

Newsletter

22nd December 2023





Dear Parents and Children,

Yet another festive two weeks in the count down to Christmas and the end of the Autumn Term...

Thank you so much to our hardworking PTA for all their efforts this term. They really are part of The Gates Family and we appreciate their commitment to school. In particular, over the last two weeks, they have supported school with a wonderful Christmas Fair and various raffles and refreshments during this week's nativities. Thank you!

The EYFS and KS1 nativities were performed this week and what a treat they were! Such magical performances from our youngest children - we are so proud of each and every one of them. Thanks to all parents/carers for your support with costumes and practising lines... I hope you agree it was well worth it.

Children across school have enjoyed lots of visits out of school over the past few weeks. Year 5 and 6 went to Jodrell Bank, Year 5 watched a production of Crisis in Pantoland at Westhoughton High School and the choir visited Wingates Care Home to sing carols for the residents. Many thanks to all parent helpers who make these events possible.

Reverse Advent has once again been a huge success. Thank you for all the kind donations from parents in the lead up to Christmas during this event. All donations have been gratefully received by Westhoughton Assist and will be distributed across the community to those who need it most at this time of year.

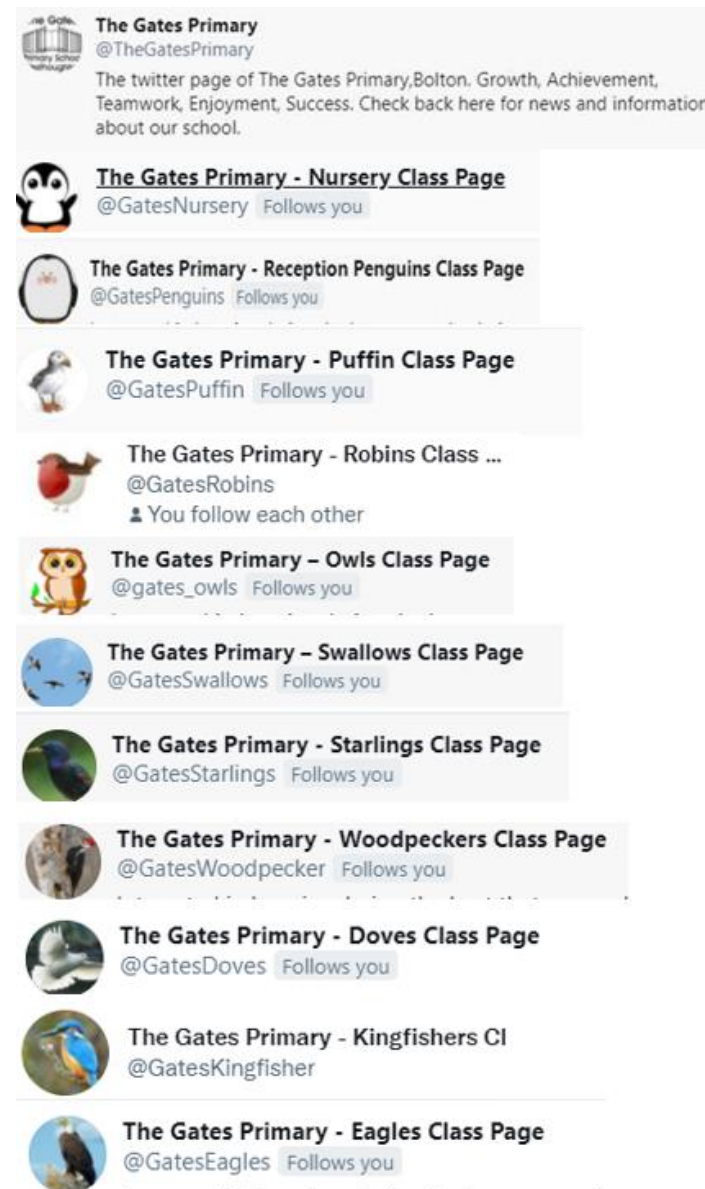
I hope the children enjoyed their class parties this afternoon. Across the term, classes have been earning money for their class bank accounts for attendance, achieving the whole school target and how they perform in the reading challenge. All classes chose treats for their party – there was a big delivery from Asda this week! What a lovely way to end the term.

Please take a look in the newsletter at the variety of clubs on offer for Spring 1. We still have places for Kickstarters multi-sports club for Year 3 and Year 4 – please contact office for details. Many thanks to our wonderful staff who are committed to ensuring that the children in school have a wide range of extra-curricular activities to choose from.

Finally, I wanted to thank all children, parents, families, staff and governors for their support this term. As Executive Headteacher for one term only, it has been an absolute pleasure and an honour to lead such a wonderful school. I really will miss everyone very much, but I am pleased that some collaboration will continue between the two schools, so I will get the opportunity to come back for visits. Mr Doherty, Headteacher from January 2024, cannot wait to get started. 2024 promises to be a fantastic year...

Thank you again - it has been a delight!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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

The vacancy on the Board of Governors has now been filled. Derek Price has been successful in his application to continue as a Parent Governor for the next 4 years. Mr Price brings a wealth of experience into school, particularly in the world of technology. He gives a lot of time to school: he has previously run a coding after-school club; has set up the Radio Club; and is heavily involved in the recruitment of staff. He will continue his role as Chair of the Finance Committee.

Well done Mr Price!

The Hub – Winter Holiday Activities and Food

The Hub are running their Winter HAF program again this year between 2nd – 5th January at The Hub, Westhoughton.

There are sessions available for children aged between 5-7 and 8-16.

Please see the link below for parents to book if you are interested

<https://forms.gle/MPSHrwgR6yokiwp27>

Penguins class – P.E. from January

From January, Reception will start PE lessons. Please can you send your child into school with a P.E kit that can be kept in school for the term. Your child's P.E. kit should consist of;

- plain black leggings, shorts or joggers
- a plain white t-shirt
- plain white or black trainers - no laces please as your child will need to put these on themselves.

Please ensure all P.E. kit is labelled with your child's name.

To develop independence, your child will need to undress and dress themselves ready for P.E; please practise this with your child if needed.

School Council update

The School Council have been very active this half term supporting the Poppy Appeal and also spreading Christmas cheer this week.

The children sold poppies and other accessories in the lead up to Remembrance Day. The total raised for the Poppy Appeal this year was £232.16, which is over £100 more than last year. Thank you to parents for your donations.

A merry band of School Council and Bright Leader children went out delivering Christmas cards made by our Pupil Leadership groups this week. They hand-delivered these special cards to school neighbours and local businesses and were met with the warmest smiles and the biggest welcomes. One lady was so overwhelmed she cried - and the café gave the children a round of applause! The butcher told Mrs Latham that the children had made his Christmas.

Merry Christmas from the School Council.



After school clubs – Spring 1

Please see the extra-curricular clubs that are on offer for next half term. They start the first week back after Christmas and last for 5 weeks, finishing the week before we break up for half term.

	Club / activity	Time	Member of staff/school partner	Age of children
Tuesday	Arts and Crafts club	3.20-4.15	Miss Hunt and Miss Sharples	Reception/KS1
Tuesday	Guitar taster sessions	3.20-4.05	Bolton Music Service	LKS2/UKS2
Tuesday	Multisports	3.20-4.15	Kickstarterz	LKS2
Wednesday	Multisports	3.20-4.15	Kickstarterz	Reception/KS1
Wednesday	Radio Club	3.20-4.15	Mrs Jarrett/Mr Price	UKS2
Thursday	Football	3.20-4.15	Mr Horsley and Mr Pryle	Y4/5/6
Friday	Rotary Art Competition Club	12.15-12.45	Mrs Handley	Y3 and Y5

Lunchtime and after school clubs - football

From January, any children taking part in football sessions with Kickstarterz at lunchtime or after school will need to wear **trainers**.

Trainers should be labelled and left in school. These can be the same pair that are used for P.E.

In addition, during football sessions at lunchtime and afterschool, the children will be expected to wear **shin-pads**. These will be provided by school. If your child would prefer to wear their own please make sure they are named.



PTA round up

First of all, thank you all so much for your kind donations and for purchasing raffle tickets - your support is greatly appreciated and with your donations we were able to put on a couple of great tombola stalls at the Christmas Fair.

The Christmas Fair was brilliant (we loved it) but without all your support we wouldn't be able to make great events happen, so thank you. All money has now been counted and we raised £1756.65 for the children.

This term, the PTA supported the Ready Steady Read sponsored event. The children raised £317 with their sponsored event over October half term and we have doubled these funds and have purchased a whole new set of books for school to use from January.

The PTA provided KS1 with all the ingredients for the Chris-tingles that they all recently made in class and have also paid for the School travelling Panto the children will enjoy on their first day back after the Christmas break.

For the Spring term, we have supported school in the plans to address parking and driving problems in the car park and on Bristle Hall Way by purchasing new traffic signs - watch out for these in January!

Many, many thanks for every donation, raffle ticket purchased, your attendance at the events and for supporting the weekly Toast Post - all money raised goes back to your children and school.

If you happen to receive any unwanted gifts, bottles or soft toys over the break, please consider these for donation for our future events.

We wish you all a Happy Christmas and a fantastic New Year ahead.

We will be back with Thursday Toast post on 11th January.

The Gates PTA

Personal Development update - Robins

It's the countdown to Christmas! Robins have been working both collaboratively and independently to carry out festive activities. As a class, they have enjoyed celebrating the coming holiday. The children have been working hard practising the Nativity ready for their performance. In RE, Robins have linked their knowledge from their own Nativity performance and created a Christian Christmas card. The class have participated in reverse advent and they sang 'We wish you a merry Christmas' which the children really enjoyed. In Geography, Robins have shown super engagement when creating their own UK weather report using a green screen and video tools on Seesaw. From basketball to the SAQ (Speed, Agility, Quickness) courses, their PE education has taken on wonderful shapes. The class have demonstrated exceptional resilience and therefore seen progress in their skills. In big question time, Robins have recapped the British Value of mutual respect. As a class, they discussed how they can show respect both in and out of school and what this looks like. Finally, the children reflected on what they were thankful for and created bunting to decorate the classroom to get them into the Christmas spirit!



Subject in the Spotlight – Geography – Mr Pryle

Alongside the festive themed learning and Christmas inspired creations, Geography at The Gates over the last week has taken on a few different faces! From Christmas-themed mapping and Santa Tracking, plotting relevant routes for Father Christmas to take, the usual topics of Volcanoes, The UK and 'Cottonopolis' have showcased the strength of Geography across our phases in school.

Key Stage 1 have been completing their topic by embedding their knowledge of human and physical features by creating their very own weather reports, including some excellent computing 'Green Screen' presentations in Robins class! The children took to presenting likes ducks to water and were extremely keen to show off their knowledge of the 4 countries!

Lower Key Stage 2 have been extending their knowledge of key human and physical geographical points of interest in Westhoughton, including some superb examples of in-depth sketch maps. Using superb collaboration, and a cross curricular theme with our local History topic of the same name, the children used their mapping and communication skills to find the sites of key producing mills from our local area, dating from the 1800 until present day. Google maps, including 'Street View' played a pivotal role in this key learning.

In Upper Key Stage 2, the children concluded their volcanoes topic by studying the effects and corresponding historical analysis of the Ancient Roman of Pompeii and the devastation brought upon the town by the volcanic eruption of Vesuvius in 79AD. The children again discussed their own opinions of living close to active volcanoes and the benefits or risks to doing so. The children produced some excellent reasons for their thoughts, giving superb moral and personal justification to their logic.

Subject in the Spotlight – DT – Mrs Riley

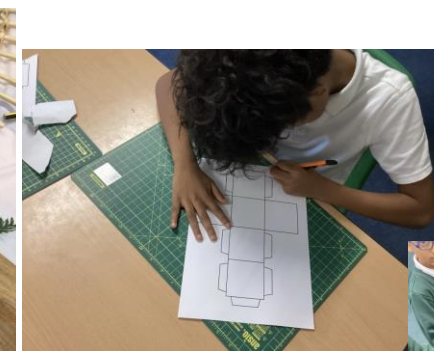
The children in school have been working extremely hard to create their final products in DT over the past two weeks.

In Early Years, the children created beautiful Christmas candle holders using clay and learned the new skill of using glue guns safely to create their unique wooden Christmas cards.

In KS1, the children worked collaboratively and showed amazing resilience when completing their bug hotels.

In LKS2, the children created their own cuboid nets using a computer aided design programme and used these to make individual Christmas gift boxes.

In UKS2, all children have been working extremely hard over the past two weeks to complete their chosen playground equipment model. They used their knowledge of triangulation to ensure their model was sturdy and practical for it's purpose.



Last week's awards

The Headteacher award for last week was presented to **Evelyn Seddon** for some superb progress with her writing and some excellent usage of conjunctions recently.

Our Stars last week, that were proudly wearing their golden medals this week were:-

Amelie Myerscough for trying her best and for her resilience.

Maddie Smith - confident learning her lines.

Jamila Miranda for excellent engagement and increasing the pace she is working at.

Arlo Eckersley for trying hard and making good progress in phonics.

Harrison Southern for showing outstanding progress recently in his Maths learning.

Kai Douasse for his fantastic engagement and progress in Writing

Raeya Worsley for excellent engagement in all areas of learning.

Henry Barker for great progress in his reading comprehension.

Belle Marlow for her great attitude to learning and always trying her hardest.

Max Partington for his excellent engagement in lessons and positive attitude to all aspects of school life.

Rhys Marlow for his enthusiasm, engagement and maturity.

Well done to our winners!



Term Dates for your diary



Monday 8th January	School reopens for Spring term 8.50am
Monday 8 th January	Panto in school – Jack and the Beanstalk
Wednesday 10 th January	Parent Coffee Morning with Mr Doherty 9.00am
Thursday 18 th January	PTA pop up shop – 3.20pm
Thursday 8 th February	EYFS Stay and Learn – 2.00pm
Thursday 15 th February	Parent Evening – 3.30-6.30pm
Friday 16th February	Break up for Half Term
Monday 26th February	School reopens for Spring 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.

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>