

# Giffard Park Primary School

‘Success Starts Here’



## 19 July 2018

Summer Term 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Staffing Changes**

It is with great sadness that we are saying farewell to a number of our teachers and teaching support staff at the end of this term. Sadly, as the last of our Resource Base children leave this year, Mrs Pollard our SENDCo and Resource Base Manager who has also been Interim Assistant Head at various points over the last three years is moving on to new adventures in a Special School. Mrs Pollard's work with our children and families has been invaluable and she will be greatly missed at Giffard Park.

We also say goodbye to Mrs Mistry, who has been teaching at Giffard Park for the past 15 years and is also moving on. Mrs Mistry, a valued member of our staff team, has done a fantastic job of ensuring our youngest children get the best possible start to our school.

Mrs Caswell who has been at Giffard Park for the past 10 years is also moving on. During her time with us she has taught children across the school and most recently in Year 6 where she has done an incredible job. Mrs Isherwood, who is currently on maternity leave, is also moving on at the end of term. Miss Sutton, Miss Miles and Mr Green will also be leaving to pursue new adventures.

Mrs Redgrift, Ms Jeffery and Mrs Proctor will also be leaving us as the end of the term. They too have worked with many of our children and families throughout the years and we are very sad to see them go.

Mrs Sinfield who has been with us for the last 18 years is also leaving although she has promised to come back and help us in the future. We will particularly miss the artistic impact she has had on both the children and our school environment.

Mrs Fuller is retiring at the end of this year; she has been with us for the past 23 years. In her time at Giffard Park she has had many roles, most recently working with our children in the Resource Base and also as a Librarian.

Miss Palmer who was briefly teaching Year 3 this term is also leaving and we wish her the very best for the future.

On behalf of myself and the Governors, we would like to thank all of our staff for all of their hard work and wish them all the very best for the future; their presence at Giffard Park will be sorely missed.

### **Welcome to new staff**

We are really excited to welcome some new staff to our team. Mr Robinson our new Caretaker, has already started with us this term and has settled in really well. In September, we have Miss Thompson joining us as Foundation Stage Leader and will be teaching Carle class, Mr Horton is joining us in Year 1 Donaldson class, Miss Bowley will be teaching Year 5 Tolkein and Miss Rose will be teaching Year 5 C S Lewis. Mrs Joliffe will be our new SENDCo and teaching Year 6 Dickens class. Mrs Rogers will be returning from her maternity leave to teach across the school.

### **Summer Club**

Premier will be hosting a Summer Holiday Programme at our school this summer offering parents affordable child care, and offering children an exciting Summer Break! With so much fun in store, and the chance to keep active, learn new skills and meet new friends, what better way to keep your child entertained during the Summer Holidays!

And to make this even better, Premier will be offering a fantastic 50% discount on all of their holiday dates until Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018! Simply enter the code 'FIFTY' at the checkout!

Simply [CLICK HERE](#) to see all of the dates they are running and to book your space!

Should you need any additional information, you can reach them on **01908 597940**

### **Breakfast and After School Club**

We are sad to announce that the current Breakfast and After School Clubs will be closing at the end of this term due to staff reorganisation within the school. We would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Deathe, Miss Brittain and Ms Jeffery for all of their hard work and care over the last few years.

We are delighted to announce that Premier Sports will be offering Play Active Care both for breakfast and after school from September 2018 as an extension to their summer holiday scheme. This provision is for children from **Foundation to Year 6**. The clubs will have a physical activity based approach with children being involved in fun activities every day.

To Book your place, simply go to [www.premier-education.com](http://www.premier-education.com) and click 'choose a course' search 'Giffard Park School' and select the course that you wish to book.

Any queries please contact Premier Sports: [mkoffice@premier-education.com](mailto:mkoffice@premier-education.com) or call them on **01908 597940**

### **Celebrations from this year**

We have had a really successful year with many wonderful things to celebrate.

#### **Music awards:**

Children from our school took part in the Woodwind festival and we are very proud of our Woodwind large ensemble who won the Gold award and the small ensemble who won the Gold and Silver awards. They performed both in assembly, at our Open Evening and also at the Winners Concert at the Church of Christ the Cornerstone. They did incredibly well and should be very proud of their efforts.

#### **STEM (Science, technology, engineering and maths) /Computing success:**

We are very fortunate to have Mrs Humphries teaching Computing across the school. The children thoroughly enjoy their lessons and you can find out more about what the children have been learning through our blog: <https://giffardparkcomputing.wordpress.com/> or click on the tab on our school website.

Mrs Humpries has also written a really comprehensive report about all of the work we are doing at Giffard Park and this can be read here: ['STEM and Digital Technologies'](#).

#### **Pi Wars Award**

We took the digital leaders to Pi Wars in Cambridge where the judges were so impressed by our children that they gave us a specially designed award for '**Heart and Soul**' award.

#### **MK Education Awards**

This year was the first year that Milton Keynes held their Education Awards and we won the award for '**STEM participation**'. This award acknowledged all of the extra-curricular STEM work that we are doing as a school.

#### **Golden Mile**

In order to boost the health and fitness of our children and promote a healthy lifestyle, this year we implemented the Golden Mile Scheme in partnership with Premier Sport.

The Golden Mile Scheme encourages children to run a mile (or more) or an age appropriate distance, initially, at least once a week. In Celebration assemblies, the children were presented with certificates once they achieved distance milestones.

The Year 5&6 Sports Leaders, under Mr Romano's supervision and training helped to organise, promote and track performances for the Golden Mile. This has greatly benefitted the children in developing their teamwork, organisation and communication skills.

The whole scheme has had a really positive impact on improving the children's well-being and fitness and we plan to continue this next academic year.

### **Stantonbury Athletics/Tug of War**

We had six children who qualified for the final with some of them narrowly missing out on a podium medal. We also came second in the Milton Keynes Tug of War Competition. Thank you to Mr Green and Mr Romano for all their hard work with the children.

### **Race for Life**

A really big thank you to everyone who supported our school's 'Race for Life'. We raised over £3000 altogether for Cancer Research UK – what an incredible result! Thank you to Mr Green and Mr Romano for organising such a fantastic event.

### **Residential visit**

At the beginning of the Summer term, children from Year 4 went on their Residential Visit to Caldecotte. This was a fantastic visit, despite the freezing temperatures, the children were able to develop their skills of co-operation, teamwork and challenged themselves to step outside of their comfort zones.

### **SMART STEPS Preschool**

Our Preschool continues to grow! We started as a brand new provision In September 2017 with 2 children. We now have 37 children on roll with more visiting every day. A really big thank you to Mrs Mistry, Mrs Knight, Mrs Luya, Mrs Spackman and Mrs Cowley for working so hard with our youngest children to give them such a wonderful start at Giffard Park.

### **Friends of Giffard Park**

A huge thank you to the hard working and dedicated team of Friends, who continue to raise money for our school. They have been instrumental in their organisation and support of events such as: discos, film nights, Christmas and Summer Fairs, uniform sales and tuck shop sales. There will be an AGM in the Autumn Term should you wish to come along and find out more about what they do.

### **End of term**

Just to remind you that we break up on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July**. We hope you have an enjoyable break and the children return to school refreshed on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018**.

Good luck and well done to everyone. I wish you all an enjoyable summer holiday.

Miss E Donoghue