

'Achieving Excellence through Leadership'

GILES JUNIOR SCHOOL

Telephone: 01438 353374 email: admin@gilesjm.herts.sch.uk Website: www.gilesjm.herts.sch.uk



Headteacher: Miss. L. Whitby

Monday, 30 August 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Autumn Term Update

I trust this update finds you well and you have all enjoyed the summer break. Whilst the weather hasn't always been as sunny as we would have liked I hope you have still been able to spend some quality family time together. This communication is to inform you of a few of the arrangements at the start of the year.

Miss Jose

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that Miss Jose has had her baby. Felicity Charlotte Gray was born on the 18th August, weighing 9lb and 8oz. Both mum, dad and daughter are doing well and I am sure you will join me in wishing the new family all the very best. I know the staff are very excited at the prospect of meeting Felicity in the coming weeks.

A Busy Break

Under the watchful eye of Mr Brown, our Site Manager, there have been a number of 'projects' being carried out over the course of the last six weeks. From replacement fencing on the playground to new windows; interior decoration to maintenance and repairs. All ensure the school looks as nice as possible when the pupils return next week.

We have some exciting projects which will be taking place at the start of the new term which will give us two additional office spaces which have been desperately needed since the growth of the school to 3 form-entry. This will not affect the day to day running of the school but there will be some minor disruption to breakfast and after school club who will relocate for the duration of the works.

COVID Arrangements from Next Week

We look forward to welcoming you back to Giles Junior School on Thursday 2nd September. The start of a new academic year brings updated guidance from the Department for Education in relation to Covid arrangements. The updates have removed the need for bubbles within school and therefore we will be able to reintroduce more sociable lunchtimes and face-to-face assemblies, for example.

We still need to be sensible and monitor the data very carefully, being ready to reintroduce tighter controls if needed (our Outbreak Management Plan). From Thursday, pupils should arrive at school between 8.40am and 8.55am and proceed straight to their classrooms where they will be welcomed by their class teachers. This is our 'soft start' and allows the opportunity for pupils to catch up with their friends and get settled in a calm and more relaxed way. As the soft start to the day has helped to ease congestion and traffic we will be maintaining a soft pick up which will be a 3:00 finish for all pupils learning time, with the option to collect between 3:00 and 3:15. Having reduced our lunch time by 15 minutes the school lesson times remain the same. Pupils will be dismissed at this time and parents and carers should wait at the class door to ensure everyone has been collected. Can I ask that if you are allowing your child to walk home alone (or with friends) you collect and sign consent for this so we are



aware. If your child is permitted to walk and meet a younger sibling they will remain in class until 3:15 to ensure there are not crowds on the infant playground.

We still need to be careful when on the playgrounds before and after school and I would ask you be mindful of social distancing etc. We would still encourage wearing of a face mask but this will not be mandatory in line with current guidance. You will be seeing familiar faces before school on the playground and at the gate to greet and see families onto and off the site at the end of the day. These faces will include myself, Mrs Jones, Mr Bailey (UKS2 Phase Leader – SLT) and Mrs Ford (LKS2 Phase Leader – SLT).

A Positive Covid Test?

From 16th August, children under the age of 18 (or double-vaccinated adults) do not need to isolate or miss school if they come into contact with a positive Covid case, even if that is within their household. Instead, they are encouraged to book a PCR test but should continue coming to school as long as they do not have symptoms and their test is negative. If your child develops Covid symptoms, they should stay at home and book a PCR test (not a LFT). If they develop symptoms at school, you will be contacted and asked to collect your child as soon as possible. If the result of the test is positive then they will need to self-isolate. If it is negative, then they can return to school when they are well enough to do so.

Clearly, should your child be generally unwell, then they should stay at home until they are fit enough to return to school. Communication is going to be vital and so please make sure you report absences to the school office as early as possible.

School Lunches

We will be continuing to serve lunches in the classroom which will not affect the hot menu. Therefore, children wishing to order a school lunch can do so on the day while the register is being taken. If your child has packed lunch, then they will state this when asked in school.

PE Kits

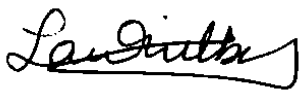
We found it so beneficial that the children came dressed in PE Kits on their PE day that we would like to continue this routine – it maximises the time they are being active for during the allocated time for PE. Your class teacher will inform you ready for the week beginning 6th September which days your child will need come dressed in their PE kit.

Should you have any questions prior to the start of the term, please do not hesitate in contacting the school office via email (admin@gilesjm.herts.sch.uk) this email address will be monitored over the coming days) and any urgent queries will be answered as quickly as possible.

Updates will always continue as usual via updates such as individual letters, the fortnightly newsletter, the school website or through Twitter.

I look forward to seeing you all again next week and finding out what everyone has been getting up to!

Yours sincerely,



Miss Louise Whitby
Headteacher