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GATEHOUSE SCHOOL BULLETIN

Friday, September 11th 2020

Issue number 55

HEAD'S WELCOME

Dear Parents and Children,

We have just completed our first full week at school, and what a wonderful week it has been!

The week started off with resuming the much missed year group assemblies. The focus for assemblies and PHSE this week was Gatehouse's 'Guiding Values', which you will find in the Behaviour Policy located on the website. The children were encouraged to discuss what they understood by the ideas of 'Respect', 'Accountability' and 'Concern', all of which are characteristics of the highest standards of behaviour. I do hope that some of you get an opportunity to discuss

this as a family over the weekend.

It is difficult to ignore that we have a constant battle with Covid-19 and the implications for everyone in all areas of our lives, not just education. However, please be assured that we will approach each challenge with the outstanding high standards that you expect from everyone at Gatehouse. The motto for this year is 'hope for the best, prepare for the worst', and if we adopt this motto during these difficult times there will be no surprises for what happens in between. May I ask that parents continue to support the school and each other with social distancing and wearing face masks where possible?
Structures in school

are ever changing to maintain the highest possible standards of safety, and we are trustful of our parents to continue to be vigilant and responsible whilst on the school premises and outside of school.

I am sure that you are all aware of the mental strain that the past months have placed upon both adults and children. Mrs Veitch's appointment as Head of Pastoral Care was a deliberate appointment as a means to support both children and families during these stressful times. Please do contact her with any concerns that can be supported pastorally.

To update you on what is going on behind the scenes, Mrs Roper continues to work on many exciting English

projects, Mr Islam is looking at expanding scientific experiments and Mr Fox is working on a Gatehouse School song amongst the many exciting projects that are bubbling away throughout the school day. I have appointed a secondary school maths specialist who has been observed by the Senior Leadership Team as an outstanding teacher of mathematics. He has very high credentials and will be an amazing addition and asset to the school and the maths department. He will start at Gatehouse on 5th October, three weeks before Mrs Alghatta begins her maternity leave. He will work with Mrs Alghatta for three weeks prior to her departure, which will provide a three week handover period which ensures an informed and seamless transition from one teacher to the other.

I would like to wish our alumni the very best of luck in their new schools, and I am certain that they will work hard and make us as proud in their new schools as they did when they attended Gatehouse.

A few housekeeping points for your attention. Would you please ensure that all children bring a named water bottle to school as staying hydrated is very important. Also, where possible, would you please try to stay 2 metres apart and wear a face mask as this added level of protection helps us all.

As always, the voice of our pupils and parents is very important, therefore the staff and I look forward to good communications to ensure that Gatehouse is and continues to be the VERY BEST! At this difficult time I want to continue to keep the school and parents connected. The annual 'Meet the Teacher' event is something that parents look forward to and find very productive. This year, to ensure continued communication with you, teachers will send out a powerpoint or bullet pointed communication Friday 11.9.2020, covering all the areas that would have been shared with you at the usual Meet the Teacher meeting. This will then be followed up with a Zoom event for a Question and Answer

session relating to the general year group information. This Zoom meeting will be conducted by the year group teachers collectively as one Zoom meeting, and will take place on **Wednesday 16th September from 4.30pm till 5pm.**

In addition to this a virtual tour of your child's classroom will be shared with parents to provide a preview of your child's classroom and learning environment. I hope that this goes some way to keeping you connected with the school and your child's learning experience at Gatehouse.

The calendar will be uploaded to the website next week as soon as it has been reviewed in line with the updated guidance which may change this weekend.

Please look out for the half-term holiday-club letter and details of the Year Six booster classes, which will be sent out next week.

Mrs Korbay

A note from the editor...

It is so nice to be back in school and working once again on an edition of the bulletin. We can't wait to share with you all about some of the brilliant goings-on here at Gatehouse.

Three small changes to note:

1. We are now a fortnightly bulletin, so please expect a lovely big issue every other week.
2. We have returned to Fridays!
3. You will no longer receive an edition via email, but instead Sue will send through a link to our full edition on the parents' area of the website. With so many teachers including snippets and photos of work and play, the bulletin has grown too big for email - please look instead for a link to the full version.

We hope you continue to enjoy these bulletins and look forward to sharing lots of lovely things.

Mrs Roper

The Gatehouse Roald Dahl Competition

We are delighted to announce our exciting Roald Dahl competition. Roald Dahl Day this year falls this Sunday (13th), and to commemorate his birthday month we would like to invite pupils from every year group, and others besides, to take part in this year's competition.

As you will be aware, part of the charm of Dahl's books are the beautiful illustrations by Quentin Blake. For this year's competition, we would like to invite everyone to do an illustration of their favourite Dahl character. You could try to mimic Blake's style, or devise an illustration all your own. If you wish to try something 3D (in clay, Lego, Play-doh) we would love to see it too!

As we cannot have pieces coming into school under COVID-19 rules, to enter please email a picture of your entry to Mrs Roper, with your child's name, form and house. We will print and display these around the school, and share on the school's

social media channels too. We hope this will be a fun and diverting project for our amazingly creative children (and their families!).

There are four groups for entries - Tinies (Years N-2), Middlies (Years 3 & 4), Bigs (Years 5 & 6) and TOFGs (Too Old For Gatehouse - older siblings, parents, carers and staff!).

Please email your entries in by **Monday, October 12th**. We will announce the winners and award prizes after half-term break! We will send these details our again in a separate email as a reminder, and will jog memories in upcoming editions of the bulletin/via our social media channels.

Happy creating!

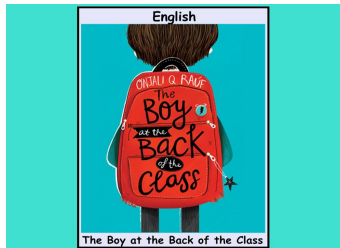
Mrs Roper & Ms Dewar

Year 6 English

It is absolutely wonderful to see that all Year 6 pupils have returned to school with such great enthusiasm!

In English lessons, we have started reading the enthralling book 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' by Onjali Q Rauf, and the

children are really enjoying it! We have been looking at book cover designs and making predictions about storylines ... it is interesting how much you can retrieve from an illustration!



We have written short recounts and have looked at ways to develop our comprehension skills. The term has started very well in English and the children are all back on track! It is an absolute joy to have them in class and I look forward to supporting and extending them all throughout the year, to ensure they all achieve their full potential in English. This week has been a particularly busy one for Year 6, as pupils have been sitting their progress tests and CAT4 assessments, but despite these being so early on in the term, the pupils have all remained focussed and have worked diligently.

I recommend that all pupils read avidly (texts of all genres) at

school and also at home, as this is the perfect recipe for educational success!

I look forward to another great fortnight ahead with Year 6!

Ms Furneaux

Swimming

While we await the restarting of swimming lessons (as you will appreciate, there are myriad factors to consider before implementing these), all children in KS2 (Years 3-6) will enjoy an additional PE lesson on the days when they would usually have swimming. Please, from next week, send your child in wearing their PE kit on the day they would normally have swimming.

This would be Tuesdays for Years 5 & 6 and 3M, and Fridays for Year 4, 3V, and 3D.

Key Stage 1 and Reception will enjoy some extra time with their class teachers for the meantime.

We will be in touch when any changes occur.

Mr Russell & the Games team

A Botanical Request

Following on from the beautiful hydrangea that was given to the school during the break, Ms Lenaerts is asking all parents if they have any indoor or outdoor plants and large plant pots that may be in need of an alternative home. She promises to look after them with love and care.



Year 4 English

Year 4 have jumped straight into their English with both feet! Our first topic is poetry and I am loving all the clever and interesting questions I am hearing - as well as enjoying some of the stunning, superb (and sometimes silly!) performances. What fun to start the year this way.

As well as reading and sharing a range of quality poetry, we also turned our hands to acrostics. I loved this

one, on Gatehouse,
from one of our newer
pupils.

Great school

Amazing place to learn

The best friends

Energetic children

Helpful teachers

Outstanding learners

Utter genius

School

Excellent all round!

By Arlo Stevenson
Bretton, 4G

More fabulous and fun
poetry to come!

Mrs Roper

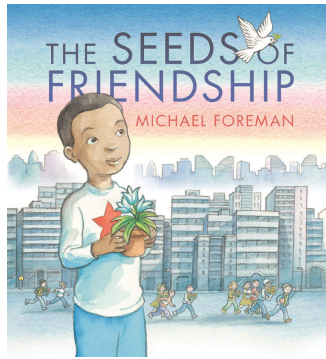
Uniform Sale

The second-hand
uniform sale will be
taking place on
Wednesday, September
16th between 6.30pm
and 7pm. Please wear a
mask if you are able.

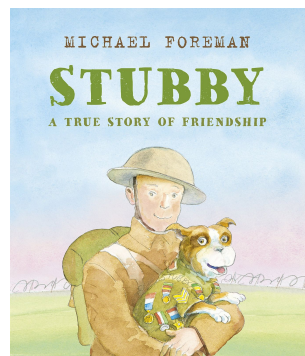
If you have any
donations, these can
be dropped into school
with Sue from today.

The GPA

Year 3 English



Year 3 have started
back with a look at
stories by Michael
Foreman. The children
have been identifying
themes in his books
and will be trying to
'magpie' his style next
week.



We have also been
focusing on the correct
tripod pencil grip and
how to present written
work. I've seen lots of
enthusiasm and effort
from our new Upper
Juniors!

Ms Le Var

Art begins...

Some wonderful
sketchbooks are being
made in the Art

room.... All ready for a
new year of projects!



Ms Dewar

Gatehouse Kitchen Garden

The Gatehouse Kitchen
Garden is looking
wonderful, with lots of
things ready to
harvest. There are
tomatoes, cabbages,
beetroot, shallots and
leeks.



The garden is also a
special quiet space for
those preferring not to
be the astro at break
times. Sitting amongst
all the greenery is
incredibly relaxing.
There will be more

GKG news coming soon!

Ms Le Var

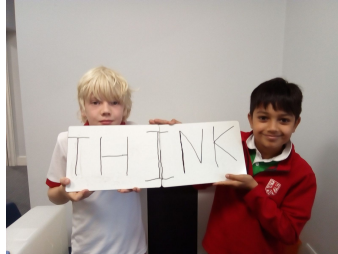
1H's Beautiful Buckets

1H Have had a fantastic start to the new school year. We have spoken about being kind to other people and how to 'fill up someone's bucket' by doing nice things. We read the book 'Have you filled a bucket today?' and then we decorated our own buckets. We each thought of a way that we would fill buckets both at school and at home. Here are some examples of the fabulous buckets we created.



Miss Hallworth

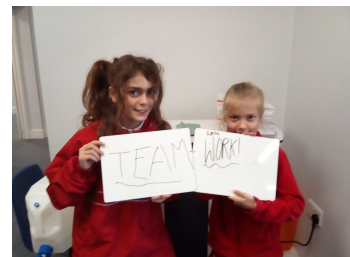
5R Guiding Values



In our normal assembly times this week 5R have been doing some brilliant brainstorming about the Gatehouse Guiding Values.



Yesterday we had a great discussion about what we felt should be 5R's focus words for this academic year. The children came up with some brilliant words for us to keep in mind as we kick off this busy and exciting year!



Mrs Roper

Science is BACK!

Children in Years 3 to 6 have made a wonderful start in Science. We have an action packed year learning about the many wonders of Science and a ton of experiments. I cannot

wait to reveal the many surprises I have planned for them all!

Mr Islam

House Points!

The other evening while I was beavering away with some English planning, I received an email from a KS2 pupil with a very sensible question.

“What are we doing about house points, Mrs R?”

Naturally, with bubbles and trying to limit sharing of resources, we can't use the usual tokens for count ups. I imagine I hear the washing machines of East London breathing a sigh of relief at not having to try to digest so many plastic discs, which seem to congregate in pockets at any given opportunity!

The teachers now have a spreadsheet for collecting house points, so if a grown up awards them to you they will all get counted. Every Friday in form time (and every fortnight in the bulletin) I will update

the school on which house is in the lead.

Good luck Gatehouse, I cannot wait to see how many house points you receive for marvellous manners, excellent English, magnificent maths, super sport...and everything else besides!

Mrs Roper

Science Homework for Years 3-6

A quick note about homework in Science. All homework will be set on Google Classroom for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. Please can you check your child's email to make sure that they have accepted the invite I have sent to join their class's homework group.

Thank you for all your support.

Mr Islam

Nursery

A very warm welcome to all our new Nursery children. We are delighted to have you with us at Gatehouse!

The Nursery team

Student Journalists

As we continue to look at ways to give our students opportunities to gain skills and contribute to school life, I am delighted to announce the Gatehouse Student Journalist programme.

As well as editing the bulletin, I also work on weekly happy emails and a general knowledge quiz for our students in KS2 (Years 3-6), and I've decided it's time I recruited a team. This evening I will share a document with Year 6 where they can sign up to become student journalists - they can become reporters for the bulletin, researchers for the emails, or quizmasters for the general knowledge quizzes. Naturally as Year 6 is a very busy year this role will be flexible on a child-by-child basis, but I am excited to involve the pupils ever more in the school's communications.

I look forward to seeing which Year 6 pupils might like to join my team and will be scheduling our first (socially distanced!) meeting in the next

fortnight to kick things off. Later in the year I would love to involve some of our younger children too - watch this space.

Mrs Roper

“And once the storm is over, you won’t remember how you made it through, how you managed to survive. You won’t even be sure, whether the storm is really over. But one thing is certain. When you come out of the storm, you won’t be the same person who walked in. That’s what this storm’s all about.”

Haruki Murakami

