

Giffard Park Primary School

‘Success Starts Here’



11 September 2020

Friday 11th September 2020

To all our families,

We have had a wonderful start to the Autumn term. I think we were all somewhat apprehensive as to how the wider opening of schools would work and I am really pleased and proud of how well all of the staff, children and parents have managed it. The children have made the transition back to school brilliantly. The atmosphere around the school is calm with children all engaged in their learning and smiling happy faces everywhere. I know it hasn't been easy in terms of drop off and pick up and we are constantly reviewing and tweaking our processes and would like to thank you all for your patience as we all get used to the new routines. I would like to welcome all new children and staff to Giffard Park – we have two new teachers who have joined our staff team: Miss Ashley (Y4 Morpurgo) and Miss Thomas (Y5 CS Lewis).

Social distancing

Please can I remind you all that it is **essential** that you adhere to social distancing whilst waiting to drop off or collect your children. Please take particular care that your children are not running across the road to meet you. All of the Senior Leadership team are at the gates in the morning to welcome the children into school. We have 4 gates for the children to arrive and leave through and a reminder of these is as follows:

Year Group	Drop off time	Collection/drop off point	Collection time
Smart Steps	8.30am	Car park pedestrian gate (normal entrance for Smart Steps)	3.30pm
FS	8.40am	Playground gate	3.10pm
YEAR 1	8.35am	Playground gate	3.15pm
YEAR 2	8.35am	Back gate (Y3/4)	3.15pm
YEAR 3	8.35am	Back gate (Y3/4)	3.20pm
YEAR 4	8.40am	Pedestrian gate (by Smart Steps)	3.20pm
YEAR 5	8.35 - 8.40am	Car Park gate	3.20pm
YEAR 6	8.35 - 8.40am	Car Park gate	3.20pm

Visitors to the school site

At the moment, we are only accepting visitors to the school site through an appointment basis for essential reasons only. We are also asking all visitors to wear a mask or face covering whilst they are in the building. If you have any queries or messages, you can speak to a member of staff on the gate or contact the school office on: 01908 617868.

Facemask for children

The government have said that facemasks are not necessary for children in primary schools, however, should you wish your child to wear one could you please provide them with a labelled resealable sandwich bag that they can put their mask into should they choose to remove it. Please also ensure they understand how to remove it and also how to put it on safely.

Breakfast and afterschool club 'Care Club'

Premier Sport are offering breakfast and afterschool club sessions – you can book these directly through the website:

<https://www.premier-education.com/parents/venue/courses/4430/?location=mk145py>

Reminder School Uniform

All children are required to wear Giffard Park uniform (Maisies is open). Please ensure that all clothing is clearly labelled. On the days that the children are scheduled to have PE/Games (see days below) they will be able to come into school in their PE kit. Please ensure that this is Giffard Park PE kit in school colours and no football shirts, ie: Black/red jumper, black bottoms.

FS/1 classes (Rosen and Carle) - Tuesday and Friday

Year 1 (Donaldson) - Friday

Year 2 (Dahl & Browne) - Tuesday

Year 3 (Blake & Pullman) - Thursday

Year 4 (Walliams) - Monday and Thursday

Year 4 (Morpurgo) - Thursday and Friday

Year 5 (C S Lewis & Tolkien) - Tuesday

Year 6 (Shakespeare & Dickens) - Thursday

Happy News

I am pleased to share with you that both Mrs Ings and Mrs Coster have both had their babies and they are all doing really well.

Thank you!

We are really fortunate to have such a generous and thoughtful Parent community at Giffard Park. Over the Summer break, a team of volunteers and members of Friends of Giffard Park (our PTA) worked extremely hard to clear the weeds and outside area around the school. They donated and planted new plants and the results are amazing. I would like to thank them on behalf of the school for their hard work and making such a difference to our school environment.

Parent Governor Elections

We have spaces for our Governing body for 2 parent governors. Please see the recent Parentmail communication for further details.

Changes to school events:

Due to restrictions as a result of Covid-19, there will be a number of changes to some of our traditional events in school. Parent Consultation Evenings in October will be held via telephone appointments – more detailed information will follow in the coming weeks. It is unlikely at this point that we will be able to hold our usual Christmas Fayre and school productions. Obviously, we will be following any updates as closely as you are and if anything changes we will let you know.

Important Reminder for online safety

You might have seen in the news that a video showing a man killing himself has been circulating on TikTok. Although TikTok has taken the video down and says it is deleting any other uploads of it, some users have reported seeing videos which seem harmless but then cut to the suicide clip without warning.

The video shows a bearded man sitting at a desk.

You might want to encourage your child to avoid TikTok for a little while, and make sure they know how to report inappropriate content and understand that they can talk to you about anything they find upsetting on the app.

The factsheet with this newsletter, explains how to help keep your child safe on TikTok, including how to report content.

There is a lot of support available to keep your child safe online. Below are some useful links to help parents and carers:

- [Thinkyouknow](#) (advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online)
- [Internet matters](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Parent info](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [LGfL](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Net-aware](#) (support for parents and careers from the NSPCC)

Wishing you all a wonderful and safe weekend.

Miss E Donoghue

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E Donoghue". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'E'.