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GATEHOUSE SCHOOL BULLETIN

Friday, November 6th 2020

Issue number 58

HEAD'S WELCOME

Dear Parents,

A warm welcome back to you all, and it is a pleasure to write my first bulletin of the Christmas half term which is by far my favourite!

To begin, it is a pleasure to say that at a time of change and unrest what a wonderful couple of weeks we have had so far. Focusing on the positive, I would like to thank parents for supporting our school community in the Halloween events.

This was a magical and fun event that brought us all together, whether it be as ghosts, dinosaurs, or princesses. The children and staff enjoyed this very much, but not quite nearly as much as the

parents judging from the many smiles that I saw in the playground at drop off and pick up.

As a means to focus on the positive rather than the negative, Gatehouse is embracing many more exciting events to encourage and motivate children, as the Gatehouse ethos of 'children develop their own uniqueness of personality, to enable them to appreciate the world and the world to appreciate them' is never far from my mind and very close to my heart.

Therefore, to enable the children to experience more responsibility and thrive with these responsibilities, I am re-introducing the Head Boy and Head Girl positions with interview dates to

follow. Alongside this, the whole school will re-engage with former pupil responsibility roles, including Eco Warriors, Friendship Buddies, House Captains and Deputy House Captains, Junior Librarians and more. Covid-19 restrictions have placed these usual responsibilities on hold, but I am now confident that with our robust safety procedures that we can resume most if not all of these posts. Pupil responsibility is crucial for the development of those skills that society needs more than ever. The value of added responsibilities allows pupils to further develop personal relationships, improve self-esteem, manage feelings during negotiation and compromise, further develop respect and

kindness, problem solve and become a role model for other pupils. Most importantly though, the opportunity for added responsibilities brings with it a concrete understanding of what responsibility means, and hopefully instills in pupils that to succeed in the wider world as a human being, which is what we want for all of our pupils, is to be a responsible person who undertakes duties that will benefit others and demonstrate leadership qualities. We will also send out information with regard to House activities and events, including a day when children can dress up in their own clothes but in their House colours.

A further update is that I had arranged for Tempest Photographers to attend school on 10th November to photograph pupils. Due to the lockdown and uncertainty with regard to what will happen next, I have cancelled their visit and will instead have in-house photographs taken of the pupils which we will print off

and forward to parents as a Christmas present.

I am also pleased to note that we continue to work closely with Raines Foundation School, and following the lockdown update we will revert back to using their premises for afternoon Games sessions.

Adding another happy note to this bulletin, I am delighted to share with you that Ellie Mae Barnaby, who works in RS, is expecting her first child in the Spring Term. I am sure that like myself, you all wish Ms Barnaby well. With regard to any changes in staffing due to this news, I will update you when necessary.

It is with great pride that I lead Gatehouse and the wonderful school community that is part of who we are. As always I am available to parents if you need help with anything, and I look forward to continuing to work together to ensure that all of our pupils experience a wonderful time in school where they are able to thrive and succeed in the manner that we all want for them.

As you know I am fond of a quote or two to keep me and others going. As such I will leave you with a thoughtful note:

“If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself.” – Henry Ford

Mrs Korbay

House Poetry Competition

As mentioned in the English Spotlight, I am so enjoying watching the children's entries for this year's House Poetry competition. With COVID restrictions in place, we had to do things differently this year and I've been so pleased with the results these changes have given us. With around 200 entries the children have really done themselves proud! The creativity, enthusiasm and imagination they have brought to this task has been really impressive!

Thank you also to the many grown-ups and siblings who helped with filming, reciting, and supporting our little performers.

The whole school winners will be announced in the December English Spotlight and (technology permitting!) I will add their videos to each class Google Classroom so the children can enjoy their performances.

Every single child who took part should feel very proud of themselves for creating something wonderful - Gatehouse Greathouse indeed!

Mrs Roper

Remembrance Day

Next Wednesday is Remembrance Day which we will be observing at school at 11 o'clock in the playground with a two-minute silence followed by the last post played by our trumpet teacher Chrissie Ranson-Thompson. Pupils will then be placing wreaths on our memorial in the school. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, we will not be selling poppies this year, and as the majority of those who volunteer to sell poppies are elderly more vulnerable people, the British

Legion are relying on online sales and donations. Please help us to support the charity and show our respects to those who have given their lives in the armed forces by visiting their online shop to get your poppy or make a donation. I attach a link here and thank you for your continued support with our focused charities at Gatehouse school.

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/ways-to-give/shop/poppy-shop>

Ms Veitch

Inter-House Football and Netball

In the final week of the autumn first half term, all the girls in Years 3-6 competed in an inter-house netball competition and the boys in Years 3-6 competed in an inter-house football competition. It was a fabulous week of competition with great team spirit, close games, great sportsmanship and great skills on display. Well done to everyone that took part!

The girls will have their inter-house football competition at

the end of this half term with the boys having their inter-house netball in the same week.



Overall results

Boys inter-house football

1st Sphinx- 9 points
(100 house points)

2nd Phoenix- 8 points
(75 house points)

3rd Dragons- 7 points
(50 house points)

4th Unicorns- 1 point
(25 house points)



Girls inter-house netball

1st Sphinx- 11 points
(100 house points)

2nd Phoenix- 6 points
(75 house points)

3rd Dragons- 5 points
(50 house points)

4th Unicorns- 3 points
(25 house points)



I have passed on the totals to Mrs Roper, who will add them to the next house point count up (results coming in our next Bulletin! - Mrs R).

Mr Baycanli

Roald Dahl Competiton

We are having *such* a lovely time admiring the wonderful entries for the Roald Dahl competition! Thank you to everyone who has taken part.

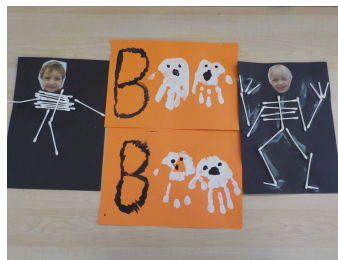
Look out for lots of entries being shared on the school social media channels over the next fortnight - winners to follow in the next edition of the bulletin...if we can ever choose! So many brilliant creations!

Miss Dewar & Mrs
Roper

Reception Update



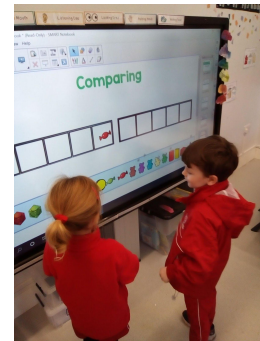
Reception have had lots of fun in our first two weeks back in school. We made a range of Halloween art and carved spooky pumpkins.



We started learning about Traditional Tales, and looked at their features and the different characters from stories we already knew. We are focusing on using our phonetic knowledge and using our tricky words to recall the story of "The 3 Little Pigs".



In Mathematics, we are closely looking at comparing amounts of identical objects and numbers, using the correct vocabulary.



We have also started practising for our Christmas Performance and cannot wait to share the video of it with you later on this term. Thank you to the parents for helping the children learn our Christmas CD song. Please continue to practice this at home!

The Reception Team

Christmas Jumper Day

Is Coming...

Please mark your calendars for some festive attire on Friday, December 11th!

Further details to follow in the bulletin on November 20th.

**Mrs 'Christmassy'
Roper**

Language Angels

I am so excited to share that I have recently taken a subscription to 'Language Angels', which will allow your child to continue learning French at home using fun interactive lessons and associated activities. Pupils can have access to a selection of units, PowerPoints, worksheet to print, karaoke songs and interactive games area.

There are 2 languages available so your child can also have a go at learning Spanish!

The site is simple to use.

1. Go to www.languageangels.com

2. Click LOGIN in the top right corner of the screen.

3. Select the HOME SCHOOL option.

4. Enter USERNAME and PASSWORD.

5. Select the UNIT you want.

6. Select your LESSON and click START LESS

7. Enjoy learning using all the resources provided in your lesson.

8. Click BACK TO DASHBOARD to select your next lesson

You can watch a video of how easy the site is to use by clicking the button below.

<https://languageangels.pages.ontraport.net/hs>

Your login details

Username:
Gateho4089

Password: **lahome**

Enjoy this resource at home with your child.

Any questions, please email me:
pauline.moisy@gatehouseschool.co.uk

À bientôt!

Madame Moisy

BSL in Year 5

Well done to both 5R and 5M for their great start on learning

British Sign Language. Children have started learning fingerspelling their names and have learned to sign greetings and colours. We are now adding some Christmassy signing to our repertoire! 🌲🌲🌲

The Year 5 Team

"I cannot endure to waste anything so precious as autumnal sunshine by staying in the house."

Nathaniel Hawthorne

