

‘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

Thursday, 10 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

CHANGES TO THE START AND END OF THE SCHOOL DAY from MONDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2020

Firstly, thank you so much. I know it is hard to get used to the changes which have been put in place. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this transition period. While we may have communicated the “plan” it is always a challenge trying the plan out with 330 children and families!

At Giles Junior we have made adaptations in regards to government guidance about the best ways to avoid the spread of COVID-19. We have balanced this with the understanding that families may have children in different schools with different times. Having now seen the impact of the staggered start times we do need to overcome some of the logistical issues while making it easier for families to come to school quickly and leave as quickly as possible. We feel we have a better alternative which the children will find smoother and will allow families to juggle their work and family commitments while keeping everyone safe. **Please read below for some small changes which should not impact negatively on families, in fact should make it easier!** This change has been discussed with Mrs Mendel from Giles Infants and Nursery School and she supports the changes we will make. There are no changes to the Infants arrangements at this time.

Dropping children off

We will open **ALL** classroom doors at 8:40 in the morning. You may drop your child/children from this time and up until 9:00 at which point we hope all children will be in school ready to start their day. We hope this will mean parents will find a natural slot within that **twenty-minute window** to drop their child. This will reduce bulks of families needing to wait. We will need to make sure children are **NOT** on school grounds before this time unless they are attending breakfast club as all teachers and support staff will be in class welcoming children. If families arrive earlier than 8:40 in a car please wait in your car until it is time to come into school.

One way system

As families will be able to send children into school quickly and make their way off site we will operate a one way system. This will be in through the gates to the left as you enter the front gates, before the office (near to the year 3 classrooms) and then out through the larger gates near the bike sheds. This will avoid families needing to cross paths and hopefully make it easier to move around the site while social distancing. I will sign post this as clearly as possible.

Pick up from school

Year 3 and 4 will need to be picked up at 2:50 from outside their classroom and Year 5 and 6 at 3:00. We feel there is enough space to enable families to wait near their classroom without the need to flow into the car park as there is space to wait on the playground where families can socially distance. Wearing masks helps to reduce the risk further and we thank parents cooperation with this. We hope this ten-minute separation will help ease congestion and those parents needing to pick up two siblings will only



have to wait a minimum of 10 minutes before moving off site. Many of our year 6 children are lone walkers which helps reduce traffic. Those pupils who have signed consent for the sibling in year 6 to collect their sibling before meeting an adult in an agreed location will have a short wait in class for their siblings to collect when they come out of class.

The Welcome Pod

This will no longer need to operate and we hope that parents will be able to accommodate pick up and drop off more easily and therefore not need to use this facility. **If you still have concerns about timings please email admin@gilesjm.herts.sch.uk** and we will accommodate the best we can by having a conversation about the best option. We really need to avoid children leaving earlier than their official end time and this will only be agreed in exceptional circumstances.

PE Kits

We have found for some time that the time taken to change before and after PE eats in to their lesson time. Now seems a good time to develop a new routine with the children coming to school dressed in the PE kit and being sent home in it. Your child's PE days are listed below (year 6 have one lesson as it is extended). When the weather turns colder the children will need to wear black jogging bottoms, their PE t-shirt and have either their Giles Junior jumper or fleece to wear over the top along with a warm coat.

Monday	Year 5	Year 6 girls
Tuesday	Year 4	Year 3
Wednesday	Year 5	
Thursday	Year 3	Year 4
Friday	Year 6 boys	

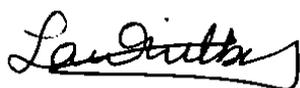
Other things to note:

- If the children forget their water bottle, PE kit (which should be worn on the right days) or snack please don't drop these in – a phone call to let us know will help us solve these issues easily in school to avoid additional visitors during the school day.
- Pupils should not be bringing in additional items such as cuddly toys unless it is agreed as part of their pastoral plan please speak to children about this and check what they are taking in to school
- Only one family member should be coming to drop or collect

It goes without saying that we all need to continue to be vigilant and follow the guidance set out to reduce transmission. We know that the infection rate is high among younger people who are less affected by the virus. We urge families to continue to follow government guidance outside of school. Please remember choices made outside school could not only affect one family, but may result in a whole year group requiring to stay at home for two weeks. Our plans are based on reducing (ceasing) contact between children and supporting them in their year groups only. We hope that parents will support this outside school too and make sure everyone can stay in school full time.

Further information about how we will manage home learning in the event of class or year groups closed due to a positive case will be sent out to parents by the end of the following week.

Yours Sincerely,



Miss Louise Whitby
Headteacher