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GATEHOUSE SCHOOL BULLETIN

Friday, April 30th 2021

Issue number 61

HEAD'S WELCOME

Dear Parents

It has been a wonderful second week back to school, and every day is filled with fantastic work from the children, but even more importantly the school is filled with kindness, positivity and the Gatehouse Greathouse qualities that make our pupils shine.

Those children appointed to pupil leadership roles are very much present and visible around the school, working hard and planning positive changes. I had a productive meeting with the Head and Deputy Head Pupil Leadership Team this week, and I will update you further on their

input to Gatehouse life as the term develops. Pupil leadership is an important part of moving towards accepting more responsibility as we get older, and helps with the preparation for the move to life beyond Gatehouse. Many skills are developed in Year 6, and it is wonderful to see the pupils in this year group mature in their ability to build relationships, work collaboratively within teams, carve out individual identities and undertake tasks with more independence.

Mrs Moll and I are working hard to find the right dog for Gatehouse, and for those of you who have undertaken the

process of buying exactly the right kind of dog you will understand that this will be going on for a little while longer. I will keep you updated.

It has been delightful to see the pupils back in the lunch hall eating a wonderful range of delicious food. This eating experience was much missed and the return to the hall has been a huge success! We have had many birthday cake orders and the chef is looking forward to providing cakes that each class can enjoy, and I am delighted that so many of you see this service as a way to make life a little easier.

After School activities are bubbling away each day when learning

finishes, and as I walk around the building after saying goodbye in the playground I am very aware that it is more and more like the Gatehouse of old, pre-pandemic days; I am sure that all of you will be with me in hoping that this continues.

My final thanks is to the wonderful GPA for a great uniform sale; despite the rain they turned up to provide parents with value uniform, with everyone continuing to support Gatehouse as wonderfully as ever.

My quote today reflects the wonderful foundation of an excellent, solid and nurturing education, reflected in our amazing Year 6's in their new leadership roles who, in their final term, are looking forward to new pastures; *'We never leave our roots. We just grow new branches.'* (Audrey Meadows).

Mrs Korbay

A Snack Question

On morning duty today I had a brilliant chat with some of our smaller folk about fruit snacks - those lovely healthy treats that give us an energy burst midmorning to help with all that learning. It got my curious brain thinking...I wonder what Gatehouse's favourite 'fruit snack' is? Expect a survey soon as I aim to quiz the school. There may even be a spreadsheet in my future!

Mrs Roper

News from the School Gates!



The sun is out and so are the dogs of Gatehouse!

A small selection is shown here, and much like our Gatehouse children, you'll be

pleased to know these canines are very well-behaved.





It is a pleasure to be at the school gates each day with Lee (the non official dog handler) welcoming and saying goodbye to you all, it is particularly lovely as so many of the children show off their good manners and growing confidence in wishing us a good day too!



Ms Veitch

Sports News

Following on from the amazing news of Callum Whiteside joining Millwall long-term, we have some more sporting success stories to celebrate.

Leo Knowles is currently trialing with Millwall and has been progressing well.

Nico Tatton-Bennet (1C) was spotted by Chelsea scouts whilst playing for East End Lions and has been training with them. Nico has expressed his enjoyment in playing at the club, even though he is not particularly fond of Chelsea!

Away from football, we have also had some success with our future cricket stars. Felicity Russell (6F) has been selected to play for Essex, and both Mark Teh and Xavier Keogh

have been selected to represent East London Borough Under 10s.



Mr Russell

Library News

What an amazing start to the Summer Term we've all had!

It's been a particularly joyous couple of weeks introducing and re-introducing all the children back into the Library. Unfortunately we still aren't quite at the point where we can issue books to take home, but we have all SO enjoyed being back in our beautiful Library space and all the fantastic books.

A reminder that the Library artwork competition will close on Friday 14th of May, so the children still have lots of time to submit their entries.

You can do this by bringing your work in to me, or emailing it to library@gatehouseschool.co.uk. Winners will be chosen and announced on our World Book Day dress up day on Friday 28th May.

Mrs Howe

Oklahoma!

In Thursday's assembly slot the production team for Oklahoma!, this year's Year 6 show, were delighted to meet the children and discuss our production.

Auditions will be conducted online, and are due by May 14th. All details, and a space for uploading your auditions, can be found on the Oklahoma! Google Classroom, where you can also ask us any questions you may have. We cannot wait to see what you come up with, Year 6.

Everyone else, keep your eyes peeled for details of this musical extravaganza later in the term!

Mrs Roper (on behalf of the Oklahoma! team)

School Picture Day!

Don't forget that class photos will take place on Thursday, May 13th.

Please wear your winter uniform - no blazers required.

Year 3 English



All Year 3 children planned, polished and wrote a POEM in a POT! Our animal Kenning poems look great on colourful lolly sticks and everyone really enjoyed the unusual way of displaying a poem.



Our focus on handwriting is going very well. Home schooling didn't lend itself to lots of handwritten tasks and so we are catching up now. Next week the children will submit a

poem for the handwriting competition that Mrs Roper is organising - fantastic motivation to "Pinchy, pinchy, hold your pencil properly!".



Finally, Year 3 finished off their poetry topic with a special visitor, as inspiration for some cat haiku poems. There will be more about that in the next bulletin...

Ms Le Var

Autism Awareness Week

This week the school has been celebrating Autism Awareness Week. We had a series of assemblies and class lessons explaining to children what autism is and did activities to help us understand the difficulties people on the autistic spectrum may encounter and how we can support them. We learnt that autism is a spectrum condition and that although there are a number of similarities between people with autism, they can vary a

lot. We learnt why it is important and useful to understand about differences and how they enrich our school and our lives.

Some children at Gatehouse very bravely spoke about their experiences of being a child with autism, and helped their classmates to understand some of the things they find difficult, and some of the things they might also find easy and excel at.

We want everyone to understand four things about autism that autistic people and families say are most important to them. These are that autistic people can:

- Feel anxiety about changes or unexpected events
- Be under- or over-sensitive to sound, smells, light, taste and touch (this is called sensory sensitivity)
- Face high levels of anxiety in social situations
- Have difficulties communicating

and interacting with others

Thank you to all the children who helped us this week to understand more about autism.

Ms Veitch

Maths News

Wednesday and Thursday of this week saw Years 5 and 6 pit their wits against the machinations of the UKMT and their Maths challenge. 1 hour of brain-taxing, skill-testing mathematical problems and questions were dispatched with much skill and elan and we await the results to find out if any can become a “Kangaroo”.

Mr Rice

“In the spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours.”

Mark Twain

