socks! This is to celebrate that we are all different and that we should celebrate our uniqueness. The School Council have also organised a special assembly and lots of activities for the children to mark this important event.

Poppies for sale – from Monday 6th November

The School council will be selling poppies at break time on the first Monday back after half term. They will be sold all week and we ask for a minimum contribution of 50p.

All funds raised will be passed to the Royal British Legion for their Poppy Appeal Fund.

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.

Black History Month 2023

This October, we have carried out a whole school project to mark Black History Month 2023. This year, the theme has been 'Saluting Our Sisters' with all classes finding out about significant women and their contributions to science, politics and sport. We shared our findings with each other by coming together in the hall to showcase our work. The children created timelines, leaflets, artwork and mindmaps about a range of women from Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks to Lauren James and Nicola Adams. Our understanding then developed even further through our weekly Big Question work. During class discussions, we explored why Black History is an important subject to our school.



Subject in the Spotlight - PE – Mrs Handley

Excellent progress has been made in developing the children's 'Agility, Balance and Coordination' during outdoor PE lessons.

The focus in Key Stage 1 has been on development of fundamental movement skills including, jumping, skipping, side-stepping. The children have also enjoyed using the ladders and hurdles. These skills will be transferred to all areas of PE throughout the year.

In gymnastics, the children have been using equipment in PE to practise sequences including jumps and rolls.

In Lower Key Stage 2, the children have also been making super progress with their ABC's and Gymnastic skills. Lots of collaboration taking place during group work and resilience shown this term.

In Upper Key Stage 2, the children have continued to develop their Agility, Balance and Coordination skills. While applying these to team games, developing their knowledge of Dodgeball and Netball. During gymnastics, they have been mastering their vaults and jumps.



Personal Development update - Starlings

Starlings class has had a great start to the academic year. They have developed a respectful manner towards all members of the class and the classroom environment. Last week, on a visit to the Lowry Art Gallery, the staff complimented the children on their enthusiasm and standard of behaviour.

Working well with their partners and in their groups, Starlings children have shown excellent collaboration skills. Their greatest achievements have been in the progress made in their handwriting which continues to improve every day and in their addition and subtraction skills.



Subject in the Spotlight – Science – Mr Simpson

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 in the past fortnight:

EYFS Update:

Within our vibrant Reception Class, our little explorers have taken great delight in unravelling the mysteries of the human skeleton while expanding their vocabulary. Engaging in a range of captivating activities centered around this skeletal theme, they've enthusiastically embraced the learning process. From labelling skeletons to playfully tracing one another's outlines, they've also marvelled at the symmetrical aspects of their own bodies. This immersive experience has not only deepened their understanding but has ignited their curiosity about the intricate framework that supports our bodies.

Key Stage 1 (KS1) Update:

Throughout this half term, our young learners in Key Stage 1 (KS1) have been enthusiastically immersing themselves in the wonders of the natural world. Just this week, they embarked on an exciting sensory journey, exploring the realms of taste. They've playfully engaged their taste buds, experimenting with a delightful array of flavours, including sweet, sour, salty, and bitter. Among these, the consensus on the taste of lemon seems to be unanimous: "Yuk!"

Lower Key Stage 2 (LKS2) Update:

In the past week, our Lower Key Stage 2 (LKS2) students have delved into an eye-opening exploration of sugar in our diets and its potential negative effects. They've taken a closer look at their own eating habits, meticulously tracking and graphing the amount of sugar they consume using both tally charts and bar graphs. This engaging exercise has shed light on the significance of monitoring our sugar intake for a healthier, balanced lifestyle.

Upper Key Stage 2 (UKS2) Update:

Over the past two weeks, our Upper Key Stage 2 (UKS2) students have embarked on an intriguing exploration of light and its remarkable capacity to disperse into a spectrum of colours. Through hands-on experimentation, they've harnessed the power of prisms to separate light into its constituent hues, meticulously illustrating this phenomenon in their science books.

Taking their newfound understanding a step further, these curious young minds have applied their knowledge by crafting detailed ray model diagrams. This groundwork has paved the way for an exciting project: designing and building their very own periscopes, demonstrating their ingenuity in applying scientific principles to practical creations. Our dedicated teachers and enthusiastic students are eagerly embracing these topics, fostering a love for science and encouraging critical thinking. We look forward to seeing the awe and wonder in our students' eyes as they make exciting discoveries and connections in the world of science.

Thank you for your continued support in nurturing young scientific minds. Together, we are inspiring the scientists of tomorrow!



Last week's awards

The Headteacher award was presented to **Ruby Walker** for her fantastic progress with the formal method of multiplication.

Our Always child was **Henry Cragg**.

Our Stars for last week that had the pleasure of wearing the golden medals were:-

Skyler Beardsley- for being a kind friend and sharing.

Mylah Mills - for a brilliant attitude to her learning and wonderful phonics.

Cora Gregory - for excellent determination, engagement and resilience in all she does.

Ibrahim Ahmad- for always being engaged in maths and helping others. **Mariana Rodrigues** - For working hard and independently in lessons.

Esme Seddon - for always engaging in all her learning, sharing collaboratively and being kind to others.

Mia Huynh - for showing resilience in every lesson and pushing herself out of her comfort zone.

Eleanora Lodhi - for writing an excellent setting description

Thomas Stephens - for working well in his Maths and making good progress in subtraction work

Mia Prescott - for applying her skills in her fantastic writing this week.

Heidi Richardson - for her brilliant engagement and independence.

Tristan Forshaw - excellent maturity and engagement

Well done to our winners!



Term Dates for your diary



Monday 6th November	School reopens for Autumn 2
Thursday 9 th November	PTA pop up shop – 3.20pm
Friday 10 th November	Y5 Remembrance Day Service 9.00am– parents welcome
Monday 13 th November	Odd socks day!!
Tuesday 14 th November	Flu Vaccination Day – Reception to Y6
Friday 17 th November	PTA non-uniform day – bottle donations
Thursday 23 rd November	EYFS – Stay and Learn – afternoon sessions
Friday 24 th November	PTA non-uniform day – chocolate donations
Friday 1st December	Reverse Advent starts!
Friday 1st December	LKS2 – The Bolton Mayor’s Christmas Concert
Thursday 7 th December	PTA Christmas Fair 3.30-5.30pm
Monday 18 th December	EYFS Christmas performance 2pm
Tuesday 19 th December	KS1 Christmas performance 2pm
Wednesday 20 th December	KS1 Christmas performance 2pm
Friday 22nd December	School closes for the Christmas break 3.20pm
Monday 8th January	School reopens for Spring 1 8.50am