

Autumn Term 2026

EYFS Curriculum Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to The Gates Primary School! We hope your child has enjoyed their first days with us. We have enjoyed getting to know you and your children and are very excited about the year ahead. We do have many children joining us from a variety of different settings, we have put all appropriate support in place to help our new children manage the transition into school, and we appreciate your support and patience whilst we do this. We are currently assessing the children in preparation for starting our phonics program, maths activities and topic work. If you have any questions or concerns we are here to help- please send an email to office@thegates.bolton.sch.uk or pop a message on seesaw.

The EYFS Team

This terms topic overview...

- **Baseline Assessment** (this is where we have the opportunity to know your children more and plan their next steps.
- **Marvellous Me** – families, friends, interests, traditions, homes...
- **Autumn** – Percy the Park Keeper Stories, seasonal changes, nature walk...
- **Bonfire Night** – Guy Fawkes, Fire Safety, Fireworks...
- **Diwali** – the story of Rama and Sita, traditions...
- **Christmas** – The Nativity Story, Christmas Production, Visit from Santa...

Class Names

As you may have noticed every class in school has a bird name. Reception are called Penguins and Nursery are Ducklings.

Ducklings teachers are Miss Davies and Mrs Holt and Penguins teachers are Mrs Jarrett, Mrs Howells/Mrs Simpson and Mrs McCarthy.



Please ensure your child brings a coat and school bag each day. Also can you please make sure that **everything** is labelled with your child's name...even shoes!

Snack Money

We request a voluntary contribution of £2 week for snack in EYFS. Snack money should be put in a named envelope each week. There is also an option to pay termly, please contact the office if you have any questions.



Physical Development

We provide opportunities for children to develop both their gross motor and fine motor skills every day through both our indoor and outdoor classrooms. Part of the curriculum focuses on dressing and undressing independently; this is something you can help with at home. **Children in Reception will do P.E this year but don't need a P.E kit quite yet, we will let you know when they do.**



Independence

A big part of Early Years is to foster children's independence. This can be putting their own coats on, going to the toilet independently, and taking their shoes on and off, washing their hands and using a knife and fork at lunch. We focus on many of these areas in school and support children in becoming independent. We also ask that these are things you work on with your child at home on a day to day basis.

Our School Twitter page

We have a school twitter page which we update regularly. You can see all the exiting things we have been getting up to in school and how hard the children are all working. Please give us a follow to keep updated!



Seesaw is an app we use to track your child's learning and progress during their time in EYFS. We add updates on your children's learning on here and also share key messages so please do make sure you connect to your child's account.

Can you help?

We would really appreciate your support in gathering a few useful items for our provision. If you have any clean, recyclable materials such as cardboard boxes, kitchen roll tubes, or other items suitable for junk modelling, we would love to have them! We're also looking to refresh our home corner, so any unwanted (clean) play food, utensils, bags, or costume jewellery would be gratefully received. Additionally, if you have any spare underwear or uniform items that your child has outgrown, these can be very helpful for occasional changes during the school day. Thank you for your continued support!

Your child will start or continue their writing journey with us this year, before children learn to write there are a few things that are super important to help them first.



I will learn to write but first I need to...

Imagine

Making up stories when I paint and create will help me to write



Build

I need to use my fingers independently to write



Scribble & Draw

Making marks and shapes to convey my message will help me to write



Manipulate

Using paintbrushes, crayons, pencils and pens will help me to write



Climb

I need strong arm and body muscles to sit up and write



Play with letters & words

I need to be interested in letters and words to write



... and I need someone to show me how important writing is every day

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