

Giffard Park Primary School

‘Success Starts Here’



21 December 2018

Autumn Term 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

What an exciting term it has been for us all at Giffard Park. We have had some thrilling moments this term. One of which was during Parliament Week when we had invited local Member of Parliament, Mark Lancaster to come in and speak to our KS2 children and we ended up with an unexpected visit from the Secretary of State for Education, Damian Hinds! Both of our visitors enjoyed a tour of the school and were really impressed by the children's knowledge, behaviour and IT skills.

Year 6 have had a really busy term too! As part of the National STEM week, they went on a visit to Kidzania in London. This was an invaluable experience for the children to learn about jobs and careers they can aspire to achieve. Through experiencing real-life activities, the children had first hand insight into what it would be like to be a veterinary surgeon, bank clerks, chocolate makers and many more! They also experienced a 'Takeover Day' where they all shadowed adults in school to discover more about what is involved in their different roles.

Please also look at our news page on our website and Facebook page which we keep regularly updated.

Staffing update

Mrs Hussain will be leaving us at the end of this term; we wish her all the best for the future and thank her for her hard work. We look forward to welcoming Mrs Clarke who will be teaching the class alongside Mrs Smith.

Changes for January - Celebration assemblies

In January, we will be making some changes to our weekly celebration assemblies and will be inviting parents in to be part of the celebrations. I will write to you at the start of the new term to let you know when this will begin and to give you further details.

Christmas Performances

Foundation Stage performed beautifully in their production of 'A little bird told me'. It is always wonderful to see how many children have grown in confidence since they started with us.

KS1 also produced some highly professional performances last week (particularly by Steve the donkey) – worthy of Milton Keynes theatre in their production of A Midwife Crisis.

Our Smart steps Preschool performed Christmas songs to their parents this week too; it is wonderful to see our youngest children doing so well. Thank you to Mrs Knight, Mrs Luya and Mrs Spackman for doing such an amazing job.

Should you know of any children who are approaching their 3rd birthday and are interested in a place, please contact the school office for more information.

Choir

The children who form our school choir worked extremely hard learning their Christmas songs and performed brilliantly at the Christmas Fayre. Thank you to Mrs Rogers for giving up her time to help them be so successful. They also performed to some of the residents from the Retirement Village on Giffard Park, who thoroughly enjoyed their performance.

Friends of Giffard Park (FoGP) Christmas Fayre

Thank you so much to everyone who helped and supported at our Christmas Fayre, particularly Mrs Ellery, Mrs Gunn, Mrs Hutchinson Mrs Inwood and Mrs Glass who were instrumental in the organisation. Thank you also to the other members of FoGP, the staff and children who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make the event such a success. We are thrilled to have raised over £1000!

We still have a number of unclaimed raffle prizes, so please check your tickets carefully against the numbers below and if you have a winning ticket please come and collect your prize from the School Reception.

Green: 183, 200 Yellow: 208 Pink: 135, 150

Emergency Closure Alerts

You can now find out if we have to close our schools in an emergency by signing up for free text and email alerts on the Milton Keynes Council website.

Simply log on to:-

<http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/closures> and enter your email address and mobile phone number to receive the alerts if we have to close.

While we make every effort to keep the schools open, there may be occasions when it is not safe for pupils and staff to be at school, for example in extreme weather conditions. When the decision is made to close, we will use the web-based system to send the text and email alerts to you. The system will also continue to send information about the closures to local radio stations who will read out the information on air and display on their websites.

We will also display details of any closure on the school website at:-

<http://www.giffardpark.milton-keynes.sch.uk/website/home/40167>

We will also notify you via Parentmail, so if you have not already done so please make sure you have signed up. Any queries relating to this, then please speak to the School Office.

Late pickups

Please remember that school finishes at 3.10pm for Foundation and 3.20pm for the rest of the school. Please ensure that you pick up your child on time.

On behalf of myself and the Governing Body, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your on-going support this year and to wish all of our families a very happy Christmas.

Back to school

Remember: School opens for the children on **Monday 7th January 2019**.