

Newsletter

24th November 2023





Dear Parents and Children,

As always, it has been a busy two weeks at The Gates, with all children working hard in class. Last week was national Anti-Bullying Week and our odd socks day in school. The School Council did a great job in raising awareness through their whole school assembly and organising activities linked to anti-bullying across school.

Our super Ofsted report hit the papers this week - feel free to have a read of Wednesday's paper and our glowing write up.

<https://www.theboltonnews.co.uk/news/23932920.gates-primary-school-westhoughton-continues-good/>

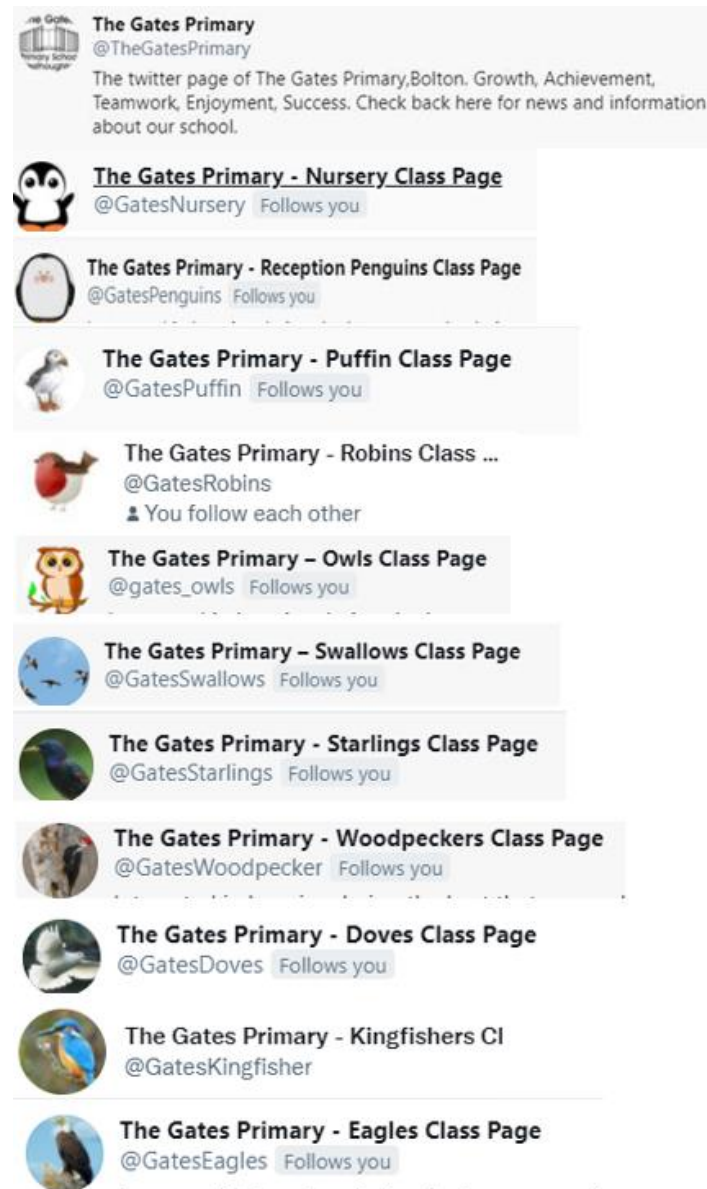
It was lovely to see so many parents in school for EYFS Stay and Learn yesterday. I hope you enjoyed it and now have lots of ideas for how you can support your child at home.

The PTA non-uniform day was a great success last week and today. Thank you for all your generosity and bottle and chocolate donations in advance of the Christmas Fair.

Please can I remind all parents who drive into the school car park for drop off etc... to drive safely and carefully. There is a 5mph speed limit and driving above this limit will put children's lives in danger. Please can I also ask parents to be courteous and considerate to our neighbours whilst driving to and from school. Thank you for your continued support.

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs Vicki Guest



Santa Dash – Friday 8th November

The School Games National Santa Dash returns on Friday 8th December! As in previous years, the Santa Dash is all about having fun whilst being active. The whole school will take part in the festive fun during the afternoon.

The children will be able to wear Christmas headgear during the event which the children should bring in on the day if they want to. This might be a Santa hat, a Christmas Headband, tinsel or a homemade hat.

We look forward to seeing the children take part in this event!



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>

Reverse Advent

In the run up to Christmas, we are arranging a 'Reverse Advent' across school. This will begin on Friday 1st December. Each day, a different class will add items of food to the collection boxes in school. Each class has recorded a Christmas song to share too; these will be put onto Twitter on the day their class brings in their items.

Suggestions for the items are as follows: cereals, tinned tomatoes, beans/spaghetti, dried potatoes (smash), tinned vegetables, tinned fish, tinned meat/meat pies, tinned fruit, tinned custard, rice pudding, biscuits, tea, coffee, sugar, squash, long life milk, pasta sauces, curry sauces and treats such as chocolate bars. Non-food items such as washing powder, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste and toilet rolls are also welcomed.

All items collected will be donated to the Westhoughton Assist Service. They are a non-profit group operating within the Westhoughton area who support families who need help. Therefore, the donations brought in by the children will go directly back to the local community - www.facebook.com/westhoughtonassistservice

Class days are as follows:

Friday 1st December – Ducklings

Monday 4th – Penguins

Tuesday 5th – Puffins

Wednesday 6th – Robins

Thursday 7th – Owls

Friday 8th – Swallows

Monday 11th – Woodpeckers

Tuesday 12th – Starlings

Wednesday 13th – Doves

Thursday 14th – Kingfishers

Friday 15th – Eagles

Many thanks for your help and generosity.

Personal Development update - Swallows

Swallows class have had an exciting and busy week. In Maths, they have been recapping place value and what each number represents in a three-digit number. They had a lot of fun collaborating and supporting one another to complete a place value race on Seesaw. Swallows have also been learning all about rocks and spent a fascinating afternoon studying and classifying various rocks from around the world. The children couldn't believe the amount of different rocks we have in our school environment. As well as learning all about rocks, the children also practised the new skill of using craft knives in DT. The children looked carefully at a risk assessment and then worked in small groups to cut out shapes. The class then ended the week thinking about diversity in school and how we celebrate differences. The children learnt all about Northern Ireland and Australia and created fact files and art work to showcase in school.



Subject in the Spotlight – Geography – Mr Pryle

In the last few weeks, there have been some excellent examples of Geography within our school phases. The topics of 'Volcanoes', 'Cottonopolis' and 'The UK' have taken to life with great practical and collaborative learning examples and the children have worked hard to engage in such an enthusiastic way!

KS1 have continued their learning about the UK over the last fortnight, based on the islands that make up our nation and delving into what makes each nation so unique. The children have used iPads and google maps with partners to locate the surrounding 4 seas of the UK, the symbols of each nation and even found time to discuss each flag – including why each bears a different symbol that ultimately makes up the 'Union Jack' of the United Kingdom.

LKS2 continued their local study of 'Cottonopolis', with several lessons based on the township of Westhoughton itself and our locality within Bolton. The classes used OS maps and Google Earth to sketch map, gaining a familiarity of the boundaries around school. The children were eager to describe what they know about the roads, rivers and railway lines of Westhoughton, whilst using some excellent vocabulary such as human, physical and environmental geography along the way.

In UKS2, the 'Volcanoes' topic is well and truly under way with the children focussing their efforts on the location of volcanic activity on Earth. The study of key vocabulary during lesson like, 'dormant', 'active' and 'extinct' has helped understand why volcanoes can be so volatile. The children complimented this learning across the fortnight with a study of which volcanoes are close to the human populace and how people live in proximity to active volcanoes.



Subject in the Spotlight – DT – Mrs Riley

Over the last fortnight, the children in school have been working extremely hard on building up their skills and knowledge of DT to enable them to create their final product independently.

In KS1, the children have been practising how to join materials to make sturdy structures. They have experimented with flange joints, tab joints, and brace joints all while working collaboratively with partners using task plans.

In LKS2, the children have learnt the new skill of using craft knives. Each class discussed the risk assessment in detail and worked in small groups to cut shapes using the craft knives safely. The children have also been experimenting using computer-aided design software to create cuboid nets.

In UKS2, the children have been looking at triangulation in structures. They used this method to reinforce the structures they had made from paper straws and pipe cleaners.



Last week's awards

The Headteacher awards have been presented to **Nish Patel** -For showing progress in his writing and **Nina Glowinkowska** -For her excellent engagement in writing this week.

Our Always children are **Caitlin Holden-Green** and **Pippa Matthews**

Our Stars for last 2 weeks that have worn the golden medals are:-

Cheuk Ko Lai - For his positive attitude towards his learning.	Nova Mae Marsden Conway for demonstrating kindness to others.
Mason Carrol -for growing in confidence and brilliant reading	Parker Murphy - for brilliant maths learning
Haaris Ayoub for being a kind friend	Ava Loynd for working so hard and showing some excellent progress in English. No Twitter
Lilly Renshaw - For trying really hard with her presentation and handwriting.	Georgia Barker -For super engagement across all subjects. .
Archie Nee - For his improvement with his attitude towards all his learning.	Rayden Hakim - For his relentless engagement and his contributions this week.
Esme Richardson - For amazing attitude towards learning	Cece Horridge for showing immense pride and progress in her work.
Jamie Lenihan for making a huge effort with his speed in lessons and for contributing his brilliant subject knowledge to lessons!	Harriet Price for excellent contributions to class discussions
Alex Tunnicliffe for transforming his handwriting.	Maya Bayandai -having a fantastic start as a new pupil in The Gates
Jacob Slater - For his brilliant engagement in his learning this week	Adam Jaffar - For his brilliant progress in Maths
Jazmin Hill - For her undeniable dedication to her learning.	Lola Taylor for her fantastic pieces of Writing.
Imogen Price - collaboration with others, a role model.	Isabelle Travers - pride in her work at all times, making Mr Horsley smile with her wonderful writing.

Well done to our winners!



Term Dates for your diary



Friday 1st December	Reverse Advent starts!
Friday 1st December	LKS2 – The Bolton Mayor’s Christmas Concert
Friday 1st December	Westhoughton Lights Switch on – Choir. 6.30-8.00
Thursday 7 th December	PTA Christmas Fair 3.30-5.30pm
Friday 8 th December	Santa Dash in school - festive headgear
Tuesday 12 th December	Y5 to see Westhoughton High School annual Christmas performance
Wednesday 13 th December	Y5/6 to Jodrell Bank
Monday 18 th December	EYFS Christmas performance 2pm
Tuesday 19 th December	KS1 Christmas performance 2pm
Wednesday 20 th December	KS1 Christmas performance 2pm
Thursday 21 st December	Christmas Dinner
Friday 22 nd December	Christmas Parties in class – afternoon
Friday 22nd December	School closes for the Christmas break 3.20pm
Monday 8th January	School reopens for Spring 1 8.50am

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>