



Open Gates

The Autumn 2 School Value focus is Ambition

Team Two Gates knows no limits. We are determined to achieve our goals.



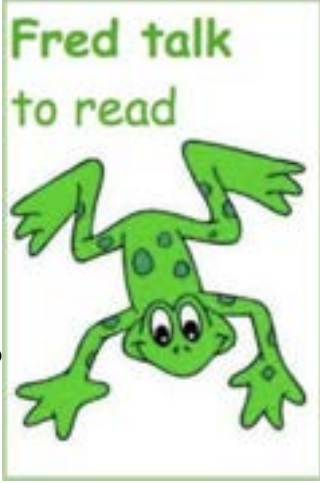
Dear Parents,



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at Two Gates!

Despite the decorations, 'craftanoons', rehearsals and celebrations (not to mention those naughty elves!) it's also **'business as usual'** at TG - with a strong focus every day on core subject teaching right up until the end of term.

This week is **reading** assessment week in Reception and Key Stage 1. Teachers track the children's progress in phonics very closely to ensure that they are always being taught the sounds they need to know next. Please encourage your children to read the book they bring home. You can help them by saying **'special friends, Fred talk, read the word'**. It is very beneficial for the children to reread the same book several times so that they become fluent and confident. Teachers are also sending home links to **short videos** of experts teaching children their sounds; we hope you enjoy watching them (and joining in) alongside your children.



We aim for children to **master the phonic code** as soon as possible - this is the key to reading. Once they have this, they can access new learning and begin to retain the wealth of vocabulary and knowledge associated with the school curriculum. **Reading really is everything!**

But it doesn't stop here... our aim for our fluent readers is for them to develop a **love of reading** by having access to a range of quality text. Please encourage your children to **continue to read widely and often** - there is no age limit on reading! **Older children still enjoy being read to too** and we read aloud to children in every class, every day at Two Gates. **A book makes a wonderful Christmas gift;** for ideas and information visit <https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/> - where you can easily find books for all ages and interests! **Keeeeeep Reading!**



Our most popular children's book lists



Last Friday, **Year 6 visited Tyseley Energy Park** to learn about alternative ways to produce energy without causing greenhouse gases. Children went inside the hangar where leading edge mechanical and chemical engineering research is being carried out by Birmingham University.

Tyseley Energy Park is committed to delivering low and zero carbon power, transport, heat, waste and recycling solutions for a greener, cleaner, healthier Birmingham.

Budding Y6 scientists and engineers were interested to find out about the **potential study pathways and career opportunities** in this field.

The children also learnt about the **history** of the Webster and Horsfall Company, which has operated from the site for 300 years. James Horsfall, invented the first transatlantic cable wire, revolutionising global communication. They saw examples of the wires manufactured there in the museum.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable and informative afternoon.



Everyone looks forward to Thursdays at Two Gates now... why... because that's the day **Sid comes to school!!** Sid is a gorgeous therapy dog who will meet and have strokes from all the children at Two Gates as he visits each class in turn. Sid will also be working 1:1 with children to support their wellbeing. We are very pleased to welcome Sid's owner, Sue too!



Year 2 had a fantastic learning experience with Jools from **Packington's education team**. She taught them all about nocturnal animals and their habits.



Jules also visited reception with Hettie the Hen, She read the story, **The Little Red Hen** and the children learnt about how wheat is turned into flour.





We hope you have enjoyed visiting school for our KS2 Christmas Crafternoons! There has certainly been a lot of glitter to sweep up every day!! (Many apologies to our wonderful cleaners-Nicki, Jan and Jon!)

thank you



Look out for those Two Gates Elves... they have been popping up causing havoc in lessons everywhere...

Community Advocate- your school needs you!

We are still looking for a Community Advocate to join our Governance team. Please click the following link to see more about this role.

Advocate Recruitment

Advocates will be appointed for a term of 4 years and work closely with the school leadership to advance the opportunities for students and their schools and help ensure the school is as strong as it can be. The roles require a time commitment of approximately 30-40 hours per year, broken down into meeting attendance, preparation, email/telephone communications and training.

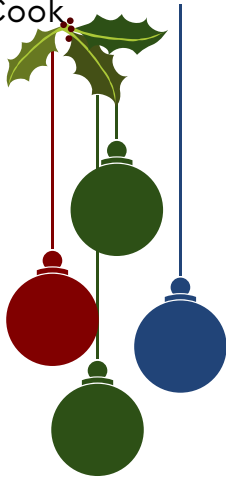
And finally...

Please remember that we are here for you if you have any concerns or questions, or need a listening ear; just call the office on **01827 213855** or email **office@twogates.staffs.sch.uk**

You can also follow us on X **[@2gatesprimary](#)** and message your child's class teacher directly on ClassDojo.

Looking forward to a magical final Christmas week in school - including Mrs Hambly's Nativity in the forest.

Mrs Llewelyn- Cook



Love children, love learning!



CHRISTMAS AT TWO GATES

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday 9th December - Year 3 Christmas Crafts - 2-3pm

Tuesday 10th December - Year 4 Christmas Crafts - 2-3pm

Wednesday 11th December - Year 5 Christmas Crafts - 2-3pm

Thursday 12th December - Year 6 Christmas Crafts - 2-3pm

Friday 13th December - KS1 Christmas Nativity in Song! 2-3pm

Monday 16th December - Nursery Christmas Craft and Singing - 8:45am

Monday 16th December - Reception Christmas Singing Show - 2-3pm

Wednesday 18th December - Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day - All Children

Friday 20th December - Christmas Party Day and the LAST DAY OF TERM

Monday 23rd December till Friday 3rd January - Christmas Holidays - School Closed

Monday 6th January - Inset Day - School Closed

Tuesday 7th January - School open to all pupils



CONGRATULATIONS

STAR AWARD

- Year 1 - Ember
- Year 2 - Bradley
- Year 3 - Ronnie
- Year 4 - Fleur
- Year 5B - Bobby
- Year 5G - Troy
- Year 6 - Presley



Attendance



KS1

Year 2
93.48%

KS2

Year 3
99%

Brilliant Behaviour

Breakfast

- Year 1 - Evie / River
- Year 2 - Amelia
- Year 3 - Theo
- Year 4 - Emerson
- Year 5B - Isla
- Year 5G - Jayden



CONGRATULATIONS



Brilliant Behaviour

Breakfast

- Year 1 - Theo
- Year 2 - Taryn
- Year 3 - Ellie-Mae
- Year 4 - Teddy
- Year 5G - Dexter
- Year 6 - Lenaya

Attendance



KS1

Year 2
95.65%

KS2

Year 3
99.2%



CONGRATULATIONS

STAR AWARD

- Year 2 - Ben
- Year 3 - Darcey
- Year 4 - Chayce
- Year 5B - Elsie-Ann
- Year 5G - Amelia
- Year 6 - Harlow



Attendance



KS1

Year 1
91.7%

KS2

Year 5B
98.3%

Brilliant Behaviour

Breakfast

- Year 1 - Isla
- Year 2 - Harley
- Year 3 - Ronnie
- Year 4 - Jack
- Year 5B - Lola
- Year 5G - Ceejay
- Year 6 - Olivia





Diary Dates

Monday 23rd December till Friday 3rd January 2025

Christmas Holiday

Monday 6th January.

Staff Training Day - School Closed

Tuesday 7th January.

All Children back to School

Monday 17th February till Friday 21st February.

Half Term

Monday 10th March till Friday 14th March

Year 6 visit to Paris

Friday 21st March

Staff Development Day - School Closed