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GATEHOUSE SCHOOL BULLETIN

Friday, September 25th 2020

Issue number 56

HEAD'S WELCOME

Dear Parents,

I want to begin by thanking you all for your words of encouragement and support during these difficult times. Your patience and understanding has helped to ensure that all of the children have returned to school safely, and your continued support also ensures that this high level of vigilance and priority to safety is maintained. The motto on my desk is never more relevant as it is now - *'if you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together'*. Whilst on the subject of mottos that help to keep us all going, my other motto, *'hope for the best and prepare for the worst'* also springs to mind as we continue to hear the daily news of more

restrictions to come. I cannot emphasise enough how much our success this year is down to us all working together for the same outcome - the safety and progress of the children.

The week started off with Year Six helping me with the Harvest Festival assembly, discussing our roles as individuals and a community and also discussing the importance of charity and the impact that this has upon the community. Thank you for the generous donations of food for the Love Foundation Charity, all of which will be welcomed by those members of the community who are less fortunate than us.

Mrs Alghatta and Mrs Bell continue to work on raising the profile

of maths in school. Mr Rice will join them on 5th October and I look forward to the exciting maths challenges and innovative ideas ahead.

I have some good news to share with regard to staffing. Mrs Gately was a fantastic librarian for Gatehouse School and we benefited greatly from her hard work, dedication and enthusiasm for all things literary. Pleasingly, we now have Ms Howe, now former teaching assistant in Year 3, who will take over library duties immediately. Ms Howe is very excited about taking up this post and she is determined to raise the profile of the love of story-telling and book reading throughout the school.

Congratulations to Mr Islam on his recent marriage. We wish him and his new wife all the best for the future.

Mr Saj is sadly leaving us immediately to relocate out of London. Congratulations to him and his fiancé on their soon to be wedding. Mr Saj was a great asset to our SEND Department and will be greatly missed.

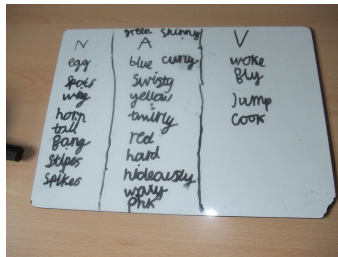
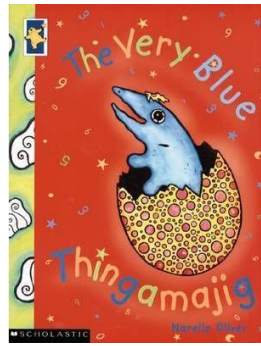
More than ever I wish you all safe and well, and if I can be of service please do let me know.

Mrs Korbay

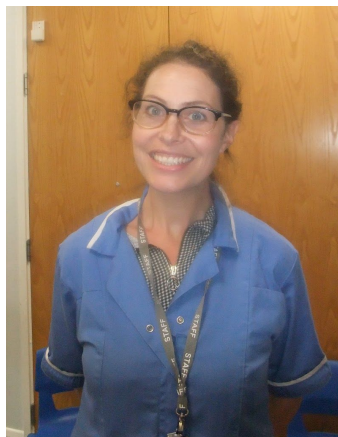
Year 3 English

I am loving the chance to sell the idea of fun Grammar Wednesdays to a whole new group of children. Year 3 enjoyed trying to spot the nouns, verbs and adjectives used in the story of *The Very Blue Thingamajig*.

The story is a bit like the Very Hungry Caterpillar in its shape but a bit more crazy!



Year 3 also wrote about an invaluable member of the Gatehouse team - Nurse Freya.



She was assisted in her work by Stubby, a dog that features in a Michael Foreman book. We imagined Stubby carrying First Aid boxes and barking for help near the big equipment in the playground.

Ms Le Var

CAKES!

The kind of headline that can only be all caps - Ed.

We've had a few enquiries about the safety precautions around cakes coming in for birthday celebrations. We wanted to reshare the information within the Risk Assessment (we appreciate with COVID rules there are lots of pieces of information to keep in mind!).

On birthday cakes:

- All food brought in from off premises must be from a catering organisation that follows all Health and Safety procedures and have their own Risk Assessment.
- All products must be nut free and have a list of ingredients

Thank you for your support on this and keeping our school safe for children and staff.

House Points!

The children have been beavering away in class and around school and have started to pick up plenty of house points.

The current totals are:

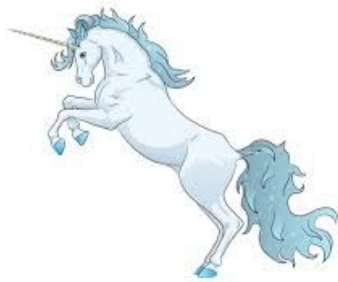
Dragons: 81

Phoenix: 95

Sphinx: 92

Unicorns: 101

So the current leaders are UNICORNS!



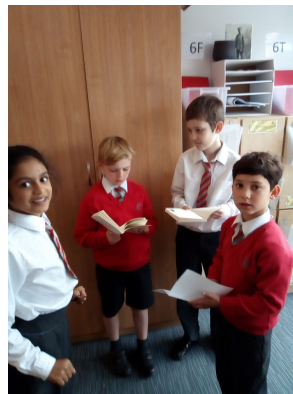
Well done to all children earning house points - another update from me in two weeks!

Mrs Roper

Year 4 Poetry



Up in the turret Year 4 have been having lots of fun with poetry. From sharing and performing poems, to learning about different poetic techniques, we have been very busy.



Now we are turning our energy to writing different poems. 4G collaborated to write these super haikus - we submitted ideas to a class jamboard about rain...



...then wrote this beautiful haiku.

The Rain Through 4G's Window

Rain patters outside

Time to put our raincoats on

Splashing time awaits

By 4G

Next we chatted with our talk partners to brainstorm words and phrases about waterfalls, and we wrote this poem together.

The Mysterious Misty Waterfall

Water goes crish crash

Up in the snowy mountains

Mystery awaits

By 4G

Doesn't it just sweep you away?

We are excited to work on our tankas next!

Mrs Roper

Student Journalists

I am delighted to announce the first batch of student journalists - as we speak (or should that be as we type?) they are beavering away on their first stories. Our team so far is:

Niyah Bibi Balfour

Evanna Eze
Zak Fellows
Theodora Gaster
Lulu Hayman
Kiril Iliev
Jacob Knowles
Aydin Kutluca
Olivia McGann
Isobel Millgate
Eve Phillips
Felicity Russell
Gabriel Sachdev
Nico Sachdev
Kitty Sinclair
Charlotte Tilsley
Stevie Valensi
Alfie Wylie

I am delighted to be working alongside them - look out for their bylines in an upcoming edition, or perhaps they add some fiendishly fun questions to our next general knowledge quiz?

Year 6, if you missed the sign up sheet, there will be an opportunity to sign up the week before half-term break and I'll roll more journalists on after the holiday.

Mrs R

News from Reception



Reception have learned so much over the last two weeks. In Maths we explored representing numbers and place value of number 5, as well as revisiting 1,2,3,4 from last week. In literacy, we focused on learning our new sounds d,t,i, n,p,g and how to write them but we also learnt how to read I, of, my, the, your and to which are tricky words. In topic, we explored sharing and being kind to each other and made pictures using natural materials.



Ms Korbay, Ms Lagarde & Mrs Savva

Dates for your diary

Monday 28th

September: Progress Tests in Science this week (Years 4, 5 and 6)

Wednesday 30th:

4.30pm - Zoom Reading and Phonics follow-up Question and Answer meeting - **Reception and Year 1.**

October: Black History Month

Thursday 1st October:

National Poetry Day

Poetry Recitation launch (via email to **parents** and Google Classrooms to children)

Monday 5th: CAT4

Assessments this week (Year 3, 4 and 5)

“Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence win championships.”

Michael Jordan

