

Newsletter-

26th January 2024



www.thegates.bolton.sch.uk/ [@TheGatesPrimary](https://twitter.com/TheGatesPrimary) office@thegates.bolton.sch.uk



Message from Mr. Doherty

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

I hope you are keeping well. So the ice at school melted over the weekend and then we had Storm Isha and Storm Jocelyn throughout the week! However, it has been great to see the children outside playing and taking part in outdoor activities again- when it has been safe to do so.

We have had a very busy week at The Gates- we have been working hard on being resilient within different aspects of school life and not giving up when things may be a challenge. It has been great to see the wonderful learning taking place across school- I have enjoyed seeing a wide range of engaging Maths lessons across the school, using coding and algorithms in computing to see our Spheros (mini robots) in action, the children making their own playdough in EYFS, lots of amazing map work, wonderful Reading Leaders, Bee Bots exploring, investigating electricity, time zones, investigating the abstract works of the artist Beatriz Milhazes, children achieving 10/10 in their spellings for the first time- the list could go on and on. Our staff strive to provide lots of engaging and rewarding learning opportunities for your children and it really is a pleasure to see.

Today we have non-uniform day so thank you so much for your kind donations of bottles and gifts and thank you to the PTA for organising.

I love to hear Parent/carer feedback so please let me know if you having any issues with viewing this new way of sharing the newsletter or if you like the new format.

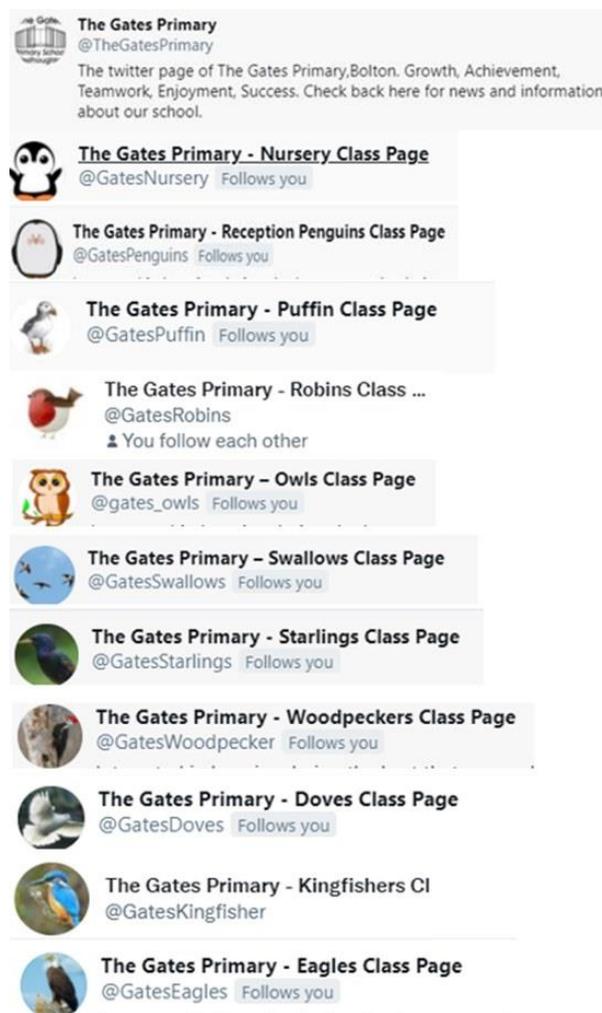
We have our Parents evening coming up on Thursday 15th February- so please keep an eye out for further communication about this.

I also got to open a very important letter this week (in a very fancy envelope) so read on to find out who this was from!

Please remember to follow us on Twitter/X @TheGatesPrimary where you will receive regular updates of the learning within our different classes.

I wish you a lovely weekend and I will be spending most of mine trying to sort my garden out after the winds!

Mr Doherty.



Follow your child's class on [Twitter/X](#)

After school clubs – Spring 1

Please see the extra-curricular clubs that are on offer for this half term. They started this week 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 | UKS2 |
| 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 |

Attendance

You may have noticed the we are continuing to monitor and challenge attendance and punctuality each day. The Gates Primary has high expectations for attendance and punctuality from all pupils, at all times. We support children and their families to ensure that good levels of attendance are achieved. Our school target for attendance is at least 96%, however, we continuously strive to achieve 100% attendance for all children. If you require any support with getting your child to school on time please do discuss this with us.

Parents have a vital role to play and we want to work with you to ensure strong home-school links.

There are strong links between attendance and pupil success with their academic performance. Children with poor attendance, or who are late, do not achieve as well as those children who attend school each day and on time. The learning at The Gates begins the moment they enter school and begin their morning challenges.

Pupils with poor attendance will be monitored closely and you may be asked to attend a meeting, at which the reasons for poor attendance will be discussed and support to improve attendance will be offered. Continued poor attendance following the meeting may result in a referral to the Local Authority who may recommend a fixed penalty of prosecution under section 444 of the 1996 Education Act.

| If your child's attendance during the school year... | Your child would have lost approximately... | or they would have missed approximately... |
|--|---|--|
| was 95% | 9 Days from School | 50 Lessons |
| was 90% | 19 Days from School | 100 Lessons |
| was 85% | 29 Days from School | 150 Lessons |
| was 80% | 38 Days from School | 200 Lessons |
| was 75% | 48 Days from School | 250 Lessons |

You should not take your child on holiday during term time.
Please encourage punctuality to maintain school attendance.
Remember Absence = Lost Opportunity

Punctuality

The school day starts at 8.50am and registers are taken at this time. To enable all children to arrive safely, classroom doors are open from 8.40am and these will be closed at 8.50am. Any child arriving after this time should access school through the office and will be marked as 'late'. Please ensure that your child arrives on time so they do not miss any learning- it disrupts their learning and the child is often embarrassed about entering their class late and we want to avoid that.

| If in a school year, your child is late every day by... | Your child would have lost approximately... | or they would have missed approximately... |
|---|---|--|
| 5 Minutes | 3.5 Days from School | 20 Lessons |
| 10 Minutes | 7 Days from School | 41 Lessons |
| 15 Minutes | 10 Days from School | 55 Lessons |
| 20 Minutes | 14.5 Days from School | 82 Lessons |
| 30 Minutes | 22 Days from School | 123 Lessons |

You should not take your child on holiday during term time.
Please encourage punctuality to maintain school attendance.
Remember Absence = Lost Opportunity

Absence



If your child is not in school, you must let school know by 9am on the day of absence. Safeguarding checks are carried out after this time and if we are unable to account for your child's whereabouts, we have procedures to follow that include messaging home, calling home and, sometimes, visiting the home address. It makes everyone's lives a little simpler if you can let us know in good time of any absence.



Appointments



Routine medical and dental appointments should be arranged out of school wherever possible; however, if this is not possible you should supply school with evidence of these prior to the

appointment. We strongly discourage you from taking children out of school during term time; all requests for leave of absence (such as holidays) will be declined unless parents can evidence that it is an exceptional circumstance. If a child is taken out of school and it has not been authorised by the Headteacher it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence and parents may be liable to further action, including the issue of a fixed penalty notice and possible prosecution through the court system. For any appointments during the school day, please bring in a copy of the appointment or letter which confirms this.

It is essential that everyone involved is committed to promoting excellent attendance so the children achieve well in all areas. We appreciate your continued support with this.

This week's awards!



Head Teacher Award

The Headteacher award has been presented to **Mia Stockton-Martin** for excellent effort and independence in all her lessons.

Stars of the Week

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

Nursery (Ducklings)- **Chester Power** for his amazing Mathematics this week- great counting and language used!

Reception (Penguins)- **Dani Davies** - amazing writing and reading this week- well done!

Puffins- **Luna-Rose Hornby-Gill** for always giving 110% to all her learning and helping others

Robins- **Kendal Fairclough** - For settling into The Gates so well and already showing the GGG- so happy to have you as part of the the team!

Owls- **Henry Cragg** - For his enthusiasm in all his learning and always sharing his positivity with friends.

Swallows-**Frankie Grantham** for his engagement and enthusiasm in all his lessons.

Woodpeckers- **Sophia Szeto** for excellent independence and engagement across all lessons.

Starlings-**Madeline Brown** - She was a contender for star of the week last week and her superb attitude has continued this week.

Doves- **Anshika** - For her brilliant engagement and effort in her learning and being a helpful member of the class.

Kingfishers-**Stephanie Strood** for her brilliance across the curriculum and always being a role model.

Eagles- **Abigail Ali**- amazing enthusiasm in all subjects.

Always Children

Our Always Children this week are Erin Knight and Max Bibby- very proud of you as it is not easy to do this all the time.

Well done to our winners!





A very special delivery!



This week in school, we were delighted to receive a very special letter from King Charles! The letter contained a message from the King, who is extremely passionate about the world's climate matters, to state just how grateful he is for all we are undertaking as a school to promote climate change at The Gates as an Eco-School.

It went on to explain about his sincere thanks for some recent letters that were sent by two of our schools classes regarding climate change, and the work that we continue to undertake as part of our Pupil Leadership groups, in particular, our Eco-Team. Our classes over the years have continued to share their views and opinions with the Royal Family as they recognise the importance of children sharing their views.

In March last year, some of our children in Year 2 and Year 3 wrote a letter to King Charles to tell him about their work on pollution which was inspired by the book 'A Planet Full of Plastic'. They then connected with Neal Layton (the author of the book) on social media to thank him for making them aware of these environmental issues. School was thrilled to receive a reply from His Majesty, who himself is very passionate about this subject, and thanked us for sharing our thoughts and sent us his warmest wishes.

This cross-curricular development has allowed the children to really become impassioned about this important global debate, promoting a really personal link with real world scenarios. What a fantastic start to the New Year and our first few weeks back in school!

BUCKINGHAM PALACE



To: The Pupils and Staff

The Gates Primary School

The King has asked me to thank you for your most thoughtful letters regarding the environment.

His Majesty was deeply touched that you should have taken the trouble to write and to share your thoughts. The King was interested to learn of the passion that so many pupils felt for protecting the environment.

I can assure you that His Majesty is deeply committed to protecting the natural world. As Prince of Wales, he spoke passionately about the need to conserve the environment for future generations, recognising that everyone has a role to play in preventing climate change and biodiversity loss. As King, His Majesty continues to support and celebrate global efforts towards a more sustainable future.

I am to thank you once again for taking the time to write as you did. The King would have me convey his warmest good wishes to all of the pupils and staff at The Gates Primary School.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tara Lundy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the top of the first letter.

Correspondence Secretary

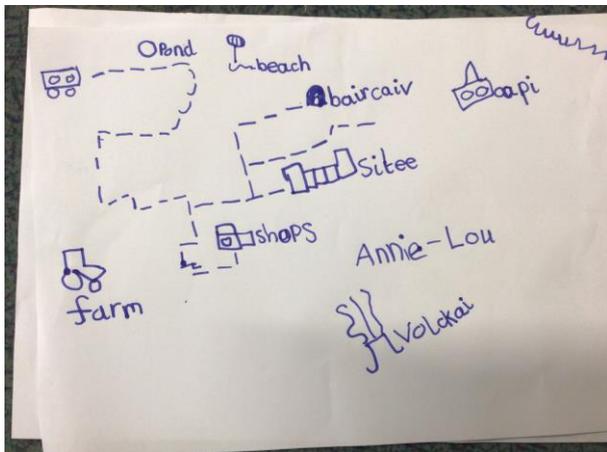
19th January, 2024

Personal Development update - Penguins



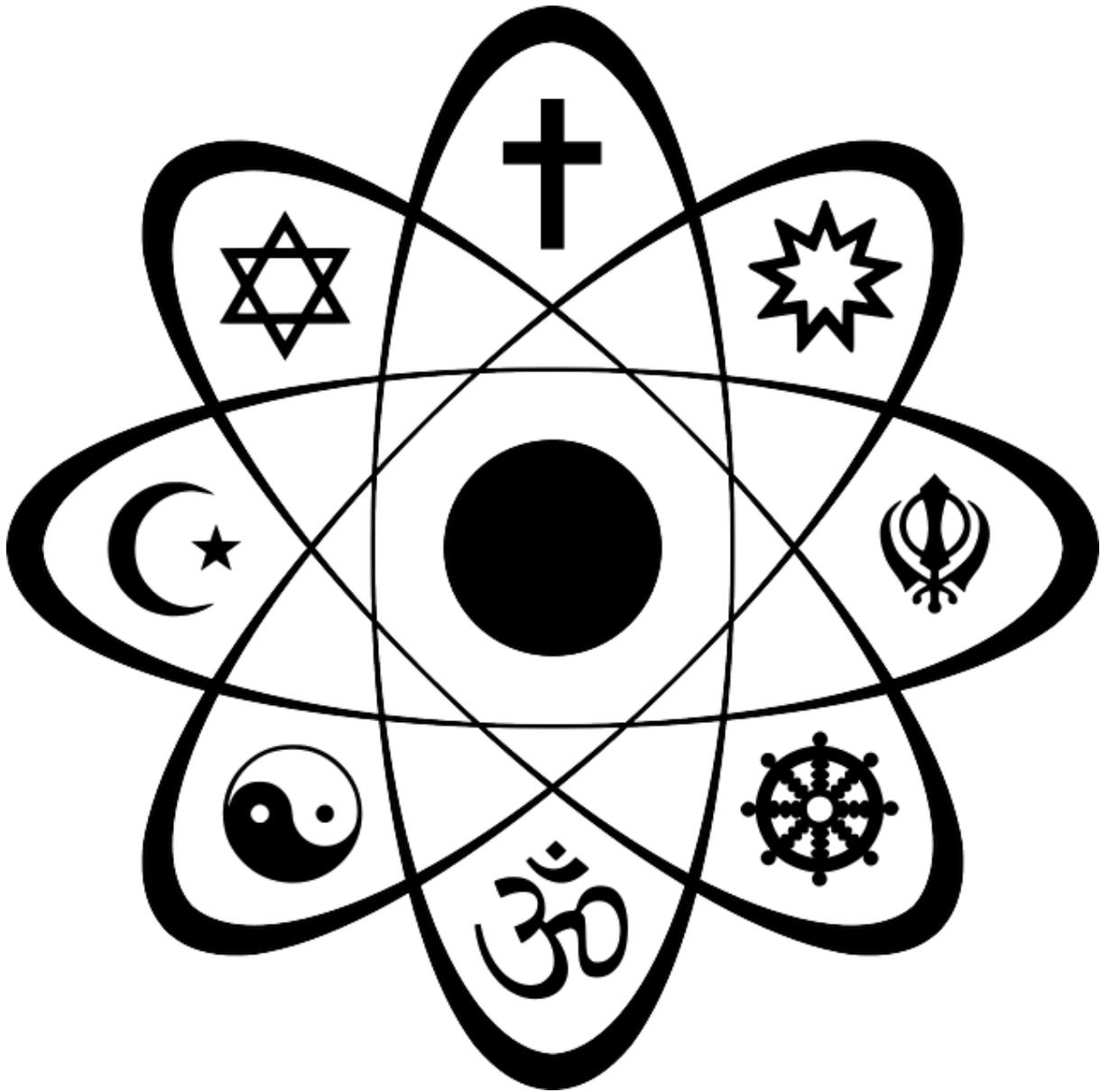
This week, Penguins have demonstrated lots of examples of The Gates Golden Goal of resilience. In Reception we have been working really hard in all areas, we have been amazing collaborators working together to create pictures of different vehicles as well making cars together. When making the cars we had to show respect to each other when using the saw and demonstrated independence by putting our cars together independently. As part of our Journeys topic, we created our very own maps using our brilliant drawing skills as we drew all the different things we might see. We were then really resilient when using our phonics to add our own labels. We have loved our week in Penguins and can't wait to explore sea transport next week!







Subject in the Spotlight – R.E. Miss Southern



Our EYFS children have been continuing their learning about special places. They met Grace, a Christian, who shared with them what her Church was like. They looked at some important features in a church, who works there and at some of the ceremonies that happen there. Lots of children enjoyed talking about times they had been to a church.

In KS1, the children have been hearing stories of the Prophet Muhammad and how they teach Muslims a lesson. They shared the story of Bilal, The Crying Camel and The Prophet and the Ants. They acted out and drew some pictures of different parts of the story, being careful not to depict the Prophet himself in order to be respectful.

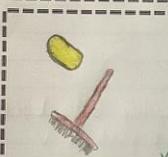
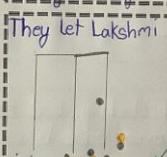
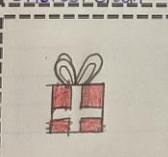
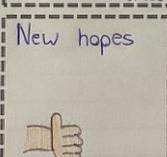
Our LKS2 children continue to enjoy their Hinduism unit. They have been revisiting the Diwali story and writing some excellent blurbs which contain an important message in the story: good triumphs over evil. For their Digging Deeper aspect, children ranked the importance of different lessons from the story. Relating this back to their enquiry question about being Hindu in Britain today, they also found out about how Diwali is celebrated and created a Diwali collage to showcase their learning.

In UKS2, the children have been creating and playing games to apply their new RE learning. They learnt about the Hindu belief of Samsara and how Hindus believe if you follow your duties and understand your Atman, you will achieve Moksha. Based on this learning, they designed a game of Moksha Snakes & Ladders!

The Story of Rama and Sita is a thrilling tale about a prince and a princess who were banished from their home and have to live in the forest. They have married together until one day Sita gets a wicked deer. BUT it was actually the demon King Rama. He captures Sita and takes her to his island do you think light will win?

THE STORY OF RAMA AND SITA

The Story of Rama and Sita

| | | |
|---|--|--|
|  Set Fireworks ✓ |  Rangoli Designs ✓ |  Lighting diyalas ✓ |
|  Chores/Clean ✓ |  They let Lakshmi into homes ✓ |  Dressing up for Diwali ✓ |
|  New hopes ✓ |  Family time ✓ |  Board game ✓ |

DIGGING DEEPER

In your opinion, what matters most in the Diwali Story? Order these from 1-6 with 1 being most important and 6 being the least.

Order

- 1 Rama protecting and rescuing Sita
- 2 Lighting lamps
- 3 Light overcoming dark
- 4 Sita being kind to all
- 5 Hanuman helping others
- 6 Knowledge overcoming ignorance

I chose Rama protecting and rescuing Sita because protecting your loved ones is very important. ✓



Subject in the Spotlight- Art- Mrs Farrington



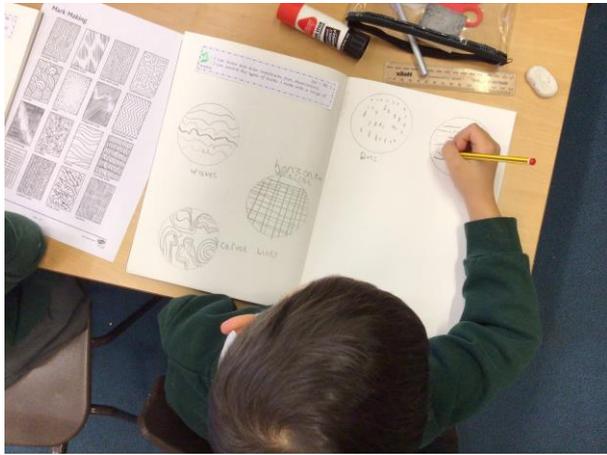
For the past two weeks, the children have all been working on their drawing skills to support their printing unit of work.

In EYFS, the children have following their task plans in order to draw a variety of different vehicles. They combined lines and shapes and followed a step by step guide for how to draw cars. The children then used their work from their guided sessions to independently draw trains following a different task plan.

In Key Stage 1, children have looked closely at different lines, marks and patterns. They chose different types of lines to experiment with in their sketchbooks; looking closely at the inspiration sheets. They then progressed on to using oil pastels and crayons to investigate different patterns and geometric shapes that are used in Kente cloths. They took inspiration from the different cloths in order to create their own.

In Lower Key Stage 2, children incorporated their Science learning with their art work by looking at ammonite and fish fossils. They sketched the different details as well as using different techniques to create texture. They were introduced to the wonders of charcoal in order to create their drawings. It was a very messy activity!

In Upper Key Stage, the children used a variety of view finders to develop their observational skills. They identified different lines, shapes, patterns and colours that Beatrix Milhazes used in her work. They used their drawing skills to replicate what they could see and evaluated them taking inspiration for their final pieces.





KS2 Times Tables Slam

KS2 Times Tables Slam

The Gates Times Tables Slam is back - and the excitement is multiplying! The format has been revamped slightly this year - each child has been placed into a team of four, where they will work together to face off against other teams in order to crown our new Times Tables Champions. Each team has been designated specific times tables to focus on and this information has been shared in class (if anyone is unsure about this, the team lists have been displayed in every classroom). Participants will test their speed, answering as many questions correctly as possible in 60 seconds

The dates are as follows:

UKS2 - Monday 12th February

LKS2 - Tuesday 13th February

In order to support with this, children can use EdShed to practise their times tables as many times as they wish.

P.T.A. update- Valentine's Day Disco – Y1-Y6 – 12th February

The PTA will be hosting Valentine's Day Disco for our Y1-Y6 children on Monday 12th February. There will be 2 sessions:

Y1-Y4 – 3.30-4.45pm

Y5-Y6 – 5.00-6.15pm

A letter will be issued in your child's bag next week for you to reserve and pay for tickets to these events. The cost is £5 for one ticket or £10 for 2+ tickets. The ticket price includes food and drink. There will other refreshments and gifts on sale on the evening. Please look out for the letter next week to secure your child's place.

In addition:

Non-Uniform crème eggs – 2nd February

Pop up shop is daily during the week of 5th-9th Feb after school.

Keeping Children Safe



In Bolton, all agencies work together with families, to promote the well being of children and keep them safe. We seek to provide help and support as early as possible, to remove any possible barriers, to enable children to develop and achieve well.

By following the Bolton Children's Safeguarding Board (BCSB) guidance and working in accordance with the DFE Documents – 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018' & 'Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2023' we work towards providing timely and appropriate access to services, to help children flourish and keep them safe. There is further information below about the Early Help Offer at The Gates Primary.

At The Gates, parents will be informed in respect of any concerns about their child's welfare, or any action taken to safeguard and promote the child's welfare, providing this does not compromise the child's safety. The full policy for safeguarding children at The Gates can be found on the school website, under Policies.

If you have a safeguarding concern, please contact Mr Doherty or Mr Simpson, our Designated Safeguarding Leaders.

Operation Encompass



Bolton Encompass has been designed to provide early reporting to schools of any domestic abuse incidents that occurred outside of school but which might have an impact on a child attending school the following day. The information will be shared on school days during the school term. Where incidents occur on a Friday, Saturday or a Sunday, the police will contact the relevant school the following Monday. A nominated member of school staff will liaise with the police at The Gates Primary. They will be able to use information that has been shared with them, in confidence, to ensure that the school is able to support children and their families. Information will be shared where it is identified that a child or young person was present, witnessed or was involved in a domestic abuse incident.

We always endeavour to offer the best support possible to our pupils and Bolton Encompass is a beneficial and supportive measure for all concerned children and families.

Bolton Community and Voluntary Services (CVS)



If you are interested in volunteering and working to support communities in Bolton, why not visit the Bolton CVS site:

<https://services.boltoncvs.org.uk/directory>

Here you will find a list of volunteer groups that you may wish to join or access too.

Support with your toddlers



Bolton's Start Well and Families Together projects offer lots of wonderful information and support for different aspects of child development such as health, nutrition, oral hygiene and behaviour. If you would like some honest and open advice, why not visit here:

[Bolton's Start Well](#)

<https://famiestogether.org.uk/the-solihull-approach/groups/>