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GATEHOUSE SCHOOL BULLETIN

Friday, October 9th 2020

Issue number 57

HEAD'S WELCOME

I want to begin by thanking you all for your continued support with regard to supporting us all at school by observing social distancing during drop-off and collection time. This support is appreciated with regard to ensuring that the bubbles are separated from each other. However, it is important that I share with you my concerns with regard to bubbles mixing for play-dates or travel arrangements. In these instances, it would be frustrating and almost soul-destroying for the school if all the hard work and precautionary measures were undone outside of school. More importantly, this would mean additional bubble closures due to external circumstances, something that I know none of us want. Therefore, I strongly urge all parents at this time, a time that has numerous schools

closing due to positive cases, to please continue to support the school both at school and away from school.

Taking temperatures every morning has been effective in ensuring that no-one comes into school unwell. As the weather is now turning colder, from the return after half-term, we will move to taking the temperatures once the children come inside the building. Nurse Freya will call any parent where there are concerns.

As a non-selective school we are proud to celebrate a range of interesting and diverse learning styles, and this week we celebrated Dyslexia Awareness Week with assemblies and classroom discussions to understand further what this means for pupils, and to also look at past and present role models who have all made invaluable contributions to society. If you would like to find out more

about Dyslexia there are a range of websites available, for example, the [British Dyslexia Association](#).

Despite Covid, Gatehouse strives to continue to be as reliable and normal as possible under these circumstances.

Therefore, I am pleased to announce that our annual Halloween Autumn Event will happen on Friday 30th October, albeit a little differently. All children can come to school dressed in a Halloween costume. We do ask this year that no additional costume props are brought into school, just clothing. This will be a 'Happy Halloween' event so we are kindly asking that no 'morbid', 'blood-curdling' or 'little child frightening' costumes are worn (Nursery and Reception are usually a little too young for this but we would like to include them this year in a softer and more gentle version

of Halloween). Lessons will take place as normal, but of course, in keeping with the theme they will be based around Halloween.

In order to keep lines of communication strong at this tricky time, we have allocated a designated area on the website to hold all of the correspondence sent out by the school, in date order, which will hopefully help you find exactly what you need when you need it. These documents can be found under 'correspondence' in the parents' area.

Many parents are aware that the start of term for catering was a little tricky, but I am pleased to report that by working closely with our caterers Holroyd Howe, and the kitchen staff, a number of changes have been made. I continue to monitor our catering very carefully and would like to reassure parents that the meals provided by the kitchen are delicious and meet all of the expected nutritional requirements. With careful planning the lunches have also been served from the lunch hall for Years Five and Six, and from Monday 12th October Year Four will also be served in the hall. Nursery have been served from hot plates in the Nursery setting, and it is pleasing that we continue to strive to ensure that as many children as possible

experience a positive lunch experience.

I usually try to sign off with an inspirational quote. As I searched for one I saw a very short set of words that perfectly summed up where we are and how wonderful it is to be on this journey with all of the pupils, staff and parents at Gatehouse School. 'We are not living in fear, we are living in faith' perfectly communicates our commitment to ensure that no matter what is thrown at us we know ourselves to be better and stronger, and made even more so by working together.

I wish you all a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Korbay

An Interview with Mr Russell

Zak and I ventured our way to the PE cave to ask Mr Russell (our new head of Games) a few questions about himself. Here they are:

Question 1: What is your favourite sport?

A: It has to be cricket but closely followed by football.

Question 2: Who is your favourite sports player of all time?

A: Again a hard one but it has to be the great Ian Botham (Cricket commentator, player and

chairman) or Pele (football player).

Question 3: How do you like it here at Gatehouse?

A: I love it here. The children are polite and the staff are great.

Question 4: If I gave you 5 million pounds right now what would you do with it?

A: I would pay off my mortgage, book a lovely holiday, buy a car and put the rest in the bank.

Question 5: Who inspired you to become a PE teacher?

A: My old PE teacher inspired me.

Question 6: Would you rather always lie or always tell the truth?

A: Definitely the truth, always.

Question 7: If you could have any superpower what would it be?

A: Teleportation so I could go anywhere in the world in one click.

Quick-Fire Round!

Dogs or cats?

Dogs

Pasta or pizza?

Pasta

Tea or coffee?

Tea

Books or TV?

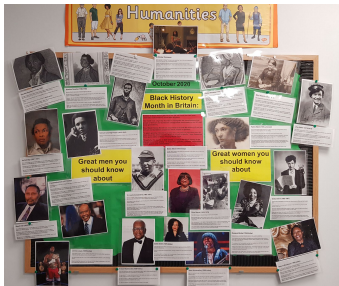
TV

We would like to thank Mr Russell for talking with us, and for dealing with us for 10 whole minutes!

Zak Fellows and Gabby Sachdev, 6F

Black History Month

Across the school in a variety of lessons we have been learning about Black History Month. From looking at other cultures in Reception, to learning about icons of civil rights in English, to sharing stories and poems by important Black voices, we are enjoying commemorating Black History Month here at Gatehouse!



Miss Knowles (4G) has made this beautiful display to mark this month, showing many of the Black Britons who have contributed so much to our nation.

House Poetry Competition

Gatehouse, we are so excited to see your entries for the House Poetry Competition (Years R-6). One of the

most fun parts of my morning duties is hearing about choices and preparations for this competition!

I hope by now you have an idea of which poem you would like to prepare. Entries are due by Monday, November 2nd (so you have LOTS of time).

Mrs Roper

Grace's Amazing Cycling Challenge



Grace Fuentes-Broome (4G) has been doing something amazing this half-term. All through September Grace and her mummy, Lourdes, have been taking part in the 'Cycle4Sepsis' challenge to raise money for the [UK Sepsis Trust](#). The UKST charity exists to fight this life-threatening condition, stop preventable deaths and support those affected by sepsis.

If you would like to sponsor Grace on her mission to raise money for a great cause, her

fundraising page can be found at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lourdesandgrace>

Well done, Grace!

Roald Dahl Competition

Have you spotted Miss Dewar's brilliant pictures of some of our very own Gatehouse staff in a Quentin Blake style? We are all having fun guessing who's who as we travel around the school. Parents, if you'd like to join the fun the pictures are being shared on the school's [instagram](#) too!

We are loving seeing all the entries starting to arrive - we cannot wait to see how many more arrive before the deadline on **November 2nd!**

Mrs Roper

A Library Book Amnesty

Having recently taken over library duties, I'm acquainting myself with our fantastic and enormous catalogue of books!

I can see from our system there's a few missing, and would like to ask for your help with this. Please could you all have a look at home (looking on your bookshelves, hiding down the back of the sofa etc), in case you

should have any library books lurking at home. There will be a labelled box outside in the playground until the week after the half-term holidays for the return of any library books that have been elsewhere for a while.

Thank you!

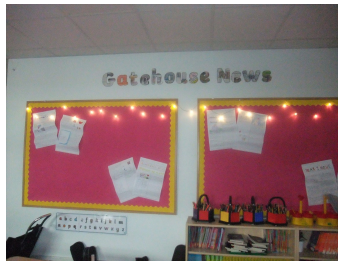
Ms Howe

Year 3 English

During our Harvest collection week, Year 3 wrote newspaper articles on the connection Gatehouse has with the First Love Foundation in Tower Hamlets.



We learned more about food banks, including the rising need for food donations due to COVID 19. Yasmine, who works at First Love, answered some of our questions and so we were able to quote her in our newspaper reports. Their busiest time is actually in the build-up to Christmas, so many of us are thinking of donating food and other items in December too. A display showing some of the excellent paired work is going up in 3V.



Ms Le Var

Inter-House Matches

Boys Football/Girls Netball - w/c 12th October (during Games lessons) - Years 3 to 6

Girls Football/Boys Netball - w/c 23rd November (during Games lessons) - Years 3 to 6

Mixed Dodgeball/Benchball - w/c 30th November (during Games lesson) - Years 3 to 6

Mixed Cross Country - w/c 30th November (during PE lesson) - Years 2 to 6

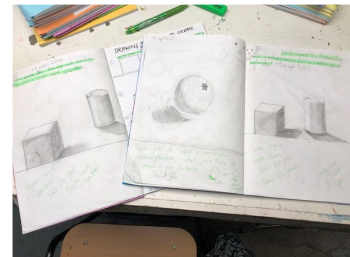
Multi-Sports - w/c 30th November (during PE lesson) - Reception

Mr Russell

Art Room Goings-on



Year 6 lovely Rose window observation drawings, using ratios and circular drawing frames.



Year 4 have been learning 3D shape and shading rules, with some lovely results!

Miss Dewar

Reading & Phonics

Thank you for attending the Reception and Year One Phonics and Reading Q&A last week. We hope that it was helpful. If you miss it, it can be found on Google Classroom. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us.



Miss Lagarde and Miss Reidy

Thank you to Miss Lagarde and Miss Reidy for inviting Ms Howe and me along to the Year 1 and Reception Q & A. It was really fascinating to chat with so many parents about our young readers.

Mrs Roper

News From Reception



Reception have had lots of fun over the last two weeks.

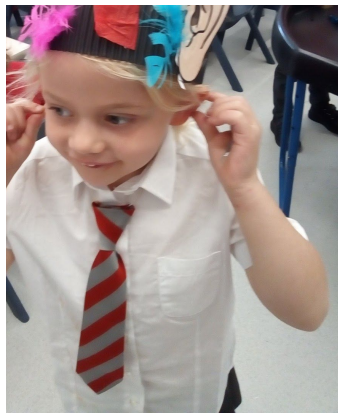


We have continued to focus on numbers 0-5 and how they can be represented in different ways and have been sorting and grouping different objects.



Within Literacy we have learnt a number of new 'red' words and have begun blending and segmenting simple words with the sounds we have learnt so far; m, a, s, d, t, i, n, p, g, o, c, k,

u, b, f.



In topic we have been using our five senses by smelling and tasting different foods, making 'good looking eyes' and 'listening ears', and using our sense of touch to guess objects in a bag.



We have also begun learning about Black History month, discussing how we are all different but equal and have made African masks and tried our hands at weaving. We have learnt a lot and have had lots of fun along the way!

Ms Korbay, Miss Lagarde, Mrs Savva and the Reception Team

House Points!

Another fortnight has gone by...so it's time for another count up. With

the term getting into full swing the house points are being given out thick and fast!

Before we get to the house totals, I thought it would be fun to tell you the year group earning the most house points each fortnight (and the two year groups just on their heels!). This fortnight the leaders are Year 4, with our UKS2 lovelies of Years 5 and 6 just behind them.

Onto the houses:

4th: Dragons (378 house points)

3rd: Sphinx (422 house points)

2nd: Phoenix (438 house points)

1st: Unicorns (451 house points)



Well done, Unicorns!

With house matches starting next week, and two competitions closing in early November, who knows who'll be in the lead next time? Well done to all our marvellous Gatehouse children for working so hard to earn house points!

Mrs Roper

Dates for Your Diary

Wednesday 14th October:

Flu immunisations -
Reception to Year 6

Nursery & Reception
Parents' Evening 4-8pm
(online)

Wednesday 28th: Year 1
Parents' Evening 4-8pm
(online)

Thursday 29th: Year 2
Parents' Evening 4-8pm
(online)

Friday 30th: Issue #58 of
the Gatehouse Bulletin
arrives!

*“Is not this a true
autumn day? Just the
still melancholy that I
love—that makes life
and nature harmonise.”*

George Eliot

