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GATEHOUSE SCHOOL BULLETIN

Thursday July 8th 2021

Issue number 65

HEAD'S WELCOME

Dear Parents,

It is a delight to write to you as we reach the final days of an unusual but extraordinary school year. Whilst we are at this time getting ready for the next phase of transition in September, which looks like a return to no bubbles, it is hard not to reflect on our journey in what can be safely called 'this year of challenge'; a year that has taught us all some very important lessons. Gatehouse has worked hard to turn all challenges into opportunities to adapt and progress, and as a result we have further enhanced the experiences of all pupils, we are better than we have ever been and intend to be even better.

There are many memories that you will all take from the past school year, but I hope it is a time where each of us recognises our triumphs, achievements and victories, both individually, as groups and as a whole school and community. I would like to thank all of the staff who have risen to every challenge presented to them, and each of them, time and time again, have proven their commitment to all children and families at Gatehouse. I would like to wish the very best of luck to the staff who are leaving us: Mr Denton [PE], Ms Bretton [RL], Ms Valasca [2B] and Mrs Roper [5R]. I would also like to announce further good news to the expanding Gatehouse family, with Miss Chambers [1C] expecting a baby, and

she will begin maternity leave at the end of the Autumn Term. In order to provide a secure handover to the children, Miss Tsatsaros will team-teach with Miss Chambers in the Autumn Term, and then take over as form teacher from January 2022 until Miss Chambers returns. There will also be a cover nurse appointed from the start of the Autumn Term, as Nurse Freya will take her maternity leave from 24th September in order to ensure a secure handover to her temporary replacement. We also look forward to welcoming new pupils to the Gatehouse family.

The community spirit at Gatehouse has never been stronger, even though it has at times

felt like we had all been transported to some sort of parallel-universe crazy rollercoaster. It is pleasing to write that there are many exciting developments ahead that will improve our provision for pupils, and also provide many additional exciting opportunities for students. As the school heads off towards the end of another successful academic year, it is with pride that I look back and see that the essence of who we are is that every time obstacles came our way all that we saw was opportunities, and I feel that this perfectly sums up the spirit of who we are.

I want to finish off by wishing our Year Six pupils, our school ambassadors, the very best of luck in the next chapter of their lives. My message to them is a simple one - stand tall, be proud and show everyone your champion qualities.

Never one to shy away from closing with a well placed quote, I feel that the following sums up where we are with regard to how we have handled the past year, and what has come out of it: 'the

best view comes after the hardest climb' (Dean Graziosi).

Kind regards and have a lovely summer.

Mrs Korbay

Year 6 Production: Oklahoma!

For the past two weeks Year 6 have been working really hard rehearsing and filming their production of Oklahoma. I would like to thank Ms Dodd, Mr Fox, Mrs Roper, Ms Dewar and Ms Smith for helping to organise it, and of course the children who made us so proud!

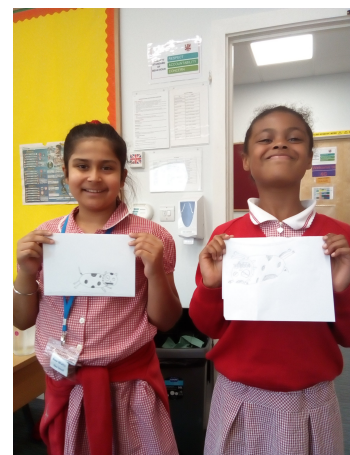


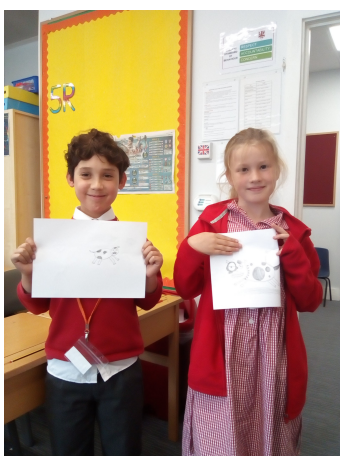
The video is being edited and will be available shortly.

Mr MacKinnon

Doodling with Liz Pichon

As an end of year treat this week 4G have watched a super webcast with Liz Pichon, the author of the ever-popular *Tom Gates* series. We loved hearing how Liz finds her inspiration, her journey to becoming an author, and doing some fun drawing-along too. We definitely have some budding writers and illustrators in the class. Below are a few of the pictures they wanted to share.





Thank you for your enthusiasm, 4G!

Mrs Roper

Library News

Here we are in the final weeks of a most memorable year....and

we made it! I want to thank all the children for their acceptance, positivity and patience of an ever changing Library system where they've adhered to all sorts of quarantining rules, have always been keen to help carry boxes of books around, taken their "Library Monitor" duties seriously and have generally been really helpful to me in all sorts of ways. I'm very much looking forward (and I'm sure they are too!), to getting back to normal after the summer holidays.



Many of them have also been asking me about the Stamp Design Competition and when we will hear about any potential winners. We won't hear until probably October or November and of course I shall keep them, and you, updated if this should change. Fingers crossed!

The Summer Reading Challenge is really fun for the kids to get

involved in and keep up with their reading over the holidays. This year's [Summer Reading Challenge](#) is fantastic. It has a "Wild World Heroes" theme and is available online or through your local libraries. Or you could create your very own reading challenge, something I do most summer holidays!

Have a wonderful summer.



Mrs Howe

Dropping Beats with Year 5

Our rap adventures have continued in Year 5, and I have loved hearing the children's takes on this musical form. Thank you also, Year 5, for keeping me on my rap history toes! They have worked well to improve their understanding of flow, meter and rhyme, and we definitely have

some future rappers and lyricists in our midst!



Mrs Roper

Music News

ABRSM exams took place last friday and this monday at Gatehouse. Music is such a well-loved subject at the school that Gatehouse hosts exams every term. 34 children stepped up for a music exam and showed why we are Gatehouse Greathouse, by holding their nerve and performing brilliantly. Every single student passed, many with a merit and some with a distinction. Our

thanks to the peris for their enduring skill, teaching and flexibility in an ever-changing timetable. Thanks too to the parents who support childrens' practice at home. As a parent of two I am only too familiar with how much energy this can take! Fingers crossed next year can be free of restrictions. Not only can ABRSM exams then recommence, but orchestra, ensembles, assemblies, choirs and concerts too. We look forward to that enormously.

Mr Fox

Book Battles

One of the end of year highlights in Year 5 is when we get to enjoy our Book Battles.



Each child writes a presentation on a book they think their friends should read. We then have a group stage where they all share their pieces.



Votes are made and tallied, until we end up with a top eight ready to wow us all!



These finalists meet head-to-head (after a pep talk and a short rock out to *Eye of the Tiger*) to discover just who is the top book battler this time around.



After listening to their

speeches (and in one memorable case, their rap), we vote again to find our victors.



This term's winners were:

5M

3rd Decca and Lark

2nd Billy-Roy

1st Iris

5R

3rd Maria

2nd Anya

1st Xavier

What epic matches!

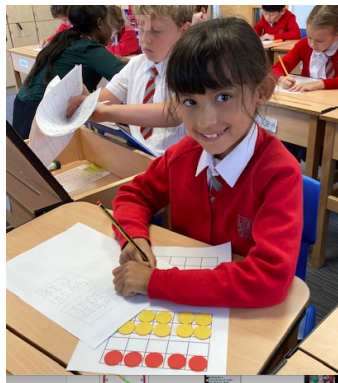
Mrs Roper

Maths in Year 3

A lot of hard work and serious learning took place in Year 3 maths lessons this year. And, most importantly, all the children have enjoyed their work

immensely! They enjoyed using various resources to aid them in this process.

Here we are working collaboratively on place value.



A group of boys made a plan for the 3D castle in their early morning spare time. They used all the knowledge they had acquired in geometry and measuring lessons to produce this wonderful plan.



And here is the final product, our amazing 3D castle, complete

with the 3D flags! Lots of squares, triangles and rectangles to make cubes, cuboids and pyramids; and most importantly, a lot of collaboration and team work.



Year 3 is ready to embark on the Year 4 maths curriculum in September! All the best!

Ms Dainow

Matilda inspired Drama



At the end of last week, 4G had the chance to come up with their own dramatic scenes inspired by *Matilda*.



We had some terrifying Trunchbolls, some heavenly Honeys, and some truly charming children!



I hope that as the COVID restrictions become more relaxed this class will have further opportunities for drama – they’ve got a real knack for it!

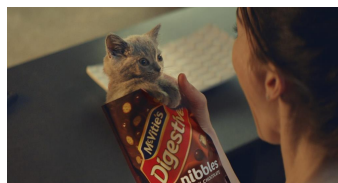


Mrs Roper

Year 3 English

In English, Year 3 has finished the year with

a fascinating topic on advertising. We have learnt lots about the different techniques used to persuade us to buy products. The children designed their own poster adverts for biscuits, inspired by the brilliant McVities ‘Sweet’ campaign a few years ago, that used cute baby animals to sell biscuits. Fantastic work, Year 3!



Ms Le Var

A Thank You from the Editor

Thank you to all the Gatehouse staff, children and parents for their contributions to, and emails about, the bulletin over the last three years. I have loved editing each edition and helping to share a little of the goings-on here at Gatehouse.

Mrs Roper

“May the road rise up to meet you, may the wind be ever at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face and the rain fall softly on your fields.”

And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.”

Irish Blessing

