



Newsletter

Giles Junior School

“Achieving excellence through Leadership”

**Autumn
Term
Friday 13th
September
2019**

Giles Junior School News

Welcome back to all our brilliant children and parents. It is always a big change after a long break away from the routines of schools, so I was delighted to see all the children smiling and happy to be back. I have enjoyed seeing our Year 6 leavers in their smart new uniforms and it has been fantastic to see how positive and ready they have been to move on. Year 3 are settling in well, there are a vast amount of changes to cope with and they are doing this really well. We also appreciate that new Year 3 parents have to adjust to different systems and ways of doing things. We thank you for your patience while we help you ease into Giles Junior School.

Thank you for all staff gifts at end of summer term, they were all truly appreciated. We did have some goodbyes to staff as announced previously. Mrs Bird was given an amazing job opportunity at the end of the summer term which she couldn't turn down, so we were sad to see her go but know she will be a great asset to her new school.

We do also have new staff joining the Giles Family and I am sure many parents are getting to know them when picking up their pupils. Welcome to our new class teachers **Mrs Arris** who is teaching in 4 Australia, **Mrs Folan** based in 4 Zambia, **Mr Gray** who is in the newly named 5 Turkey and also **Mrs Dear** working part time in 3 Italy (who was previously with us as a long term supply teacher). We were also lucky to recruit a new MSA - **Mrs Coath**, in addition to specific child support roles filled by **Miss Winsley** and **Mrs Kibler**. We also have a Sports Apprentice - **Miss Hipperson** who will be assisting Mr Mendes over the next year. There are also two new long term supply teachers based in 3 Italy and 3 Sweden (**Mrs F Jones** and **Mr Richardson**) they have both worked at Giles before so will be recognizable to parents and pupils.

With an extra class and a growing school we appreciate parking is difficult. We know many of you encourage children to walk into school and are always considerate of pedestrians and other cars (who might not be as patient as we would like!) Please remember to keep all residential drive ways clear as this can impact significantly on people living in these houses.

Miss. Whitby (was Mrs Racher—thanks for the patience while we get used to the name change!)
Headteacher

Magic Breakfast Update

Who knew bagels would be so delicious! We are trialing the system at the moment to make sure that it keeps a calm and purposeful start to the day. Please remember all the left over bagels (not many) are available for children coming in to class so don't worry about missing out. I would like to say a HUGE thank you to Mrs Allaway, Mrs Mackenzie, Miss Sewell and Miss Faulkner who have prepared them ready for the children. It is certainly comforting to know that every child can have a full stomach and good concentration ready for a busy day at school.



Curriculum Meetings

A letter went out this week telling you about the curriculum meetings. All of them will be from 9.00-9.30am. Please enter the building through the playground entrance to the school. Refreshments will be available from 8.50am in the dining room.

Tuesday 24th September – Year 4
Wednesday 25th September – Year 5&6
Thursday 26th September – Year 3

At this meeting, staff will give an outline of areas for learning in all subjects for the Autumn Term. There will also be discussion about the expectations for home learning and handwriting presentation. For Year 6 parents, there will be a particular focus on SATs. We look forward to seeing you there.

Autumn Term Dates 2019 (These could be subject to change)

DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME
Year 6 Drugs Awareness Workshop in school	Tuesday 17 September	14:00 - 15:00
Year 6 Crucial Crew @ Bowes Lyon	Wednesday 18 September	09:45 - 11:45
Year 5 Trip to West Stow	Friday 20 September	All day
Year 3 stone age pottery Workshop in school	Tuesday 24 September	All day
Curriculum meeting - Year 4	Tuesday 24 September	09.00 - 09.30
Year 3 stone age pottery Workshop in school	Wednesday 25 September	All day
Curriculum meeting - Year 5&6	Wednesday 25 September	09.00 - 09.30
Curriculum meeting - Year 3	Thursday 26 September	09.00 - 09.30
Macmillan Coffee Morning	Friday 27 September	TBC
Year 6 Trip to Imperial War Museum	Wednesday 16 October	All day
Kittle School Photos - Individual shots	Friday 18 October	All day
Disco	Friday 25 October	TBC
Bouncy Castle/Class Reward Session	Friday 25 October	AM
Half Term - SCHOOL CLOSED	28 October - 1st November	

Attendance Procedures

A letter has gone out this week about attendance procedures. Attendance is a priority at Giles and due to national safeguarding incidents, new safeguarding procedures have been put in place.

If your child is absent from school, please contact the office by 9:30am to inform us. If we have not heard anything by 9:30am, we will send a text message informing you of your child's absence and ask you to call the school office. If we have not heard from anyone by 10:30am, we will call the emergency contacts for your child.

If your child is then absent the following day and the school has not received a reason, then Safeguarding officers from Giles Junior School will make a visit to your house to check that your child is ok.

If you are aware in advance that your child will be absent, i.e. holidays, appointments, please complete an application for leave form (for holidays only) which is available from the school office and supply evidence of medical appointments.

Thank you for working with us to keep all our children safe.

Clubs for September - Autumn Term 2019

All clubs have started this week. If your child has a place in Pop Stars, Dance, Drama or Stevenage FC, you will have received a message from the office to confirm this. As communicated in the July newsletters, if you applied for a Mr Mendes Sports Club, your child will automatically be put on the list for that club. No messages will be sent about Mr Mendes Sports Clubs, you will only be notified if the club is over-subscribed.

Clubs are always very popular!
As soon as you receive the email at the end of term, about clubs for the following term, please ensure that you collect a club letter from the school office. This needs to be completed and payment made by the deadline. Thank you.

Leader In Me Visit - Thursday 12th September

We were delighted to have two visitors all the way from Mauritius this week. As a Lighthouse School for the Leader in Me we offered to showcase how we use The 7 Habits across school. They were glowing with positivity and are going to look into funding this scheme in schools back in their home town!



Macmillan Coffee Morning

We would like to invite you to 'The World's biggest Coffee Morning' at Giles on the 27th September at 8.55am. This is in support of Macmillan Cancer Support.

As it is also Breast Cancer Awareness week coming up, we would love for some of the cakes to be pink. Please be reminded that we are a NUT FREE school.

We kindly ask you to supply cakes to be sold to raise funds for these amazing charities.

All delicious contributions need to be in school by the end of the day on Thursday 26th September.

The pupils will have an opportunity to purchase a cake at break time.

A letter with further details will be going out today.

Thank you so much for your support and we look forward to catching up with you all over cake and coffee on the 27th.



Reminders

Medication - Please ensure all inhalers or prescribed medication are in school and signed into the office.

Swimming Yr4 - Please be reminded that swimming sessions for this term are for Costa Rica and Zambia and these are on a Wednesday morning. Donations of £4.10 per week for swimming are to be handed into the office or paid via The School Gateway. The cost for the whole Autumn Term is £57.40.

Yr6 Crucial Crew Event - All permission slips should be in by today. Children need to be dropped at Bowes Lyon Centre between 9.20-9.30am on Wednesday 18th September. All children will walk back to school in time for lunch as normal.

Yr5 Trip to West Stow - This trip is taking place on Friday 20th September. All children will need to be in school for 8.45am. All permission slips and payment should be in by today.

PGL Trip Yr6 - Please be reminded that you are able to start making payments for this trip. These can be made using the school gateway or by handing in cash to the school office in a clearly marked envelope.

Parent Post Box - Please can we encourage parents to use our post box in Reception. We have envelopes and pens available to use. Please just mark the envelope clearly with the amount of money, child's name and what the money is for. Any reply slips from letters can also just be posted. (If change is required, this will be given out for your child to bring home by the end of the day).

Application for leave of absence - No time requested during term time will be authorised, unless it is for exceptional circumstances. If you need to request time off, please complete a leave of absence form and hand into the school office (these can be found in the reception area).

School Gateway - Please make payments online for the following: dinner money, swimming, After School Clubs, Breakfast Club, Smiles at Giles (Giles Junior After School Club) and trips. Download the School Gateway app and search Giles Junior School. If you need help in activating your account please call the school office.

Please click on the School Gateway link :



Would you like to extend your child's food range?

The 6 week programme starts Wednesday 18th September - Wednesday 23rd October from 4.30 pm - 5.30 pm at Barnwell School, Middle Campus, Stevenage SG2 9SR

This course is being fully funded by DSPL2

Food Explorers is run by an Occupational Therapist and focuses on helping young people explore new foods using all their senses. They will be encouraged to use a variety of kitchen utensils and prepare a simple snack. We aim to increase acceptance of new food by reducing stress using a fun and scientific approach.



Parents can join in with their child or watch before sharing the snack prepared by them.

To book your child a place contact: Jacqueline@magnificentmunchers.com



www.magnificentmunchers.co.uk



hpcp registered



FAMILY LIVES AUTUMN PARENTING GROUP PROGRAMME

FOR TARGETED PARENTS LIVING IN HERTFORDSHIRE

Bringing Up Confident Children for parents of children with SEN (8 weeks)
Date: Thursdays 12, 19, 26 September, 3, 10, 17, 24 October & 7 November
Time: 9:30 - 11:30
Venue: The Oak Suite, Peartree Spring Primary School, Hydeau Way, Stevenage, SG2 9SG

Bringing Up Confident Children for parents of children with SEN (8 weeks)
Date: Thursdays 12, 19, 26 September, 3, 10, 17, 24 October & 7 November
Time: 12:45 - 14:45
Venue: ASDA, Hatfield, 98 Town Centre, Hatfield, AL10 0JP

Bringing Up Confident Children for parents of children with ADHD (6 weeks)
Date: Tuesdays 17, 24 September, 1, 8, 15 & 22 October 2019
Time: 9:30 - 11:30
Venue: Hobbs Hill Wood Primary School, Peascroft Road, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 8ER

Bringing Up Confident Children for parents of children with ASD (6 weeks)
Date: Tuesdays 5, 12, 19, 26 November & 3, 10 December 2019
Time: 9:30 - 11:30
Venue: Morrisons Borehamwood, Stirling Way, Borehamwood, WD6 2RN

Getting on with Pre/Teens for parents of children at risk/have a FFA/CIN/CP/YIP/Parenting Order (6 weeks)
Date: Wednesdays 6, 13, 20, 27 November, 4 & 11 December 2019
Time: 12:45 - 14:45
Venue: Hobbs Hill Wood Primary School, Peascroft Road, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 8ER

Getting on with Pre/Teens for parents of children at risk/have a FFA/CIN/CP/YIP/Parenting Order (6 weeks)
Date: Thursdays 14, 21, 28 November & 5, 12 & 19 December 2019
Time: 9:30 - 11:30
Venue: The Oak Suite, Peartree Spring Primary School, Hydeau Way, Stevenage, SG2 9SG

Getting on with Pre/Teens for parents of children at risk/have a FFA/CIN/CP/YIP/Parenting Order (6 weeks)
Date: Thursdays 14, 21, 28 November & 5, 12, 19 December 2019
Time: 12:45 - 14:45
Venue: ASDA, Hatfield, 98 Town Centre, Hatfield, AL10 0JP

Contact Louise on 01707 247032 / 01163 666087 for information/book a place or send completed referral form via HertsFX to louiserv@familylives.org.uk

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Gardening Club

For one of our Golden Time options, Mrs Woolston is running a gardening club.

We are asking parents and carers for donations of any seeds, bulbs, soil and trowels that you may have and do not need.

Any help to get our gardening club up and running would be very much appreciated.

Thank you for your support!

