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## GATEHOUSE SCHOOL BULLETIN

Friday, December 4th 2020

Issue number 60

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### HEAD'S WELCOME

Dear Parents,

What a wonderful term it has been. The children have worked very hard and have enjoyed an inspirational and fun-filled term.

Whilst it has been understandably difficult to organise external extra-curricular activities this term, it has been equally difficult to organise in-house events due to bubble regulations. However, events for Harvest, the Roald Dahl Competition, House Poetry, maths quizzes, Black History Month, Anti-Bullying week, Halloween, Bonfire Night, art competitions and visiting companies sharing Christmas theatre shows have

been carefully planned, in addition to smaller in-house events to ensure that the continuity of creativity and love of learning continues in different mediums. The PE Department has arranged house competitions in football, netball, cross-country and more and for next term, subject teachers are exploring ISA and IAPS for enriching competition opportunities; we are planning to compete in drama and cultural competitions.

Gatehouse is strongly driven by pupil ambition and dedication, and I could not be prouder of our Gatehouse family and community. Therefore, as a reward to say thank you to you all as we enter a new year, I would like to

share with you all that I am currently looking for a new addition to the Gatehouse family which will be our Gatehouse Dog. We hope the children will embrace many skills and opportunities to learn whilst planning, managing and looking after the dog. The breed of the puppy chosen will be hypoallergenic and I hope to have our new addition by the Summer Term (all being well).

I wish you all a safe and love-filled Merry Christmas. I hope that Christmas will bring family and friends together for you all, and remind us all to appreciate the love that we have in our lives.

**Mrs Korbay**

## Christmas Jumper Day

It's nearly here! On Friday 11th December we will be enjoying Christmas Jumper Day and raising money for Save the Children. Please do seek out a festive jumper, hoodie or tee-shirt to wear as we raise money for this worthy cause, and celebrate the end of a very busy term. In addition to your Christmas jumper, home clothes may be worn.

Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 6, your teachers/TAs will have a bag or a tin to collect your donations as you come to them in the morning. For Years 2, 4 and 5 I will be stationed down in the playground first thing on morning duty where the children can give in their donations. I will be looking suitably festive and will be easy for the children to find! Year 3, while we can't have you with us we would LOVE to see your Christmassy jumpers online.

Thank you in advance for your support of this initiative.

**Mrs Roper**

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## An Interview with Mrs Moll

Ruby and I sat down with Miss Moll and did an interview about how she felt being the new deputy head. We think most of us are excited about Miss Moll being the deputy head and want to see what changes she and Mrs Korbay make.

How do you feel about being the new deputy head of Gatehouse?

*I feel ecstatic and proud and cannot wait to work closely with Mrs Korbay.*

What are you looking forward to about being the deputy head?

*I am excited about working closely with Mrs Korbay and being involved with the whole school.*

What changes would you like to make to the school?

*I like so much of what we do, but there's always lots to change and improve with teaching and learning.*

How long have you been teaching at Gatehouse?

*27 years*

If you were not a teacher what would you be?

*I would like to work with charities which help children and own a cheese shop.*

Time for a Quick Fire round!

Cat or Dog ?

*Dog*

Film or book ?

*Book*

Tea or Coffee ?

*Tea*

Netball or Football ?

*Football*

Hot dog or Burger ?

*Burger*

Pizza or Pasta ?

*Pizza*

Thank you to Mrs Moll for taking the time to do this interview with us.

**Amba Coleman and  
Ruby Philips, student  
journalists**

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## House Poetry Competition

Gatehouse Greathouse, well done! I have been absolutely bowled over by the sheer number and quality of entries for this year's House Poetry Competition!

This being 2020 we had to pivot and do

this event a little differently, but your videos have been a delight to review and enjoy. I know many classes have also enjoyed watching them together and sharing some super poems!

Ultimately, I have decided to not award individual prizes for this event as it was, quite simply, impossible to choose this time around. I could see in each and every performance the hard work and effort that had gone into the work.

The budget I had allocated for individual prizes I will be spending on adding some more poetry selections to the library for all classes to enjoy in their sessions with Miss Howe or for individual reading. I have also added two house points to the tally for each child who participated.

In the house competition the results were:

- 1st: Dragons
- 2nd: Phoenix
- 3rd: Unicorns
- 4th: Sphinx

## Well done, Dragons!

Mrs Roper

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### Year 5 on the School Council

We sat down with the newly elected School Council members for Year 5 - Sammy, Stella, Matthew and Tim - to ask them about why they wanted to join the school council, their plans for this year, and a few fun, quick-fire questions.

What are your ideas for the future of Year 5 and maybe even the school?

*Tim: I want more football involved in our school and everyone to try and be even more eco friendly.*

*Matthew: I want the school to be much more eco friendly and to waste less food at lunch. I'd also like to see us introduce some cricket nets.*

*Stella: I would like to make the uniforms more eco friendly.*

*Sammy: I would like to improve the school lunches and help the school to be more eco friendly.*

Which events are you most looking forward to?

*Matthew: I am looking forward to the Mayor's office and helping in the food banks.*

*Stella: I would like to go to the Houses of Parliament, it looks so professional!*

*Sammy: I would like to go to the Houses of Parliament too.*

*Tim: I am really looking forward to the meetings.*

What charity would you like to support?

*Stella: I would support the RSPCA.*

*Sammy: I support the food bank Gatehouse School does in the Spring.*

*Tim: I would support the food banks.*

*Matthew: I would support Young Minds charity or Battersea Dogs & Cats home.*

How did you think the school council will help you in the future?

*Sammy: It will help in job and school interviews.*

*Tim: I think it will help me make choices and I can help Year 5.*

Matthew: *I think it will teach me to help people that are not as fortunate.*

Stella: *It will help you if you want to work in debate and parliament.*

If you could change your selection speech, would you, and if so, why?

Tim: *I think my speech was good.*

Matthew: *I thought my speech was good but I would change it so it wasn't so dramatic.*

What is your favourite school council idea so far?

Tim: *I like the idea that we should have football.*

Matthew: *I want cricket nets for all the pupils who love cricket.*

Stella: *School lunch changes. So that once a month or week we could suggest meals to the kitchen staff.*

Sammy: *Boys and girls should not always be separated in PE and Games.*

Is there anything you are all thinking of doing together? Like a project?

Tim and Matthew: *We would like to expand the repertoire of sports at Gatehouse.*

Stella and Sammy: *We don't know yet, but we hope to do one soon though.*

Quick fire questions:

Cat or Dogs?

T, S, S: *Dogs!*

M: *Cats!*

Raspberries or strawberries?

All: *Strawberries*

PJs or Onesie?

All: *PJs!*

Sun or snow?

Matthew: *Sun*

T, S, S: *Snow*

Books or TV?

All: *TV!*

Thank you to all our school council members for taking the time to do this interview. We can't wait to see what you achieve!

**Lola Elias and Scarlett Grunberg**, student journalists

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### Year 5 English

Year 5 have really thrown themselves into their latest English topic - persuasive writing, speech and debate.



Their persuasive letters have been brilliant (and are heading to Mrs Korbay shortly), their debating skills are blossoming, and I cannot wait to see what they cook up for their speech projects over the Christmas break.



We have had great fun in class debating various motions, from 'Children should choose their own timetable' to 'Packed lunches versus cooked school meals.'



The children have done fantastically with being assigned teams and positions and keeping debates sharp, clear, and never too personal.



I spy some future lawyers and politicians in the Year 5 cohort!



Here's what some of 5R think of debate thus far, in their own words:

*"I have loved debating because I love to argue but in a friendly way."*

Hugo

*"I really love debate because you can argue without getting sad and it is fun because*

*everyone gets at least two goes at speaking."*

Lola

*"I've really enjoyed debates because I felt like I could say anything about a subject and have my voice heard and get my point across."*

Maria

*"I really like debate even if I lose because it's fun to research and talk to others about a subject. It expands your vocabulary and takes away stress because you're ranting sophisticatedly."*

Scarlett

*"I really like debating as it is very thrilling and exciting. It has been a wonderful adventure."*

Tim

*"I think debating is an amazing skill in your later life."*

Xavier

**Mrs Roper**

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### House Cross-Country

Autumn and Winter is the season for Cross Country! It's such a fun and exciting topic although it can be very competitive.

Gatehouse pupils have been training every week pushing

themselves for the one and only Cross Country House Competition. Our great P.E coaches have been making us try our very best! We have been learning how to pace ourselves for long distances and endurance, finding good strategies to go the extra mile.

Everyone has been working very hard.

All pupils have a very different opinion about Cross Country, some think it's great and fun but others are not so fond of it. I personally feel it is fabulous and if I was frustrated or upset then I could just run and let out steam!

Mrs Roper and I asked some pupils their perspective on Cross Country, here's what they said...

How do you feel about Cross Country?

*I think it's really fun and inspiring, I love running!*

Patrik, 6T

*I really like cross-country as it's a nice way to have some time outside with all your friends.*

Lola, 5R

*It's a great way to get exercise and a fun way too!*

Matthew, 5R

*It's fun unless it's really cold!*

Scarlett, 5R

*It's a wonderful experience to get fit and really nice because you compete against other kids.*

Tim, 5R

What pros and cons can you think of about Cross Country?

*A pro would be that it's good exercise; the con might be it's long!*

Jules, 6F

Finally, I would like to share the KS2 Cross Country House Competition scores!

#### **Year 4**

1st place = Sphinx with a total of 28 points

2nd place = Phoenix with a total of 15 points

3rd place = Dragons with a total of 9 points

4th place = Unicorns with a total of 3 points

The top ten runners were:

1. Kyrio Taylor-Achu

2. AJ Warman

3. Rhys Phillips

4. Joseph Bussman

5. Edan Boardman

6. Leon McQuhae

7. Arlo Stevenson-Bretton

8. Kash Thompson

9. Beatrice Pain

10. Scarlett Wheeldon-Doyle

Well done Year Fours!

#### **Year 5**

1st place = Dragons with a total of 19 points

2nd place = Phoenix with a total of 15 points

3rd place = Sphinx with a total of 14 points

4th place = Unicorns with a total of 8 points

The top ten runners were:

1. Callum Whiteside

2. Matthew Noblet

3. Billy-Roy Ballard

4. Remy Coventry-Walsh

5. Lola Elias

6. Isaac Walton-Gardiner

7. Reiss Masferre

8. Mark Teh

9. Ela Liddell

10. Joe Ashcroft

Well done Year Fives!

#### **Year 6**

1st place = Dragons with a total of 19 points

2nd place = Phoenix with a total of 17 points

3rd place = Unicorns with a total of 13 points

4th place = Sphinx with a total of 6 points

The top ten runners in Year 6 were:

1. Patrik Stromgren

2. Zac Fellows

3. Nico Sachdev

4. Heath Boardman

5. Cy Jones

6. Alex Brown

7. Fred Grimshaw-Bevan

8. Amber McLean

9. Enzo Shearman

10. Zac Franco

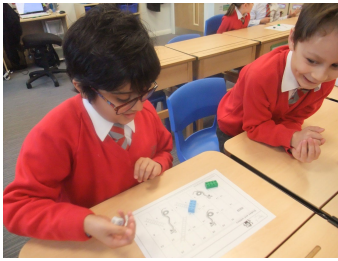
Well done Year Six!

**Lulu Hayman**, student journalist

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## Year 3 English



This term has been a whirlwind of exciting topics in Year 3 English. To finish the term we moved rapidly from watching a film in Hindi, to writing a report on a musical instrument and finally revising instructional writing. To extend the important knowledge gained in instructions in Year 2, we broaden the topic by adding in explanations.

Playing Snakes and Ladders had us following instructions and so did paired drawing. It's hard to draw a pineapple wearing a party hat and sunglasses when you haven't seen the original image!



We start the new term with our Year 3 Film Event as an opener to

our first story writing topic. Exciting times ahead!

Ms Le Var

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## Year 4 English

In Year 4 we have just finished our class reader, *The Sheep-Pig*. It has been so lovely to share the story together and we have learned SO many new words to use in our own writing! I asked a few of 4G what they thought about this story and our class reader sessions. Here's what they had to say:

*"I found it exciting. I really enjoy when we read the story together, and when Mrs Roper reads too. I think the moral of the story is to always believe in yourself and what you want to be."*

Isky

*"I think the Sheep-Pig is really interesting - the bigger chapters are a bit dramatic! My favourite characters are Babe and Ma."*

Grace FB

*"The story of The Sheep-Pig is very fun. I like Farmer Hoggett because he cares for the pig."*

Dante

*"I like The Sheep-Pig. My favourite character is Fly to dog because she is brave and bossy! The map of the course looked very fun."*

Serena

Well done on this topic, Year 4! I'm excited to move on to our next focus - stories from other cultures - next half-term!

Mrs Roper

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## Road Safety Week

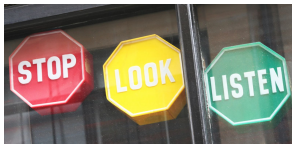


Nursery would like to say thank you to Year 5 for all their hard work with Road Safety Week. Year 5 have prepared posters, presentations and videos for Nursery children to teach them how to be safe on the road and how to cross the road safely. They have covered :

-The importance of holding hands with an adult when near or crossing a road-

Using the Green Cross Code: Stop, Look, Listen

- Being safe within a car (using seat belts, car seats etc)
- Being safe on a scooter or bike(using helmets, controlling speed etc)
- Recognising key traffic signs and noises



Well done Year 5 for sharing your knowledge , Nursery children have really enjoyed learning from you!

**Mme Moisy**

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### **An interview with Mr Betts**

We have enjoyed having Mr Betts to help in our PE and Games lessons this term. We decided to interview him to see how he has found joining Gatehouse.

How are you finding it at Gatehouse?

*Good, the children are lovely.*

Can it be overwhelming to teach a class of children?

*Only when the students are talking and not listening.*

What's your favourite colour?

*Light blue.*

What football team do you support?

*West Ham.*

Quick Fire!

Tea or coffee?

*Coffee*

Cats or dogs?

*Dogs*

Christmas or Halloween?

*Christmas*

Apples or bananas?

*Apples*

Bleu or Ella?

*Both*

Thank you to Mr Betts for joining us for our interview.

**Ella Westbrook and Bleu Williams**, student journalists

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### **Bulletin Thanks**

A short festive thank you to all our contributors and our readers for their support of the bulletin. I love editing this and having the chance to share a slice of the goings-on here at Gatehouse each fortnight. Happy

Christmas and very best wishes for 2021.

**Mrs Roper**

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*"I don't think Christmas is necessarily about things. It's about being good to one another."*

**Carrie Fisher**

