GLC Gateway Primary Free School

All Different: All Equal: Together Improving Upon Our Best

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GLC Gateway Primary Free School

All Different: All Equal: Together Improving Upon Our Best

Friday 16th October 2026

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MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to our PTA, who have organised this evening's Halloween disco. Their time and dedication are greatly appreciated, and I know the children are very much looking forward to the event.

The new school year has begun with real purpose. Our children returned settled, focused and ready to learn, a reflection of the hard work of both our families and our staff. Parents and carers deserve particular thanks for their support with uniform: the children look smart and represent our school with pride.

Since its launch, our free breakfast club, which opens at 8am, has been very well attended. Ensuring that children begin the day with a nutritious breakfast helps them arrive in class ready to learn, and we are delighted that so many families are taking advantage of it.

May I wish you all a restful and enjoyable half term break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on **Monday 2nd November**.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Pattison

IMPORTANT DATES

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Dates for Your Diary – Autumn Term

We have a busy and exciting half term ahead! Please make a note of the following dates.

November

- **Monday 2nd** – Break the Rules Day
- **Monday 2nd – Thursday 5th** – Year 6 Bikeability
- **Tuesday 3rd & Thursday 5th** – Reception height and weight checks
- **Friday 6th** – Whole school flu immunisations
- **Wednesday 11th** – Remembrance Day
- **Friday 13th** – Children in Need
- **Tuesday 24th** – Year 2 Florence Nightingale visit
- **Wednesday 25th** – Year 3 trip to Colchester Castle
- **Wednesday 25th** – Reception open day, sessions at 9am and 2pm
- **Thursday 26th** – Parents' evening

December

- **Tuesday 1st** – Choir singing at Lakeside
- **Friday 4th** – Year 3 Nutcracker
- **Friday 4th** – Tilbury lights switch-on
- **Wednesday 9th** – Year 1 DT parent session, 2pm
- **Thursday 10th** – Rocksteady Christmas performance, 2:30pm
- **Monday 14th** – Christmas songs on the hour from 10am
- **Monday 14th** – Year 2 Christmas performance, 2:40pm
- **Tuesday 15th** – Elf visit, 1pm
- **Tuesday 15th** – Year 4 Christmas drumming performance, 2:40pm
- **Wednesday 16th** – Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner Day
- **Wednesday 16th** – Year 1 Christmas performance, 2:40pm
- **Thursday 17th** – 100% Club Christmas movie
- **Friday 18th** – Reception Christmas performance, 9am
- **Friday 18th** – Christmas Market, featuring a performance from Years 5 and 6
- **Friday 18th** – Last day of term, early finish for all pupils

Further details about individual events will be sent out nearer the time. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing many of you at our celebrations this term!

PUPILS OF THE WEEK

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Sebastian R
Tommy O
Jama; A
David G
Emily A
Teddie S
Nyla A
Chris A
Eso N
Jayden N
Taurus A
Niamh R
Jaxx J
Isra U
Mariam O
Amaya
Benny S
Callie B
Arya C
Albert A
Mihaela C
Mursal S
Matias P
Malachi H
Rahyma H
Darijia S
Alexa K
Harvey W
Samaya A

Dia K
Josiah O
Syed S
Matthew D
Josephine O
Nana A
Jeremiah HM
Andrew B
Harper G
Nazeef A
Arthur M
Ibilate E
Sabina ™
Cobain K
Sulaiman A

SCHOOL CONTACTS

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Main Office Phone Number: **01375 489 094**

Phone lines are open between 8am and 4pm. Outside of this time you are able to leave a voicemail.

Our main form of communication with parents/carers is via Class Dojo, please contact the school office if you aren't using this yet so we can get you set up. However, should you wish to contact us via email please use: support4u-gpfs@theglc.org.uk

Pupil Absences:
If your child is unwell and will be absent from school please contact the school office by calling 01375 489094 before 9am. If calling prior to the lines opening then please do leave us a voicemail. We do ask for as plenty of notice as possible if your child needs to attend a medical appointment during the school day and for supported evidence to be provided.

STAYING SAFE

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THE GATEWAY PRIMARY FREE SCHOOL

Staying safe this autumn

Darker evenings, wetter days and Bonfire Night: simple reminders to keep every child safe.

Darker evenings

Wear bright clothing so drivers can see you, and a helmet if cycling. Hold hands and use safe crossings.

Wet and slippery

Send warm, waterproof clothes. Take care on wet leaves and slippery playground surfaces.

Bonfire Night

Keep fireworks, sparklers and bonfires at a safe distance. An adult must supervise at all times.

PUPIL LEADERSHIP

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Head Pupils and Deputies



Head Boy
Ayaan Mahroof



Head Girl
Anastasia Vizitiu



Deputy
Emily Adams



Deputy
Lolu Aloba

We are delighted to introduce our new Head Pupils for the upcoming academic year! Following an exceptionally high standard of applications, our four new pupil leaders were officially announced to the school during a special whole-school assembly. They are brimming with enthusiasm and genuinely excited to work alongside every child across the school, ensuring that pupil voice remains at the heart of everything we do. Over the coming terms, they will be leading pupil-led initiatives, helping to organise school events and working closely with staff and peers alike to make our school an even better place to learn and grow. We would like to extend a huge congratulations to our newly appointed Head Pupils on this brilliant achievement. At the same time, we want to express how immensely proud we are of every single child who put themselves forward and applied for the role. Taking the initiative to write an application and step out of your comfort zone takes real courage and maturity. Every child who applied demonstrated fantastic leadership qualities and should be extremely proud of their efforts. Please join us in celebrating all of the children who took part, and in wishing our new pupil leaders the very best of luck as they begin their exciting new roles!



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

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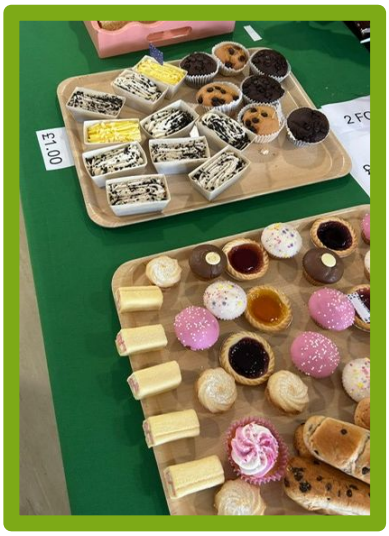
We raised an amazing £158.60





Our donations below; thank you all for everything you donated.



SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

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Empowering parents to have their voices heard. Scan the QR to book a slot and share your experiences with the SEND service.

NELFT NHS
NHS Foundation Trust
Best care by the best people

Speech and Language - Telephone Advice Sessions

Speech and Language Telephone Advice Sessions Basildon, Brentwood and Thurrock Do you have any concerns about your child's speech and language development? Please contact the Speech and Language Therapy team to arrange a telephone consultation. **The service is for pre-school children and their parents or legal guardians who are not seeing a speech and language therapist at their local clinic.** Please email us at drop-in@nelft.nhs.uk to arrange a consultation.

For further information please call 0300 300 1544

INCLUSION

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Harvest Collection: Thank you to everyone for the generous donations received. These will be collected and distributed to local families in need..

Thurrock Foodbank
Together with Trussell

Voucher Provider:
We are registered as an issuer for the Thurrock Foodbank.
If you need to access this service, please contact the school office.
Locations of local distribution centres and their opening hours can be found here:
https://thurrock.foodbank.org.uk/locations/



Tilbury and Chadwell Family Hubs a offer a range of services to support families in the local area. Click on the links below to find out their opening times and what is on at each centre:
Tilbury Family Hub
Chadwell Family Hub

- Support for expectant and new parents (Start for Life)
- Midwifery and antenatal clinics
- Health visitor clinics
- Baby and child play sessions
- Parenting support
- Mental health support for children and parents
- Help with infant feeding
- Children's speech, language and early learning
- Support for children with special educational needs (SEND)
- Help with managing your child's behaviour
- Domestic abuse support
- Job, debt and welfare advice
- Drug and alcohol support
- Support for separating couples

ATTENDANCE

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136 Pupils have made the 100% club his term.

OUR ATTENDANCE TO DATE

96.6%!

Keep it up, GPFS! Every day counts!

WINNING YEAR GROUP

YEAR 2!

98.1%!

WOW! Year 2 are smashing it!

HIGHEST SCORING CLASS

CLASS 1P!

Amazing attendance, 1P!

PE AND SCHOOL SPORTS

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P.E NEWSLETTER – Our Achievements



It's been a very busy but successful term at the Gateway Primary Free school.

This term, our students have enjoyed a wide range of opportunities to be active, develop their skills and build confidence through physical activity. With lots of exciting events and activities taking place, students have had plenty of chances to participate, challenge themselves, work as a team and experience the many benefits of P.E. and sport.



With these events we have experience many successes such as:

-The Year 5&6 Boys Football team, finishing 2nd place in the Thurrock SSP event.

-The Year 5&6 Girls football Team Won the GLC cup, going Unbeaten in the Process, Not even conceding a goal!

-Year 3 and 4 Cross country, where 12 children represented the GPFS



-Year 6 Basketball Partnership with Thurrock Jets and Gateway Academy

Our key focus in P.E lessons this half term have been on developing three important fundamental movement skills: **agility, balance and coordination**. These skills provide the foundations for many sports and physical activities and have helped our students become more confident and capable movers.

Throughout our P.E. lessons, students have developed their agility by practising moving quickly, changing direction and responding to different situations. They have also worked on improving their balance, focusing on control, stability and confidence, while developing their coordination through activities such as throwing, catching, kicking, jumping and moving.



We have encouraged every child to feel successful in P.E. and understand that physical activity is about much more than simply winning. Our lessons have provided opportunities for students to demonstrate our core values of **Responsibility, Resilience, Compassion and Aspiration** by taking responsibility for their learning, persevering through challenges, supporting their classmates and striving to improve and reach their potential.

We have also provided students with opportunities to represent the school and participate in a variety of sporting events throughout the term. Whether they were experienced in sport or trying something new, students have been encouraged to get involved, enjoy themselves and discover new activities they love.

It has been fantastic to see our students getting active, developing their skills, building confidence and creating wonderful memories along the way. We are proud of the enthusiasm, effort and positive attitudes they have demonstrated throughout the term.

Well done to all our students for a fantastic, fun-filled and active term!

GPFS P.E. Team

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WHOLE SCHOOL EVENTS

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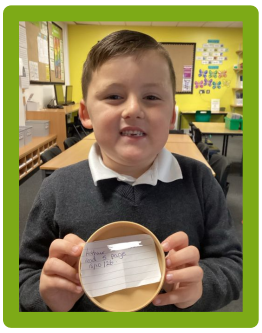





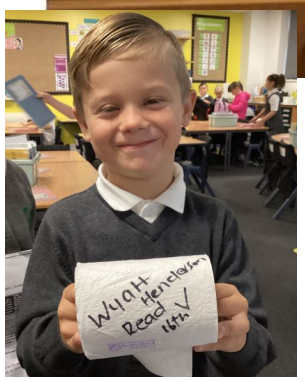









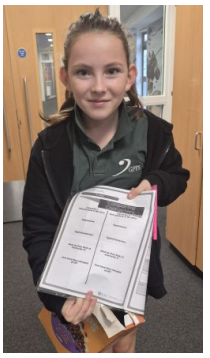





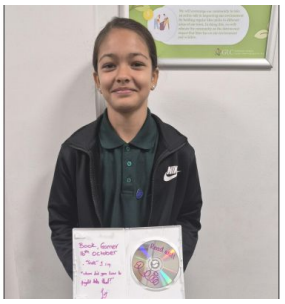



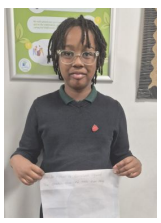





We have had some great ideas some included were a potato, slipper, balloon, toilet roll, DVD and bread. We are super proud of all the pupils for their creative imagination.

NURSERY

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We are absolutely thrilled with how brilliantly our nursery children have settled into the new school year! The classroom is buzzing with energy, curiosity, and happy little voices. It's been a joy to watch them explore their new environment, make new friends, and embrace the routines of nursery life with such enthusiasm. Thank you for all your support at home in helping to make this transition so smooth.



The children are enjoying working on essential pre-phonics skills through the magic of sounds and music. We use songs, instruments, and silly sound games to make learning both effective and incredibly fun! The children's focus and enjoyment during these sessions have been lovely to see, and it's clear they are developing a wonderful ear for language.

We are also laying the groundwork for future writing success by focusing on strengthening the muscles needed for holding a pencil and forming letters. Learning to write is a whole-body process, and our children have brilliantly embarked on this exciting journey!



We are so proud of the progress and commitment shown by every child this half term.

Thank you again for being such a supportive part of our school community.



We can't wait to see what wonderful things the children will learn and do next!

Mrs Knight and The Nursery Team

RECEPTION

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We are so incredibly proud of how well the Reception children have transitioned into their first year of primary school! They have settled beautifully into our daily routines, shown great resilience, and are already demonstrating a wonderful enthusiasm for learning. Thank you for helping them take this huge, exciting step!

Phonics is the cornerstone of reading and writing, and the children have approached it with fantastic energy. We have been diligently working towards our first major goal: knowing 16 different letter sounds. We encourage you to ask them to show you the sounds they know—every little bit of practice helps solidify this crucial learning!

In maths, we have been tackling our Level 1 Number Challenge, which focuses on subitising to 5. This skill is fundamental for understanding number bonds and addition later on. We have been using dice, dots, fingers, and pictures to practise this quick recognition, which helps build a deep and flexible understanding of the numbers 1 through 5. Ask your child to tell you how many fingers you are holding up without counting!

As the children learn their sounds, they are also practicing how to write them correctly. Our focus is on consistent letter formation. Correct formation from the start is essential as it makes writing easier and faster in the long run. Please encourage your child to use the correct formation when they are drawing or writing at home!

We are so proud of all the hard work and concentration the Reception class is putting in! We are off to a marvellous start!

Mrs Knight and The Reception Team

YEAR 1

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We are so proud of how well our Year 1 children have settled into their new routines and classroom environment. They have made a fantastic start to the school year and we are excited to see the progress they will make in the months ahead!

It was lovely to see so many children completing their summer RWI challenges. A reminder that children should be reading every evening and completing their homework each week to work towards being part of our 100% Club this half term.

In English, the children have enjoyed exploring new stories and learning how to retell them using the beginning, middle and end. In Maths, we have been learning about place value, comparing numbers and identifying which numbers are greater than or less than others.

Our Science topic this half term is Seasons. During a nature walk around the playground, the children looked closely at evergreen and deciduous trees. They observed the different colours and shapes of the leaves before working together to sort the trees into the correct groups.

One of the highlights of the half term was our fantastic trip to Barleylands Farm! The children had a wonderful time feeding the animals, enjoying a tractor ride and making their very own pizzas. It was a fun-filled day of learning, laughter and memorable experiences.

We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead, filled with lots of learning, new experiences and special memories!

The Year 1 Team







YEAR 2

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It has been a busy and exciting time in Year 2, with lots of wonderful learning taking place across the curriculum!

In English, we have been learning how to write clear and detailed instructions. The children have been developing their skills in sequencing steps, using imperative verbs and making sure their instructions are easy to follow.

In Reading, we have been enjoying the book *Flat Stanley*. The children have been exploring the story, discussing the characters and events, and developing their comprehension skills as we discover Stanley's exciting adventures.

In Geography, we have been studying the United Kingdom. We have been learning about the countries that make up the UK and developing our understanding of the places in which we live.

In Science, we have been exploring plants and investigating what they need to grow and stay healthy. We have been learning about the importance of water, sunlight and suitable conditions for healthy plant growth.

In Design and Technology (DT), we have been busy in the kitchen making couscous! The children enjoyed preparing food and developing practical skills, while learning about ingredients and how to follow a sequence of steps to create a finished dish.

Well done to all our Year 2 children for their enthusiasm, curiosity and hard work. We are very proud of their efforts and look forward to sharing more of their learning with you soon!

Thank you for your continued support.





YEAR 3

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What a fantastic first half term it has been in Year 3! The children have settled into life in Key Stage 2 brilliantly and we are so proud of how hard they have worked.

In Geography, we have been learning all about Europe, exploring its countries and finding out how goods are imported and exported around the world. In PSHE, our "Me and My Relationships" unit has focused on friendships and the children have thought carefully about how to handle tricky situations by compromising, listening to one another and making up after a disagreement.

Our class reader, *The Shark-Headed Bear-Thing*, has been a huge hit and has sparked plenty of laughter and discussion. In writing, the children have produced a lovely narrative, as well as a non-chronological report about healthy eating, which linked to our Science unit. This also tied in nicely with DT, where we learnt all about bread and then used our new skills to make our own.

In Maths, we have been building our understanding of place value before moving on to addition and subtraction. The children have also completed their first full round of testing and we are delighted with the fantastic results. Well done, Year 3!

Another highlight this half term has been the children receiving their own laptops, which they have been using sensibly and with great excitement.

We are already looking forward to next half term, which includes our trip to Colchester Castle. More details will follow soon.

Reminders

- Please read with your child every night.
- Children should be practising their 3 times table on Times Tables Rock Stars.
- Mirodo homework is due every Wednesday.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We hope you all have a restful and enjoyable half-term break.

The Year 3 Team







YEAR 4

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What a wonderful first couple of weeks we've had in Year 4!

The pupils settled back into learning with ease and excitement. The behaviour for learning is wonderful to see, with lots of children walking around proudly with their core value stickers.



Year 4 have really hit the ground running with preparing for the Multiplication Tables Check [MTC] with lots of practise on TTRS and Maths Mania.

We're looking forward to celebrating lots of MTC superstars when they score 25/25 and join the wall of fame in the Year 4 corridor!

Please click here for further information about the MTC that will take place in June of Year 4: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multiplication-tables-check-information-for-parents

This half-term, the children are reading Varjak Paw. So far, the children are greatly enjoying learning about Varjak Paw and look forward to reading all about his adventures.

Science has been very exciting with the children learning about the different matters of state. Children are greatly enjoying their weekly Steel Pan Drumming lessons, they're developing their tempo, rhythm and team work. Soon, the children will begin to learn their Christmas songs on the pans ready for their Christmas performance. We hope lots of you are able to come and support them!

Well done to all of the pupils for such a fantastic start to the year. Here's to a wonderful year together in Year 4.

Year 4 team





YEAR 5

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a fantastic first half term in Year 5! The children have worked incredibly hard, shown enthusiasm for their learning and settled into the expectations of the year group.

One of our biggest highlights was our trip to **Go Ape!** The children challenged themselves, faced their fears and showed fantastic teamwork as they climbed, swung through the trees and tackled the zip wire. It was wonderful to see them supporting and encouraging one another throughout the day. These experiences would not be possible without the support of our parent volunteers, so a huge **thank you** to everyone who gave up their time to join us!

In Geography, we have thoroughly enjoyed exploring Africa, with a particular focus on Nigeria and the Seychelles. The children have investigated how population varies across the continent, explored different climates and types of employment, and learnt about significant physical and human features, including the River Nile, the Sahara Desert and Mount Kilimanjaro. They have developed their geographical vocabulary and their understanding of the diversity of life across Africa.

A reminder about home learning 📚

Please ensure that your child completes the following each week:

- **Daily reading:** At least 20 minutes of reading every day. This should be recorded in their reading journal.
- **Weekly journal tasks:** All tasks set in the journal should be completed by the deadline.
- **SATs Companion:** Three tasks are set and must be completed each week to reinforce learning and address any gaps in understanding.

Thank you for your continued support this half term. I am incredibly proud of how the children have approached their learning and look forward to seeing them continue to grow in confidence, resilience and independence after the half-term break.

I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable holiday!

Best wishes,

The Year 5 Team





YEAR 6

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 6 has truly started with a bang! The children have settled brilliantly into the expectations and responsibilities of their final year at primary school, and we are incredibly proud of what they have achieved so far. If this first half term is anything to go by, we cannot wait to see what the rest of the year has in store!

One of our biggest focuses this half term has been **SATs preparation and practice**. The children have worked hard to develop their confidence and resilience as they revisit key skills and tackle challenging questions. In Maths, we have enjoyed focused on place value and the four operations, strengthening our already-strong calculation skills and applying these to a range of problems. In English, we have explored suspense stories, developing our use of descriptive language and learning how to create tension and atmosphere for the reader. As well as this, we have written biographies about Laura Marlin, the main character in our reading book *Dead Man's Cove*.

Our curriculum lessons have been equally as amazing! In Science, we have investigated the circulatory system, learning about the functions of the heart, blood and blood vessels. In History, we have studied the Windrush generation, exploring their experiences, the challenges they faced and the significant contributions they have made to British society. We are incredibly proud of the effort and enthusiasm the children have shown across all subjects and look forward to seeing how they tackle the topics we explore in Autumn 2.

A reminder about home learning 📚

Please ensure that your child completes the following each week:

- **Daily reading:** At least 20 minutes of reading every day. This should be recorded in their reading journal.
- **Weekly journal tasks:** All tasks set in the journal should be completed by the deadline.
- **SATs Companion:** Three tasks are set and must be completed each week to reinforce learning, consolidate key skills and address any gaps in understanding.

Thank you for your continued support this half term. Year 6 is an important year for the children, and your encouragement with home learning and reading makes a real difference. We are incredibly proud of how the children have approached their learning and look forward to seeing them continue to grow in confidence, resilience and independence after the half-term break.

I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable holiday!

Best wishes,

The Year 6 Team

