THE GATEWAY NEWS

Keeping you informed

Newsletter 1
October 2026

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Welcome

As another exciting term comes to an end at The Gateway Primary Academy, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and partnership with the school.

Scooter/Bike Safety

We have recently noticed a number of children riding their scooters at speed on the school site and down the school road at the beginning and end of the day. To help keep everyone safe, we kindly ask that all children dismount from their scooters when they reach the blue gates and walk them onto the school grounds. This will help prevent accidents and ensure the safety of pupils, parents, staff and visitors, particularly during busy drop-off and collection times. Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Medical Appointments During School Hours

To help minimise disruption to learning, we kindly ask parents and carers to avoid arranging routine dental, optician, and other non-urgent appointments during the school day wherever possible. We appreciate that some appointments may need to take place during school hours; however, booking them outside of school time helps children make the most of their learning opportunities and maintain excellent attendance.

Respecting our Neighbours

We kindly ask all parents and carers to be considerate of our neighbours when dropping off and collecting children from school. Please do not park across or block driveways, and avoid using the residential car park belonging to the nearby flats unless you have permission to do so. By parking responsibly and showing respect for the local community, we can help maintain positive relationships with our neighbours and ensure everyone can access their homes safely and easily.

Football

A fantastic start to the football season as our boys took part in football tournaments hosted at Princes Park! The team did a brilliant job representing the school and demonstrated great teamwork and enthusiasm. They were also very proud to debut their **new football kits**, which were won for the school by **Mrs Coogan**. A huge thank you to her for such a fantastic prize.

Harvest

Our Harvest Festival was a wonderful opportunity for the children to come together and celebrate the season of harvest while reflecting on the importance of kindness, gratitude and helping others. The children sang beautifully, shared readings and demonstrated excellent behaviour throughout the services. We would like to thank all families for their generous donations, which will be passed on to support local families and community organisations. Your kindness and support have helped make a real difference, and we are very proud of how our school community came together to help others.

Taking Pride in Our Uniform

Our uniform helps children feel part of a team and it also teaches children the importance of presenting themselves appropriately for different situations, an important life skill as they grow older.

Children should wear the correct school uniform each day. School jumpers and school fleeces should be worn and may continue to be worn on PE days. We ask that children do not wear alternative jumpers, hoodies or jackets inside school, as these do not form part of our school uniform.

Please ensure that all uniform items are clearly labelled with your child's name. This helps us return lost property promptly and significantly reduces the amount of unclaimed clothing at the end of each term.

If earrings are worn, they should be simple stud earrings in line with our uniform policy.

PE Kit Expectations

On PE days, children may attend school wearing their PE kit. This should consist of:

- A school PE top as outlined in the school uniform policy.
- Dark shorts, jogging bottoms or leggings.
- Where possible items should be plain and free from large logos, slogans or bold patterns.
- Appropriate trainers for PE activities.

We appreciate that sportswear is widely available from many retailers; however, we ask parents to ensure clothing remains practical, safe and in keeping with the spirit of our school uniform.

Footwear

Children should attend school wearing appropriate school shoes and not boots.

Recently, particularly in some of the older year groups, we have noticed an increase in children wearing fashion trainers throughout the school day. Whilst these may be popular, many styles are not designed to be worn continuously for long periods and often provide less support than suitable school footwear.

Children need appropriate footwear that supports comfort, posture and physical development. We therefore ask that school shoes remain the standard choice for everyday wear.

Water Bottles

I would strongly encourage all children to use a school water bottle and it should only be filled with water. These bottles are transparent, allowing staff to monitor children's hydration throughout the day. Increasingly, we are seeing very large bottles or bottles with multiple functions and accessories which can:

- Be difficult to store safely.
- Become distractions during lessons.
- Make it harder for staff to monitor water consumption.

If you require a replacement lid for a school water bottle, please contact the school office and we will be happy to help.

Smart Watches, Gadgets and Personal Items

We would also like to remind parents that children should not bring smart watches, electronic devices or other gadgets into school.

Whilst we understand that many of these items are expensive gifts, they can:

- Become damaged or lost.
- Cause unnecessary worry for children.
- Become a distraction from learning.
- Present safeguarding and online safety concerns.

As highlighted in Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE), schools have an important responsibility to ensure children are safe and protected from unnecessary online risks. Limiting access to internet-enabled devices during the school day supports this responsibility and helps children remain fully focused on their learning.

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Bags and Personal Belongings

As we move into the autumn and winter months, children will need to bring a coat to school, which will be stored on their peg.

In each classroom our cloakroom areas are limited in size and quickly become overcrowded when large bags are brought into school. Therefore, children should only bring:

- A school book bag
- A lunch box (if required)
- A water bottle

We ask that large rucksacks and additional bags are not brought into school unless there is a genuine and agreed need. Experience shows that large bags often encourage children to bring unnecessary items from home which can cause an unnecessary distraction.

Of course, we understand there will be exceptions. For example:

- Some children may need additional belongings when staying with another parent or relative after school.
- Children attending football club or other after-school activities may need a change of clothes.
- Children riding to school on bikes.

Where this is necessary, we are happy to accommodate these arrangements.

Healthy Snacks

Children in KS2 are welcome to bring a healthy snack for morning break. Suitable options include a piece of fruit or fruit in a small container. Please do not send sweets, chocolate, crisps, or fizzy drinks.

Arrival Times and Punctuality

School gates open at 8:35am and children are welcome to enter school from this time. Registration takes place at:

- **8:45am for Swans, Herons and Kingfishers**
- **8:50am for Swallows, Woodpeckers, Kestrels and Eagles**

Following observations of arrivals on Milestone Road and around the drop-off areas, we know that the vast majority of children can comfortably arrive by **8:40am,** ensuring they are ready for learning and on time for registration regardless of which class they are in.

Starting the day calmly and punctually helps children settle quickly and maximises learning opportunities.

Please note that any child arriving after their class registration time will be marked as **late**. For Swans, Herons and Kingfishers this applies after **8:45am**, and for Swallows, Woodpeckers, Kestrels and Eagles after **8:50am**. We would therefore encourage all children to arrive by 8:40am wherever possible to ensure a smooth start to the school day.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE AUTUMN TERM

(dates may be subject to change so please regularly check your email accounts)

23rd October	LAST DAY OF TERM
2nd November	**FIRST DAY OF TERM 2**
3rd November	Individual Photographs (9am to 11am)
	Herons Parent Consultation*
	Swallows Parent Consultation*
4th November	**Woodpeckers Parent Consultation***
	Kestrels Parent Consultation*
5th November	**Kingfishers Parent Consultation***
	Eagles Parent Consultation*
6th November	**Swans Parent Consultation***
18th November	Staff Development Day (school closed to children)
4th December	**Christmas Fair – 3.15pm**
14th December	Christmas Performance PM – 2pm
15th December	**Christmas Performance AM – 9.30am**
17th December	KS2 Disco – 3.20-5pm
18th December	**Last day of term**

*Parent Consultations take place between 8.30am and 5.30pm.