

Newsletter

8th December 2023





Dear Parents and Children,

I hope you are all feeling festive after our wonderful Christmas Fair last night?! It was an absolutely fantastic evening, hosted by our fabulous PTA and thoroughly enjoyed by children, staff and parents alike. Thank you to all families for attending and for all your donations this half term. Thank you to all the staff team for their hard work on the night and of course to our amazing PTA who organised the whole event in their own time - we are so grateful! We cannot wait to tot up the total money raised...

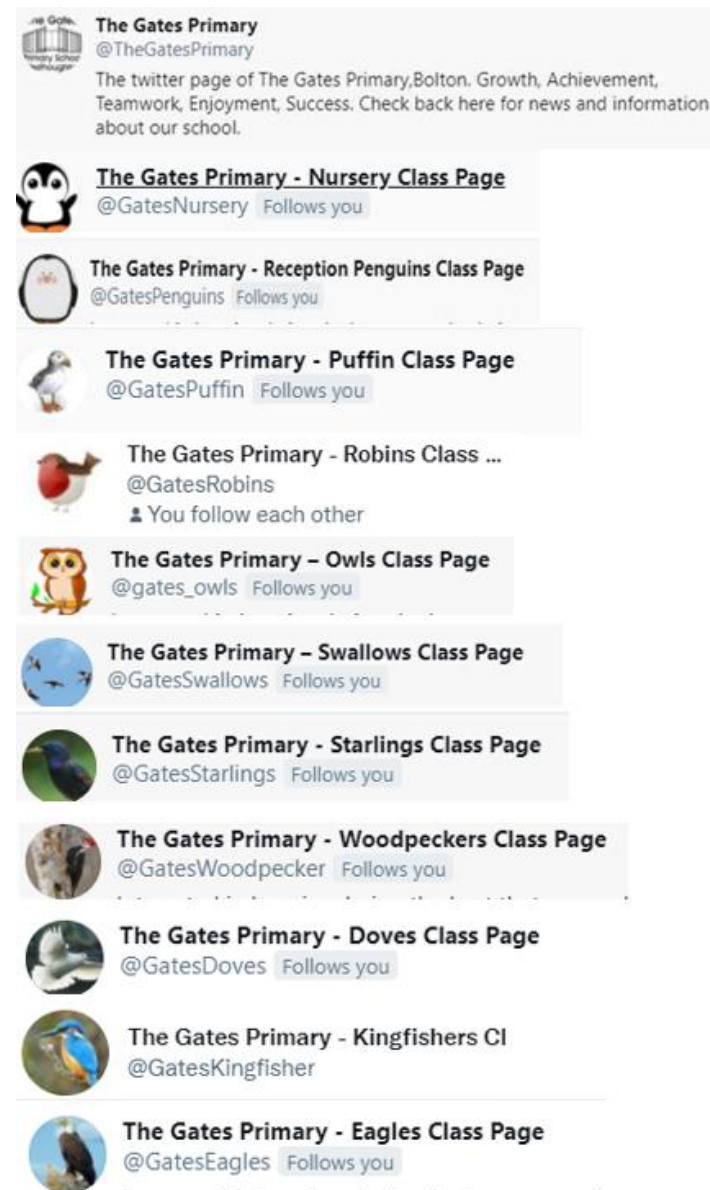
The children also thoroughly enjoyed our annual Christmas tree assembly last week. The singing was beautiful and the tree looks stunning. The 'Kindness Elves' arrived and are now spotting children doing acts of kindness until the end of term. This followed the LKS2 trip out to the Mayor's Christmas Concert, where the children behaved impeccably.

I'm also thrilled to share that we successfully achieved the SMSC Award - Gold Mark! The report reads brilliantly and reflects all the wonderful aspects of SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development) at The Gates. Thank you to all governors who helped on the day by coming into school to meet with the assessor. Thank you also to all staff and children involved in the teaching and learning of SMSC across school. The assessor was really impressed. Finally, huge congratulations to Miss Fairhurst, our SMSC lead. She not only does a brilliant job day in day out leading SMSC (amongst the many other hats she wears) but she worked incredibly hard preparing for the assessment and on the assessment day itself. Thank you, Miss Fairhurst.

Other extra-curricular activities include a Year 3/4 football competition last week and a Year 5/6 netball competition this week. Both teams played well and represented school brilliantly. Our pupil leaders took part in their second Bright Leader session with other schools across Bolton. It was another great day planning their winter kindness community project.

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs Vicki Guest



Coffee Morning with Mr Doherty

Dear parents/carers,

I am delighted to introduce myself as the Headteacher at The Gates from January 2024 and I am very much looking forward to joining this wonderful school and working closely with your children.

I look forward to meeting you all and introducing myself and would like to invite you to come along for a tea/coffee on Wednesday 10th January at 9am.

Please could you inform the school office if you are likely to attend and I look forward to meeting you all in January.

Many thanks,

Mr. Doherty



Parent Governor Vacancy

A Parent Governor position on the Governing Board will become vacant at the end of January. All parents are invited to apply for the position if you are interested in supporting your child's school and are eligible.

The letter inviting applications is attached along with the declaration of eligibility form and a nomination form. If you would like to apply for this position please complete both forms and send/pass to the office by 12pm on Monday 18th December.

PE kit and coat reminder

The weather has truly turned wintery recently and some children are arriving without appropriate outer clothing. The children go outside at breaktime and lunchtime and the weather may be cold or rainy so your child will need a coat that keeps them warm and dry.

Some PE lessons may continue to be outside so, again, appropriate PE uniform is essential. Long black tracksuit bottoms/joggers and a black long-sleeved top are part of the Uniform Policy.

Class Christmas Parties – Friday 22nd December

Each class will be having their class Christmas party on the last afternoon of term. It will be non-uniform day for the children (and adults!) and the class will enjoy some treats that they have chosen from the money the class has earned throughout the term.

There is no need to send any food into school as all classes will be catered for.

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>

Personal Development update - Owls

It's the countdown to Christmas! Owls have been undertaking some excellent collaborative tasks these last few weeks, putting all our crafting skills to good measure! As a class, they have enjoyed celebrating the coming festivities with a wonderful week of learning, including some Christmas decorating and a RE themed nativity card design afternoon with Mrs Jarrett! We started last week with a mock 'Nativity' in RE to show Christian beliefs and how that links with our Nativity performance. The children had our 'Reverse Advent' also and even sang a song to accompany this with absolute pride! We chose 'When Santa Got Stuck Up the Chimney' and their actions were superb! They worked hard to collaborate, showing some great Gates Golden Goals in the process.

The class learning in PE has taken on great forms, from basketball to their SAQ (Speed, Agility and Quickness) lessons and they showed some excellent resilience when learning tricky turns. Owls class have moved through their Geography learning well to complete their UK study, which culminated with them studying the difference between 'Human' and 'Physical' Geography. Owls have shared their learning with other classes and were proud to show just how much excellent vocabulary they have picked up along the way!

Finally, all of this was followed by a day of Christmas activities that culminated the children decorating the classroom to bring in the 'festive' spirit!



Subject in the Spotlight – Geography – Mr Pryle

Since our last entry, Geography this half term has taken on some excellent forms. The children have been extending their knowledge of Volcanoes, Westhoughton and The UK in some very surprising ways indeed. Examples of this include field working with compass directions, mapping the location of major volcanoes around our planet and finding the local mills that were once so important to our town of Westhoughton on Ordnance Survey maps.

Key Stage 1 have been working hard to show off their knowledge of both 'Human' and 'Physical' Geography in the UK by studying major landmarks and where they are located on our islands. We have been looking at real life examples of this Geography and applying them to maps and OS type spreadsheets. We have collaborated to create examples such as canals, rivers and roads using the key vocabulary to highlight our knowledge of the Geography curriculum.

Lower Key Stage 2 have been extending their knowledge by mapping the local area of Westhoughton, including some cross curricular developments with History by studying the mills that made our town famous. We used OS maps, and sketch mapping, to find and locate these mills and eventually compared why they made our town so wealthy and so popular! Some excellent collaboration along the way and we used our key vocabulary so well to explain and justify our points of view!

In Upper Key Stage 2, we continued our volcanoes topic by studying and 'zooming' in on our learning of specific volcanoes such as Krakatoa and Etna. We used Google Maps to locate and study the human populace that live so close to these environmental wonders. We learned how humans cope with the conditions of living near to volcanoes and what the benefits and detriments are to living and surviving close to regular eruptions. We compared and contrasted our own viewpoints to extend our learning, giving personal reasons as to why living near to volcanoes can be dangerous, but also sometimes rewarding.

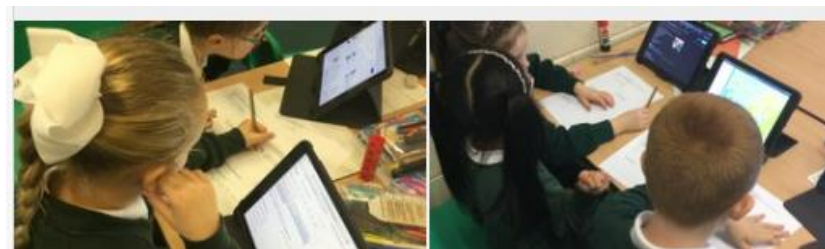
Subject in the Spotlight – DT – Mrs Riley

The children have had a very busy two weeks in DT getting ready to create their final product.

In KS1, the children have been practising different joining methods and putting this into practise to create their bug hotels. They have been assessing whether each join is stable and thinking of new ways to join each section of their hotels. The children have been using great collaboration skills when creating their hotels.

In LKS2, the children have been designing cuboid nets using computer aided design programs and they have come up with some wonderful Christmas themed designs for their final products.

In UKS2, the children have been working extremely hard learning how to navigate Tinker cad and creating 3D designs for their final playground equipment designs. They put their gates golden goals into practise when working on their designs by showing a lot of resilience and progress when using this new software.



Last week's awards

The Headteacher awards have been presented to **Saryu Nalla** for her superb collaboration and independence this week in all her learning.

Our Always child this week is **Max Matthews**

Our Stars this week, proudly wearing their golden medals are:-

Poppy Stopforth for her positive attitude towards all her learning.

Amy Lovell for a brilliant effort in her writing.

Mujtabah Kundi for increased focus and engagement in all lessons.

Sebastian Hurst for working really hard and showing excellent progress in maths.

Ruby Seddon for her superb attitude to her learning and for always sharing a smile.

Lillia-Jane Burns for her amazing attitude to learning and being a kind friend to all.

William Blazey for excellent effort in all areas of learning.

Selby Horridge for her independence and resilience this week – a great example of a growth mind-set

George-William Nee for his excellent engagement and respect in lessons.

Freddie Murphy for his great progress in his learning due to his commitment.

Junior McWhinnie for his outstanding attitude in class leading to remarkable progress.



Term Dates for your diary



Monday 11 th December	Woodpeckers – library visit
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	Carol singing at Wingates Care Home – morning visit by choir
Thursday 21 st December	Christmas Dinner
Friday 22 nd December	Christmas Parties in class – afternoon. Non - uniform day!
Friday 22nd December	School closes for the Christmas break 3.20pm
Monday 8th January	School reopens for Spring term 8.50am
Monday 8 th January	Panto in school – Jack and the Beanstalk

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>