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GATEHOUSE SCHOOL BULLETIN

Friday, May 28th 2021

Issue number 63

HEAD'S WELCOME

Dear All

This has been another wonderful week at Gatehouse, with the sun shining (finally!) and today the children enjoying dressing up as their favourite characters for the World Book Day celebrations that round off a fantastic half term. I would like to thank Mrs Howe for all of her hard work with organising activities for World Book Day, and thank all of you for helping the children arrive at school dressed so creatively. I was also particularly pleased this week to look at all the wonderful classroom photos of the children smiling and looking their best selves in crisp

uniforms and happy faces, and I hope that you all enjoyed them as much as I do.

I am pleased to be able to update you all on the progress with the playground, where, as you may have noticed, the climbing frames have been out of use for several weeks due to wear and tear. It is lovely to note that the children have literally worn out, through play, the playground equipment to a stage where it needs to be replaced, and as such I am pleased to update you that from September we will have a brand new playground to herald in the new school year. Whilst the children are hopefully playing all summer in glorious weather, the

playground will be cleared, levelled and then fitted with a range of colourful structures made from sustainable materials. The plan is to have the playground finished by September, but in the event of a tropical summer it could be slightly delayed. As such, fingers crossed for a summer of sunshine which will then enable the children to be climbing and swinging from the first day back. The children will also have a little more space to play from September, where we will stretch out the morning break over two sessions across mixed year groups to allow more room for running, jumping, swinging and kicking the ball as needed.

I also wanted to update you that this week we had a photography company shoot a new video for our website. Whilst I know just how wonderful our school is, it was pleasing to note that this was echoed by the video company who frequently commented on the inclusive, welcoming ethos of Gatehouse, and that this ethos was evident in every area of the school.

To follow on from the detailed staffing structure outlined in my last bulletin, I am sad to announce one more unexpected change that was shared with me this week. Mr Mackinnon will be leaving Gatehouse in January 2022, to work at a school closer to home in a part-time role in order for him to spend more time with his daughter. Whilst many of you are, like me, disappointed at this news, I would like to wish Mr Mackinnon well and also wish him the very best of luck for the future. I look forward to enjoying a final term with Mr Mackinnon, where we

will enjoy his teaching and performances during his remaining time at Gatehouse.

Today's quote reflects the ethos and very heart of what makes us Gatehouse Greathouse:

'When we strive to become better than we are, everything around us becomes better too' (Paulo Coelho).

With warmest wishes for a pleasant half-term break,

Mrs Korbay

O-K-L-A-H-O-M-A!

Year 6, thank you so much for your auditions and enthusiasm for the play! Good luck learning your lines and getting those costumes prepped. We are so excited to work with you all!

The Oklahoma production team

Matilda-based Deliciousness

For homework last week, 4G took their inspiration from the infamous chocolate cake in *Matilda* and turned their hand to a

little recipe writing and cookery. Some even created their own cookery shows - we have some budding chefs in 4G!

I so enjoyed reading these pieces and I cannot wait to try some of the recipes!



Mrs Roper

The Skittles Experiment

We have been having lots of fun exploring and investigating in our club. On Friday we executed the skittles experiment. We made some predictions about what would happen:

- Skittles will turn white (because that's what happens when we eat them)
- They will change colour
- They will change shape

- They will make rainbow water

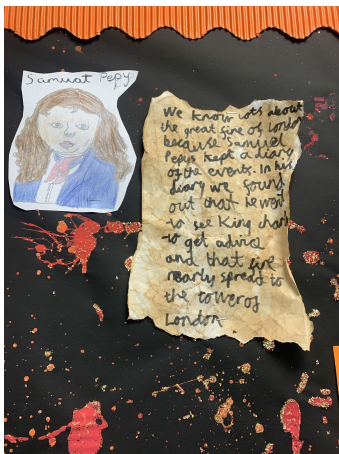
After testing, one of our hypotheses was actually accurate! Enjoy the 🌈



Mrs Savva

London's Burning

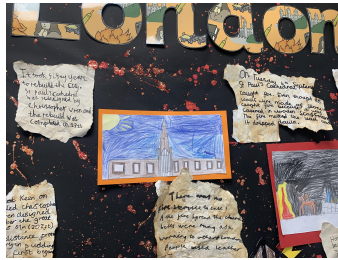
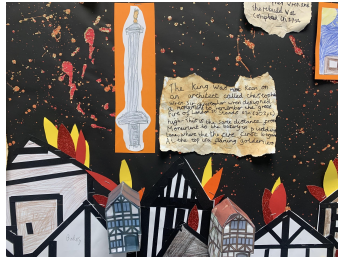
2N have thoroughly enjoyed learning all about the Great Fire of London this half term and have done some excellent work in class as well as some highly impressive homework!



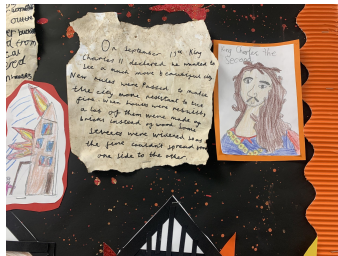
Each child has worked hard at home to complete a piece of research on the event.

Their work has included many facts,

drawings, maps and photographs.



The children have worked collaboratively to create this gorgeous display and I simply had to put it in the bulletin so as everyone could see their gorgeous work.



In the classroom, we ripped and tea stained paper to make it look old, withered and burnt and we also created pictures of Tudor style houses which were the style in 1666.

Well done to everyone in 2N!

Miss Nicoll

Year 3 English



In Year 3 English lessons we have been planning and writing Sci-Fi Adventure Stories featuring E.T. The children have worked incredibly hard and have picked up (magpied!) so many great ideas from each other. I hope to share some of the excellent stories after half term.



Some children tested out some comprehension board games this week. They have helped us distinguish between fact and opinion, as well as providing an opportunity to discuss answer choices.



Finally, during 3V Form Time we like to share stories and recently we have focused on a wonderful book called Have You Filled a Bucket Today? Our one class rule is to Be Kind as it seems to work for every situation. We have a bucket full of kindness ideas and a bucket to leave a message in if someone is a 'bucket dipper' and is unkind. I then check for messages and fix the situation. We are proud to be kind.

Ms Le Var

Last week, Year 2 completed 'The Great Fire of London' tour. As well as clocking up an impressive step count with our walking, we learned more about London's history and visited important landmarks from 'The Great Fire of London'. Many thanks to Miss Yeomans, Miss Volasco and Miss Dodd for accompanying the children on all three trips.

Eco Walk to School Week

Last week, it was Eco-travel to School Week, and the members of our Eco

Committee worked hard to produce presentations, videos and posters to raise awareness with the children as well as the parents. At the end of the week, we have taken a poll to see how people chose to travel to school during the week. The results were presented in a graph produced by some members of the Eco Committee wish we have shared with the teachers to show their forms. Thank you everyone for being such great Eco-warriors!

Mrs Savva

What on Earth are Warm Fuzzies?

A child from another form asked me just that yesterday, so it seemed a good time to explain! At least once a week in form time, 5R sit down and write warm fuzzies about each other. A warm fuzzy may look like an ordinary post-it, but it's actually a little square of kindness. We share these (anonymously) whenever we have a moment together spare, and it's always lovely to hear the lovely things the children see in one another and the adults

around them. I'm always impressed by the kindness and perceptiveness displayed by 5R when we read these! Perhaps you'd like to try writing a few 'warm fuzzies' of your own?

Mrs Roper

Maths Challenge

A "very well done" is due to all our Gatehouse students who took part in the Junior Maths challenge last month, especially to our Year 5s who were competing against children up to Year 8 across the country. Highlights of the challenge were the thirteen students who received Bronze certificates and the four children who were awarded Silver certificates. A very special mention for Elizabeth in 6T who received a Gold certificate and qualified for the next round of the challenge!

Mr Rice

Sports News

Another Gatehouse sporting superstar! Richard (2B) was scouted whilst playing in a football tournament last

September 2020 by a number of premiership clubs. He went for trials at all teams before lockdown in January and is still training with West Ham and Crystal Palace. He has most recently been selected to play for West Ham's under 7's team at their Saturday football fixtures this term.



Matilda Diary Entries

In 4G we are continuing our work on *Matilda* and the children are producing some spectacular homework and classwork around this book. This week we have been writing some diary entries where we imagined what might happen if we played a prank on the Trunchbull...

Keep up the brilliant work, writers of 4G!

Mrs Roper

Dear Diary,
My name is Jo Heawood and I have just played the most terrific prank on the Trunchbull! Let me just tell you, the Chokey is NOT nice!

Here's what happened. I got heaps of buckets of water and poured them all onto the floor of her office. That took about ten minutes and after it was finished I stacked the buckets into each other and ran as fast as I could. About an hour later I heard a big whoosh and a roar from the Trunchbull and I knew my plan worked!

I was very happy with what I had done until the Trunchbull came running down the hall to the playground barking HEAWOOD - I KNOW YOU DID THIS!!! It was then I realised that my cunning plan had failed miserably!

The Trunchbull grabbed me by the collar of my shirt and hauled me over her head and when she finally brought me down I thought I was going to be sick! Next, she grabbed me by the ear and took me to her office.

She stepped carefully where there wasn't any

water and shoved me in the Chokey.

Once Miss Trunchbull had left her office, Miss Honey came to save me and I ran home, as fast as my legs could carry me...

Echo H

Dear Diary,

Hi, I'm Bob Junior and I'm a very sneaky person. I'm going to play a prank on Miss Trunchbull and prob get into a lot of trouble. It's worth it though, so I'm going to do it!

On a sunny Wednesday, early in the morning I snuck into Miss Trunchbull's room and I put a lot of superglue onto her seat. On Thursday she sat down and got stuck! She checked the CCTV and saw I put the superglue on her chair and locked me up in the Chokey for 20 days.

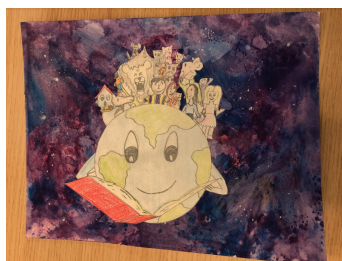
Once I got out I begged my mum to help me and let me leave Crunchem Hall. She agreed to help me and we called the police who went to the school and arrested Miss Trunchbull.

Dante O

Library News

The children really excelled themselves with their designs for the “Heroes Stamp Competition” and we had some really excellent, original ideas. It was so lovely to see so many teachers featured as their heroes! The winners will be announced later on in the year and I really think we stand a great chance of winning something.... Fingers crossed.

We also saw some wonderful work for our very own Library Artwork Competition and Ms Dewar and I had an extremely tough time trying to decide the winners.



Gurbani, 4M



Esmerelda, RS
They are Gurbani (4M)

for the Upper Juniors and Esmerelda (RS) from the Loweres. Congratulations to you both!

As I type this I'm so looking forward to seeing all the children dressed up on Friday, the highlight of the year for me!

Have a lovely, restful half term.

Mrs Howe

Handwriting Competition

I was incredibly impressed with the high-quality, fantastic, truly stupendous standard of handwriting I saw earlier this month as part of our annual handwriting competition. With the lockdowns of the last two school years it is a real testament to the tenacity and effort of our children that the standard of their written work remains so high - true 'Gatehouse Greathouse' stuff.

My hugest thanks to the English department teachers and TAs for their hard

work in building and nurturing the children's handwriting skills, and for helping me to judge this very competitive field! Thank you also to all our parents and carers for all they do to help the children with this area of their learning.

Certificates were awarded for Highly Commended, and for Most Improved. It was such a treat to pop in to see all of the year groups last Friday and celebrate the winners and the hard work of all of our lovely Gatehouse children.

The full list of winners is:

Year 1:

Marlowe G, Althaea W-K, Gabriela G, Rex C, Chloe K, Joel P, Tissian B, Lena Z, Bobbi N, Freya L

Year 2:

Eden CC, Seth G-S, Benjamin E, Rafael C, Iola M, Sophie D, Flossie G, Maximilian S, Amelia P, Fred G

Year 3:

Arhaan S, Ella W, Saffiya A, Eloise H, Ryuu-San L, Ben G, Bella Z, Leo E, Zeph C, Travis S, Spencer F,

Sofia L, Zed BC

Year 4:

Kash T, Isky L, Mila P,
Rafe S, David B, Kyiro
T-A, Lucia B, Louis T,
Lexi C, Peggy H,
Gurbani K, Neil C

Year 5:

Hugo E, Lola E, Reiss
M, Lucian R-D,
Zane S, Hector P, Ella
W

Year 6:

Maxton D, Olivia G,
Niyah B-B, Stevie V
All of our winners
earned points for their
house too, and the
house totals were:

4th Place: Dragons
(100 points)

3rd Place: Phoenix (140
points)

2nd Place: Sphinx (150
points)

1st Place: Unicorns
(170 points)

A huge well done to all,
and my warmest
wishes for a lovely
half-term break!

Mrs Roper

“If you don’t like

*something, change it. If
you can’t change it,
change the way you
think about it.”*

Mary Engelbreit

