



# Newsletter

10<sup>th</sup> November 2023



Dear Parents and Children,

Welcome back after a lovely half term break.

Firstly, thank you so much to our wonderful PTA who have yet again been busy ensuring children enjoy their toast and selling lots of wonderful items in their ever-popular pop up shop.

You will have also received our fabulous Ofsted report this week. I hope you agree, it was worth the wait and really does reflect the wonderful teaching and learning that takes place in school.

In addition to the successful Ofsted, we have hosted further visitors from other schools. Another local school was interested in learning more about our Maths success, so thoroughly enjoyed a tour of school and meeting with our maths leaders. We also hosted an Early Years networking event with leaders from across Bolton visiting The Gates. The Local Authority lead was extremely impressed with our Early Years setting and even described it as 'inspirational'. Well done, to all involved!

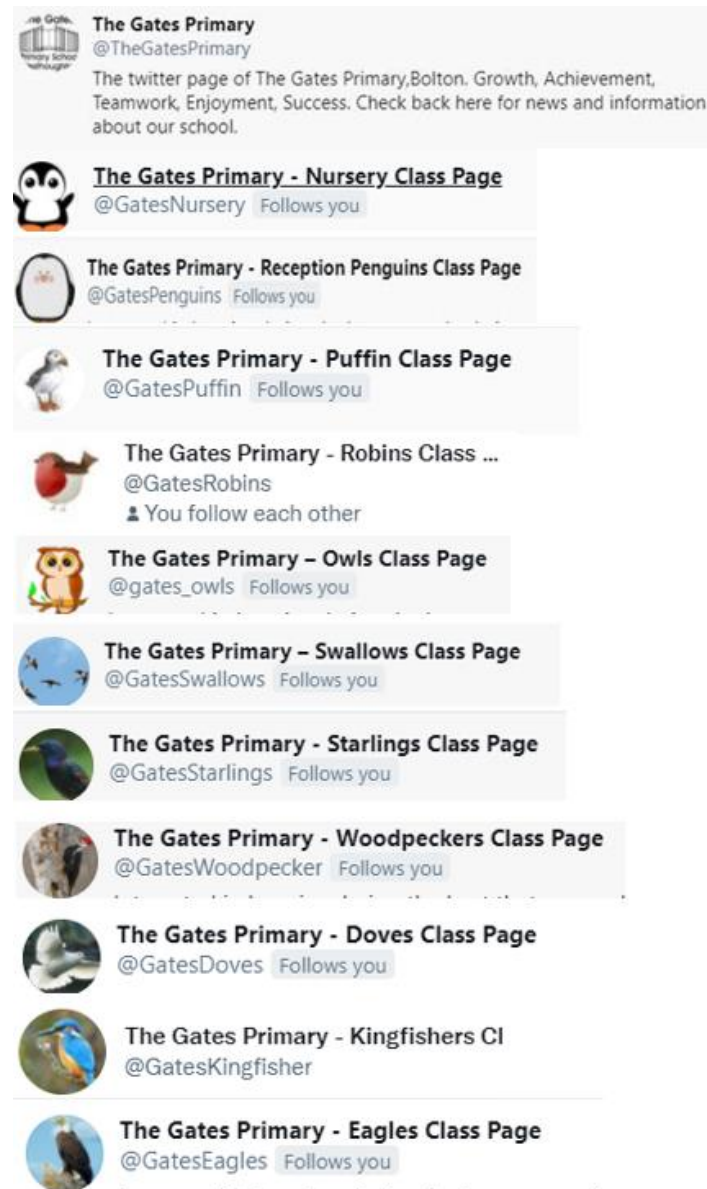
A huge thank you to Year 5 for their wonderful Remembrance Day Assembly today. Thank you also to our parents and family members for joining us. A number of the Pupil Leadership Team walked to the Westhoughton War Memorial with Mrs Latham to lay a wreath from The Gates. Thank you for representing the school so well.



Finally, our curriculum newsletters have been sent out today. Please feel free to have a look what your children will be learning in upcoming weeks.

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs Vicki Guest





### Odd Socks Day – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Extra-curricular clubs – Autumn 2

We are pleased to offer a range of sporting and creative clubs for children in school – see below for details of clubs for this half term. To avoid any clashes with any festive activities, the last week of clubs will be week commencing 4<sup>th</sup> December.

	Club / activity	Time	Member of staff/school partner	Age of children
Tuesday	Multisports	3.20-4.15	Kickstarterz	EYFS/KS1
Tuesday	Guitar taster sessions	3.20-4.05	Bolton Music Service	LKS2/UKS2
Tuesday	Arts and Crafts club	3.20-4.15	Miss Fairhurst and Mrs Riley	LSK2
Wednesday	Choir	12.30-1.00	Mrs Richmond	LKS2/UKS2
Wednesday	Football	3.20-4.15	Kickstarterz	UKS2
Wednesday	Radio Club	3.20-4.15	Mrs Jarrett/Mr Price	UKS2
Thursday	Reading Leaders	12.00-12.30	Mrs Lenagan	LKS2/UKS2

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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>



## Subject in the Spotlight – Geography – Mr Pryle

What a way to start the new term of Geography! Across school, children have been busy studying the key features of our planet and especially looking closely at the key substantive knowledge of continents and oceans, alongside the topic focus of Key Stage 1's 'The United Kingdom', LKS2's 'Cottonopolis' local study and UKS2's Volcanoes.

KS1 have explored the location and key features of the UK and its 4 countries. The children used iPads, google maps and atlases to find and locate the surrounding features capital cities, then complimented their learning with an 'Atlas Challenge' of finding out what famous landmarks can be found in each of the major continents on Earth!

LKS2 started their local study of 'Cottonopolis' with a view from outer space, using maps, atlases and Google Earth to zoom in to Westhoughton. The children have studied local features and surrounding human and physical geography of our town and are going to progress to finding the location of some of our valuable historical cotton mills that made our town so famous.

In UKS2, the children began their exploration of the 'Volcanoes' topic with a close magnification of how our Earth was constructed, with very much a scientific link. They used play-doh and clay to create the Earth's segments, using google maps to assist with the surface element to include continent and oceans. It has been fascinating to see the level of detail involved in their studies and some excellent 'collaboration' along the way!



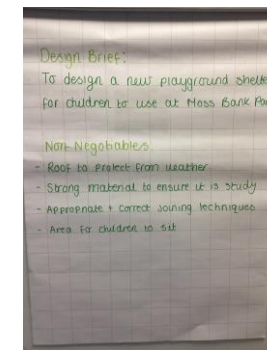
## Subject in the Spotlight – DT – Mrs Riley

This week the children have begun their current DT unit, 'Structures'.

In KS1, the children have been researching and debating what a good big hotel requires and looking at different material types which may support this structure.

In LKS2, the children have been evaluating different packaging and the materials used for different purposes. They also created a specific design brief for their product, a Christmas gift box.

In UKS2, the children were tasked with experimenting and debating the pros and cons of current playground equipment. They looked closely at different model structures in preparation for making their own playground structure.



## Personal Development update - Woodpeckers

The Woodpecker class have worked hard this week to develop a good understanding of a range of different festivals and events which take place at this time of year. Together the children have researched about Harvest, Bonfire Night and Remembrance Day. We worked together to understand the significance of each to both ourselves and other people. We also joined a special Zoom meeting with Chetham's Music School alongside other schools to explore Bonfire Night and Harvest through Music and Rhymes. Next week we will join them again to explore Diwali. In class we made Poppies to commemorate Remembrance Day and watched a special assembly presented by the Doves class. Together we took part in a 1 minute silence as a mark of respect.



# Term Dates for your diary



<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>School reopens for Autumn 2</b>
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Odd socks day!!
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Flu Vaccination Day – Reception to Y6
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Y1 Audiology Testing
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	PTA non-uniform day – bottle donations
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	EYFS – Stay and Learn – afternoon sessions
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	PTA non-uniform day – chocolate donations
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Reverse Advent starts!
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	LKS2 – The Bolton Mayor’s Christmas Concert
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Westhoughton Lights Switch on – Choir. 6.30-8.00
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	PTA Christmas Fair 3.30-5.30pm
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Santa Dash in school - festive headgear
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Y5 to see Westhoughton High School annual Christmas performance
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS Christmas performance 2pm
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Christmas performance 2pm
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Christmas performance 2pm
<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December</b>	<b>School closes for the Christmas break 3.20pm</b>
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>School reopens for Spring 1 8.50am</b>

# 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](http://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](mailto:office@thegates.bolton.sch.uk)

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