



# Newsletter

## Giles Junior School

**“Achieving excellence through Leadership”**

**Autumn  
Term  
18th  
December  
2019**

### Giles Junior School News

We have reached the end of term. It has been 15 weeks of hard work at Giles Junior School and the children deserve a well earned rest.

It has certainly been a busy few weeks, with the Christmas Fayre, Year 4 Christmas Performance, Year 3 Carol Concert, Dance and Drama performances ... the list could go on. It has been really fantastic to see so many of our families attend these events and immerse themselves in the Christmas Spirit.

Over the last few weeks I have had the pleasure of working with School Council representatives across the school. They have helped review parking near by school and concluded their work in the design of a leaflet which will be sent home with this newsletter. They would be really grateful for you to take time to read their ideas and review your current routine. We know that the new year is a great time to start New Year resolutions so perhaps a five minute walk twice a day might help make the area outside of school safer for our children.

We hope all of our families have a happy, safe and enjoyable time together over the holidays and we will look forward to seeing **all the children back on Tuesday 7th January 2020!**

Please note that year 6 boosters will not take place in the first week back and will restart on the same day, finishing at 4:00pm week beginning 13th January.

Miss. Whitby  
Headteacher

### Children's Performances

#### **Year 4 Christmas Play**

Well done to all the Year 4 children for their two performances of the Christmas Play. All the children did so well learning all their lines and they sang beautifully. The show was enjoyed by everyone.

#### **Year 3 Carol Concert**

Year 3 performed an amazing carol concert on Tuesday afternoon. Well done Year 3!

#### **Performing Arts Group**

Mr Sapsed's performing arts show is taking place today, Wednesday 18th December, good luck to everyone who is involved.

### Lates

We all know that there are one off times when we are late for school and this can be for a range of reasons. We would really appeal to any families who are late more than three times a week to consider a change in routine to avoid getting to school late. Reducing the amount of late pupils would really help the office staff who are spending an increasing amount of time signing in children, taking their lunch options and then taking them to class. All parents will benefit from this, as the office will be able to help deal with morning queries more efficiently without this additional workload.

### PE Kit

All PE kits are to be taken home for a good wash over the holidays. We have a number of children who are repeatedly needing to borrow appropriate footwear from Mr Mendes - this takes up a lot of the lesson finding the right size. It is expected that all children have PE kits in school every day, including trainers which are needed for the sessions. All PE kits to be back in school in the first week back.

### Giles Junior School Christmas Fayre 2019

What a fantastic Christmas Fayre! All our lovely families came together to celebrate and enjoy the Christmas spirit. Thank you for supporting us and your children's hard work. We raised just over £1,500!!

Once again, many thanks to all the children, their families, staff and volunteers that made this event a very special one.

### Spring Term Diary Dates

We are just finalising a list of the Spring Term Diary Dates and they will be coming out at the start of the Spring Term.

### Reminders for the new term

**Year 4 Swimming** - Starts on the 15th Jan for Year 4 Australia & Zambia. Payment on the School Gateway for Spring Term Swimming is available from 23rd December (once the Autumn Term swimming has finished).

**Violin** - The class lesson starts on Monday 13th January for Year 4 Costa Rica. For those older children who have chosen to continue with violin lessons these also start on the 13th January.

**PGL Trip Year 6** - Please ensure that you are up to date with the monthly instalments, for this trip, which started in September. If you need a copy of the letter with the instalment details please ask the school office or check the School Gateway.

**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.

**Medical Appointments** - We require proof for all medical appointments that are within the school day (copy of letter or office to be shown a confirmation txt message). Please can appointments be made after school time, wherever possible. Thank you.

### Games Day - Last Day of Term

Friday 20th December is games day. The children may bring in games and electronic devices.

All sim cards must be removed.

**School will finish at 2.00pm on the last day of term.**

### Clubs for Spring Term 2020

#### **Mr Mendes' Sports Clubs:**

Mr Mendes Sports clubs all start the first week back to school from 7th January 2020.

#### **Mr Sapsed's Clubs (Dance, Drama & Musical Theatre):**

You will be notified by the office, at the start of term, if your child has a place in one of Stephen Sapsed's Clubs (Musical Theatre, Dance or Drama).

Mr Sapsed's clubs will start the second week back to school from 13th January 2020.

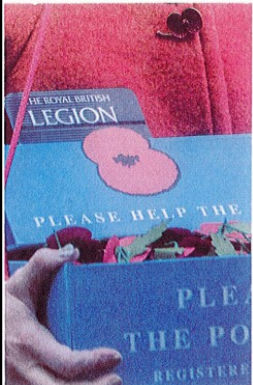
#### **Stevenage FC:**

You will be notified by the office, if your child has a place in Stevenage FC, at the start of term.

Stevenage FC will start on the 16th January 2020.

### Donations of Games & Toys

If anyone has any old toys or board games they would like to donate to the school for wet playtimes, they would be very much appreciated. Thank you!



2019  
**POPPY APPEAL**

Thank you very much for helping with our Appeal.

£ 80.93  
was collected by you.

Without your help, we would be unable to continue our vital welfare and benevolent work.

Yours sincerely  
K GREENOUGH  
Local Honorary Organiser

District Total (if available) £ .....  
Registered Charity No. 219279



**VOLUNTEER  
SCHOOL CROSSING  
PATROL WANTED!**



**WE ARE URGENTLY LOOKING FOR  
PEOPLE WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING FOR SCHOOL  
CROSSING PATROL DUTIES AT**

**GILES INFANT/JUNIOR SCHOOL**

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED OR WOULD LIKE FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE  
CONTACT:**

**JANET FAIRHEAD ON 01992 556816**

**Hertfordshire County Council, Transport, Access and Road Safety,  
County Hall, Pegs Lane, Hertford, SG13 8DN.  
Tel: 01992 556815 December 2019**

Can we please remind you that it is parental  
responsibility to get your child to and  
from school safely

