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GATEHOUSE SCHOOL BULLETIN

Friday, May 14th 2021

Issue number 62

HEAD'S WELCOME

Dear Parents,

Another wonderful week at Gatehouse, with the children working hard, both in class and during their assessments.

Following on from my update on the lunch hall in the previous bulletin, I am delighted to let you know that Den, our Chef, and Many, our Sous Chef, have been visiting the children in class, discussing with them what their favourite dishes are and what else can be done to improve the school lunch experience.

It was good to have Tempest, the school photographers back in school, and all of the children looked smart

and full of smiles for the classroom photos.

To follow is a more detailed outline of staffing changes in September, but the first staffing announcement is that the much missed Head of Music, Mr Mackinnon, will return from paternity leave in June. Mr Mackinnon will resume teaching music and running the Music Department, and Mr Fox will work with the Year 6 students on the play. Mr Fox will stay with Gatehouse in September, working part time alongside Mr Mackinnon, and this is very much linked with my plans to build upon the excellent music provision at Gatehouse by developing an Arts and Cultures

Department; art, music and languages are all essential for developing creativity, inventiveness and exploring a range of cultures, and this expansion of staff is the first step towards ensuring that Gatehouse is striving to deliver even more for our budding artists, linguists and musicians.

Other staffing news is that in September we will welcome back Mrs Alghatta from maternity leave, who will resume as Year 4 maths and form teacher. Mr Rice will teach Year 5 maths and also be a form teacher. Mr Crisp will continue to work with Mr Rice teaching maths, but will also provide extra maths for our Year 6

students sitting entrance exams in the Autumn and Spring Terms, and also offer extra maths sessions to both Year 6s and Year 5s.

Ms Dodd, currently working with Ms Pinarbasi in Year 2, will undertake teacher training in Year 1 from September. Mrs Moll will be one of the Year 6 form teachers, with Ms Tighe focussing on teaching maths to Year 6's and also attending to her role as Designated Safeguarding Lead. Ms Tsatsaros will be one of the Year 4 form teachers and teach English across Year 4.

Michelle Rowe will join Gatehouse as a PE teacher with a specialism in netball, and Mr Denton, with us for two terms, will leave us to undertake a PE post. Mr Denton has promised us links with his new school, and I look forward to keeping him to that! And finally, Mrs Roper will sadly be leaving us to embark on an exciting next chapter in her life (this involves a new country but I won't spoil the

surprise - I will let her tell you herself!).

As always, the children keep growing into wonderful and able young people, staff changes are sometimes sad, but there is also excitement at new energy arriving at Gatehouse and there are always plans to make Gatehouse Greathouse better in every area because all children and their families deserve the best education.

Today's quote is about determination, progress and change; 'whatever the mind of man can conceive and believe, it can achieve.' (Napoleon Hill)

Mrs Korbay

Handwriting Competition

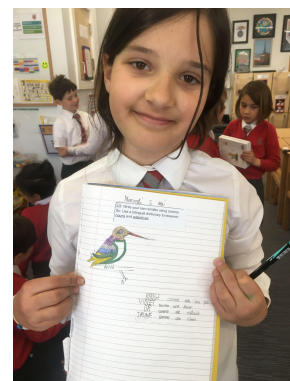
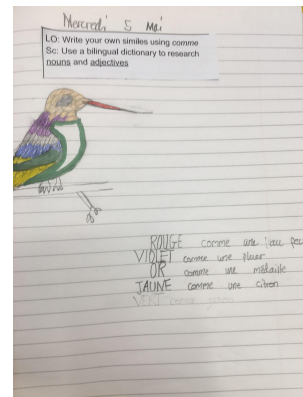
The school has been buzzing with the melodious scratching of pens and pencils as children in Years 1 - 6 aim to turn out some beautiful work for the Gatehouse Handwriting Competition! I cannot wait to see the results and to announce the winners next week! My thanks to the English

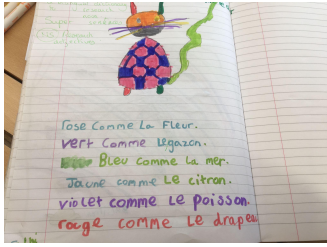
department stars for their help co-ordinating this event.

Mrs Roper

News from the French Department

Year 3 had fun writing similes in French and they explored researching nouns in a bilingual dictionary.





Mme Moisy

What is Democracy?



This week in our assemblies and form times the classes at Gatehouse have been thinking about the importance of DEMOCRACY in the UK. Children found out about the elections from last week, the way democracy works in this country and how they can get their feelings and voices heard as the next generation of voters.

In Key Stage 2 the children talked about who is allowed to vote, if the age of voting should go down to 16 years old as some people are suggesting, what role the queen has to play in democracy and the way government is organised in the UK. As ever there was lots of lively debate and really interesting

viewpoints shared, leaving me sure the country is in safe hands with these future voters and potential future leaders!

Ms Veitch

Ripple the Poetry Cat

To finish off our poetry topic, Year 3 had a special visitor. Ripple, who is my Cornish Rex house cat, came to inspire our young poets.



It was hugely exciting and Ripple behaved impeccably.



We wrote some acrostic poems and some haikus but actually realised that it

is quite difficult to write a poem when there is a cat walking around the classroom!



Ms Le Var

Wanted



With the timetable flexing to make space for testing over the past fortnight, 5R ended up with an extra English lesson (what a treat!). We decided to use our time widely, creating a crop of supervillains who now peer down upon us as we work away...



Mrs Roper

Year 6 girls Football vs St Aubyn's



On Friday 7th May we took a team of year 6 pupils to play against St Aubyn's school. Squad: Millie C (GK), Amy A (Captain), Niyah B, Olivia M, Flick R, Charlotte T (Captain), Lulu H, Amber M, Evanna E. This was the first time the team have ever played together and they played well and gave 110% until the last whistle. St Aubyns won the game but the girls should be proud of their performances as we defended well and showed some good attacking passages of play. Player of the match went to Evanna

who was superb at winning the ball back for her team in the second half and did a great job of dribbling the ball into good attacking areas. This was certainly good preparation for the ISA area championship which we will compete in on Friday 21st May. Well done team!



Mr Baycanli

Year 3 Reading Rewards

READING



We are so proud of the children that read at home as well as at school and we wanted to celebrate that. The Year 3 children each have a Google doc that serves as a reading record. Some are factual, with dates, book titles and pages read and some are quite fancy, with pictures of the book covers and lots of commentary on the text. We love engaging with the children,

discussing what they have read and making suggestions for what to try next.

The Year 3 Team chose three children from each class (all with super reading records) to receive a certificate in assembly and ten house points. To celebrate the best reading record in each class, a further three winners were awarded a £10 book token along with their certificate.



The 3D winners were Lavina, Eloise and Zeeshan, with Haru winning the book token. In 3M it was Arne, Hunter and Kaylen with Emma scooping the top prize. Finally in 3V, Arno, Arya and Safiyya were

commended for their reading efforts, with Barney receiving the book token. He's already ordered his next book and I can't wait to see it.

Ms Le Var

Matilda

Year 4 are continuing their journey through Matilda, and we've just reached a favourite chapter of mine (*Throwing the Hammer*)!



Last week 4G had a great session doing some reflective writing and thinking about our opinions on the central characters in the story. UKS2, do have a look at our display next time you're popping in for a lesson in the turret!

Mrs Roper

Oklahoma!

Year 6, thank you so much to those of you who have submitted your audition videos! The performances, accents, costumes and

sheer joy are a delight to behold. If you've yet to submit your piece please do so by Monday (17th) so the Oklahoma! production team can have the show cast ahead of the half-term break. Yee-haw!

Mrs Roper

Library News



The children have been invited to submit an entry for the Royal Mail's "Heroes Stamp Design Competition". We will be entering as a school and all designs and submissions will be done as school. This is an optional activity that I'm running during part of their Library session and so far the children have embraced it with real enthusiasm and come up with some really excellent and original ideas and designs. I

reckon we're in with a great chance! Please read [this link](#) regarding data protection and if you decide it's not something that you feel you want your child to participate in, please do let me know via email library@gatehouseschool.co.uk



Miss Howe

**DON'T FORGET!
WORLD BOOK DAY
DRESS UP: 28TH MAY!**

Story settings

As we continue to work on our creative writing skills, Year 5 have worked on some story settings, inspired by our recent work on *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. We spent a lot of time thinking about using our senses to describe various scenes. I have shared

some of these, or excerpts thereof, below - enjoy!

Mrs Roper



On the glorious island the squishy sand felt amazing between my toes. I couldn't believe my eyes. The trees were so tall and the leaves so green. The island was about five football fields long. There were two hills, one significantly taller than the other. The hills had green grass and lots of different flowers on them. The water is the finest shade of blue I have ever seen. It is crystal clear.

Billy-Roy, 5M

The Magpie Family

The Magpie family sitting room was a cosy affair, small and cluttered.

It had two comfy,

sagging armchairs standing opposite a warm fire crackling happily in its grate.



It was a cold winters day which seemed to further underline the wondrous warmth of the room.

BASH.

BOOM.

BOP.

Plop.

The many children of the Magpie family were making such a racket yet this room seemed brilliantly peaceful. The old ragged carpet was comfortingly soft against your feet.

The large bookshelf was full to the brim with well-loved books. The deep red velvet wallpaper and a floral scented candle gave the impression that you were inside a giant

rose!

Iris W, 5M



My Dream Room

As I walked into the room I saw a bookshelf full of books and plant, with lanterns on some of the shelves. On the floor was an enormous rug with a multi-coloured swirl on it. Next to the bookshelf was a bright purple beanbag. I could see sushi boxes and bubble tea cups littering the floor. There was a cosy bed built into the wall. The covers were a dark turquoise and the pillow was the colour of the night sky. There was a cushion seat on the bed that was deep red and there were old fashioned lamps on the emerald green walls. Ribbons bedecked the lamps and the bookshelf. Somewhere there must have been some smelling sticks as the room smelled

like cardamom and lavender. I took one last look then I closed the door and walked away.

Lark, 5M



The Bee's Hive

When I look at the hive I see hard work bees having a brilliant time in the honey pool, I can see some of my friends stirring the honey and then after they stir it, it goes through a long pipe to be filtered. The bees wait at the bottom, sometimes the queue is very long, to fill up a black and white honey jar.

Now all I can really smell is sweet honey. The air is so fresh and sometimes leaves just drop wherever they want. The noise is different, there are harmonising sounds of buzzing, and talking speedily at each other, most of the time the

bees scream so when everyone screams it is deafening! Some of the bees however do chat quietly, which makes it much easier to hear. The big honey pot does make an extremely loud screeching noise and makes a sound just like a person grinding their teeth! It's ghastly.

Lola, 5R



A Walk on a Mountain

As I was walking through the beautiful mountain I looked at the daisies and sunflowers sprouting. I could smell the fresh leaves and grass. The glistening, bright sky caught my eye. I was astonished at the height of some of the tall mountains. I could feel the hard rocks bashing against my feet.

I could feel my hair swaying and rocking

like a pirate ship. I could imagine I was a professional explorer, climbing in the Himalayas!

Tim, 5R



The Merging of Worlds

Far beyond the capabilities of the human eye was a valley of pure, lush green. So green that apart from the river and the trees there wasn't another colour in sight. The air was like honey and the grass like silk, there was never a more beautiful setting like it.

In the meadow was a single door in the middle of N.S.E.W.. You passed through the door and there was a completely different world.

The world was filled with clocks, cogs and other machinery. The floor was all dusty and

it was as though you were in a room filled with giant things. On the so-called ceiling was a huge light. The air was thick, with cobwebs in each corner and shadows in every place. A lovely sight for the workers eye where as a more athletic person may prefer the meadow.

Xavier, 5R

“The only way to have a friend is to be one.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

