



Newsletter

Giles Junior School

"Achieving excellence through Leadership"

**Autumn
Term
Friday 27th
September
2019**

Giles Junior School News

Happy Friday everyone!

Another eventful week—the sun did not shine as much this week but as we say at Giles “carry your own weather!”. We started our week in a mindful way with children being asked to have a quiet lunch. I have to apologise to Year 5 as they did not get an opportunity to take part in the vote. All other classes had an excess of 75% of children saying the dining hall was too noisy and they didn't like it.

I have detailed some of the different approaches we have trialed so far, so that parents understand why we sometimes try different approaches. We actively involve the children in these decisions as much as possible and encourage them to think “Win-Win”. The children have been really excellent at trialing no talking (apart from to adults) this week and as always it has had a mixed reaction.

We will be gathering results on preference this week and putting it back to the children to see what other ideas they can think of to help make sure everyone can enjoy their lunch. Any parents who have good ideas, your thoughts are always welcome and I enjoyed talking to three different parents this week who wanted to know what had led to this decision. I will publish the before and after results once the information has been collected and will let parents know how this develops as the year goes on.

Miss. Whitby
Headteacher

Silent Lunch Times

Why?

- 90 children in a small space, even when using a talking voice creates a large volume of noise
- When the expansion was planned there were new classrooms built but no modifications were made to the dining area—which now seats an extra 90 children each lunch time

Who is affected?

- An increasing number of pupils with needs or noise sensitivity are unable to eat in the dining room
- The cooks can't hear what the children want to eat therefore dinner service takes a lot longer
- The MSAs can't hear when children need help
- Year 4 are learning in classes which adjoin the dining hall when Year 5 and 6 eat lunch

What we have tried:

- Noise-o-meter with warning and red card for silence
- Adults eating with the children
- Break out areas to disperse children which are monitored by an extra adult

Stevenage Food Shed

A letter has gone out this week about our Harvest Assembly that was on Tuesday 24th September, which was in aid of The Stevenage Vineyard – Food Shed which and led by Pastor Barnes.

We would like to ask pupils to donate any spare non-perishable food or toiletries to the Food Shed in Stevenage via Giles Junior School.

Could you please bring the donated items into school before Tuesday 1st October.

Thank you for your continued support.

Family Bingo Night

Friends of Giles (FOG) will be holding a family bingo night on Friday 11th October 2019. All families and friends of Giles Junior School are invited.

Please look out for a letter that will be going out very soon with all the details!



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

DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME
Year 5 & 6 Boys Football Match @ Marriotts	Wednesday 2nd October	After school
Year 5 & 6 Mixed Tag Rugby @ Round Diamond	Thursday 3rd October	After school
Swapping Thursday & Friday lunch day options - so today you will have Friday lunch options	Thursday 3rd October	Lunchtime
Thursday lunch options today	Friday 4th October	Lunchtime
Year 5 & 6 Basketball Match @ Giles	Friday 11th October	After school
FOG Family Bingo Night	Friday 11th October	6.30-8.00pm
Year 6 Trip to Imperial War Museum	Wednesday 16 October	All day
Kittle School Photos - Individual shots	Friday 18 October	All day
Disco	Friday 18th October	5.30-6.45pm for Y3&4 7.00-8.30pm for Yr5&6
Year 5 & 6 Girls Basketball Match @ Round Diamond	Friday 18th October	After school
Year 5 & 6 Boys Table Tennis Match @ Round Diamond	Thursday 24th October	After school
Bouncy Castle/Class Reward Session	Friday 25 October	AM
Half Term - SCHOOL CLOSED	28 October - 1st November	

Parent Information

Please click on the links below for information regarding Emotional Wellbeing Masterclasses which are being run by the Children's Wellbeing Practitioners.

- **Stevenage - 13/11/2019 (Primary age)** - Starfish House, North Road, SG1 4AT
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/emotional-wellbeing-masterclass-primary-age-13th-november-tickets-66327195427>
- **Stevenage 20/11/2019 (Secondary age)** - As above
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/emotional-wellbeing-masterclass-secondary-age-20th-november-tickets-66329905533>

**Year 5 Trip to West Stow -
Anglo Saxon Village**

On Friday 20th September Year 5 enjoyed a step back in time and visited an Anglo-Saxon village at West Stow. The children were able to stand in Anglo-Saxon style houses, ask questions and really imagine what life was like for an ordinary Anglo-Saxon community. We were shown artefacts which had been recovered from all those years ago and found there were many differences and similarities between how they lived then compared to how we live now.



Year 3 Pottery Workshop

On Tuesday and Wednesday, all year 3 classes had a stone age pottery workshop run by the staff from the Stevenage Museum. Children were taught all about tools that the stone age people used and how they made them. Each child had a go at sculpting their own cup using clay and also decorating a clay ball in the style of the ones found at Skara Brae. Children will be bringing home their creations once they are dry!



Reminders

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.

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 :



Sports Report


The football season is about to start and to get ready for it our school have played two friendlies against Round Diamond last week.

The girls won 3-1 and the boys won 1-0.
Well done Giles!




Another Year 5&6 Boys Football friendly match has been booked, in order to give game time to all the boys in the club.

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READING GROUPS FOR 8-12 YEAR OLDS

For children who already love reading and those who are looking to be inspired, our monthly Chatterbooks reading groups offer a fun opportunity to explore books and try new things.





- Chat about the books you are reading
- Choose books for the library
- Games and activities
- Themed sessions

Due to the popularity of Chatterbooks, membership is limited to one academic year and places fill up quickly.

Membership £10
Low income families £5

To request a place in your local Chatterbooks group visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/chatterbooks - or ask in your local library



Junk ROBOT Workshop

Families make a robot out of recycled packaging



Stevenage Central Library
Saturday 5 October
2 - 4 pm

For ages 5-11 £2.00 per child
Tickets available online and at the library
All children must be accompanied by an adult

Further details 0300 123 4049
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/libraries

