



Newsletter

Giles Junior School

“Achieving excellence through Leadership”

**Spring
Term
Friday 10th
February
2023**

Giles Junior School News

It has been frosty but sunny and I have seen a few bulbs poking their heads through the earth which can only mean one thing! Spring is on its way!

Following on from that, OFSTED have also gone on their way, having visited us at the end of last week. We can tell you that your children were an absolute credit and the inspectors commented how inclusive, respectful and confident they were with each other and to the inspectors. We are not allowed to comment any further and will await the final report which we will send a link to when it is published.

So many of you were able to fill in the parents survey which was so positive and while we weren't able to see the free text comments, the inspectors did tell us the overwhelming positivity that so many parents had taken the time to put forward in terms of how Giles Junior School develops and supports the whole development of every child, regardless of their age or stage of development. Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill the survey in.

You will see from the upcoming trips and events ready for next half term, that the lead up to the Easter break will be filled with lots of opportunities to enhance the pupils learning. World Book Day is always a day which seems to be much more frequent than just once a year. I am beginning with the end in mind and going to spend half term coming up with a cracking costume to present one of my favourite books (suggestions on a post card please).

Do take a look at the dates on the following page as the Spring term is so short it feels like we just get started and then we are at the end. In particular take note of the Open Afternoon which is an opportunity visit your child's class and let them show you their learning. This is a really useful session prior to the parent consultation. We hope as many of you as a possible will attend. **Please note the change to parents consultations which have been pushed back a week to avoid clashing with any potential strike action.**

Have a great weekend and happy half term!

Miss Whitby

(Headteacher)

Times Tables Rockstars

The winners of our monthly times table competition are :

Germany, Australia, Wales and Finland

You will be awarded with 5 minutes extra break time, well done!

The winners for trying the hardest at TTR are Finland, who were treated to hot chocolates.

Year 5 Swimming

Swimming continues for Year 5 Turkey and France class straight after half term. The last swimming session of the Spring Term is on Wednesday 29th March. Details will be going out about Summer Term swimming very soon.

Diary Dates - Spring Term 2023

Please keep an eye on these dates in each newsletter, as we add new events to the list throughout the term.

Date	Time	Event
Mon 13th Feb - Fri 17th Feb		Half Term
Mon 20th Feb	All Day	Year 3 Trip to Celtic Harmony (Coach leaves at 9am)
Wed 22nd Feb	10.00am - 10.30am	Year 5 Turkey & France Swimming Session (Coach leaves Giles at 9.30am)
Tue 28th Feb	All Day	Year 5 Trip to Harry Potter Studios (Year 5 children to be in school early at 8.20am - Coach leaving at 8.30am)
Wed 1st March	All Day	National Allocation Day for Secondary Admissions
Wed 1st March	10.00am - 10.30am	Year 5 Turkey & France Swimming Session (Coach leaves Giles at 9.30am)
Thur 2nd March	All Day	World Book Day
Thur 2nd March	AM	Year 4 RE Workshop
Wed 8th March	10.00am - 10.30am	Year 5 Turkey & France Swimming Session (Coach leaves Giles at 9.30am)
Thur 9th March	All Day	Solid Steel Music Workshop for all year groups
Fri 10th March	2.40pm - 3.10pm	Open Afternoon for parents
Wed 15th March	10.00am - 10.30am	Year 5 Turkey & France Swimming Session (Coach leaves Giles at 9.30am)
Mon 20th March	3:45-6:00pm	Parent Consultations (face to face)
Mon 20th March	9.10am	Year 4 Merit Assembly
Mon 20th March	2.30pm - 3.00pm	Rock Steady Concert
Wed 22nd March	4:00pm - 6.00pm	Parent Consultations (online)
Wed 22nd March	9.10am	Year 3 Merit Assembly
Wed 22nd March	10.00am - 10.30am	Year 5 Turkey & France Swimming Session (Coach leaves Giles at 9.30am)
Thur 23rd March	9.10am	Year 5 Merits
Fri 24th March	9.10am	Year 6 Merit Assembly
Wed 29th March	10.00am - 10.30am	Year 5 Turkey & France Swimming Session (Coach leaves Giles at 9.30am)
Fri 31st March	2.00pm early finish	Last day of term
Mon 3rd April - Fri 14th April		Easter Holidays
Mon 17th April	8.50am	First day of the Summer Term

Healthy Start Scheme in Hertfordshire

Approximately £1million of the NHS Healthy Start scheme in Hertfordshire, is unclaimed.

You can help the families you know, who meet the criteria, buy healthy food and milk through this prepaid card. See the criteria at: How to apply – Get help to buy food and milk (Healthy Start).

How the scheme works:


Money is added onto the Healthy Start card every 4 weeks and recipient receives:

- £4.25 each week of pregnancy from the 10th week
- £8.50 each week for children from birth to 1 year old
- £4.25 each week for children between 1 and 4 years old
- Families can also obtain free vitamins from their local family centre in Hertfordshire – find out more at:

www.hertsfamilycentres.org/healthystartvitamins

For more information on the scheme visit www.hertsfamilycentres.org/healthystartcard. You can also email healthy.start@nhsbsa.nhs.uk or call them on 0300 330 7010





Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are pleased to let you know that Barn Bear's Book Club Competition is back!

In support of National Storytelling Week, we want to inspire children up to 12 years old to get creative and write a short story about the adventures of Barn Bear. This year, Barn Bear has got himself a magic passport which takes him anywhere in the world. He wants to take a trip, away from The Lanes Stadium and you decide where he goes!




There are lots of exciting prizes up for grabs including:

- The two winners (one £50 & one £25) will have their story printed in the official Staveley FC Match Day Programme and will be invited to the same AFC home game to be interviewed on the pitch and receive their prize!
- We will also choose a few other stories to post on our website and social media channels. These special mentions could also receive special prizes such as AFC match day tickets, goody bags, and certificates!

Entries must be submitted by **TUESDAY 28th FEBRUARY 2023**

To enter, please visit our website using the link below:
<http://www.staveleyfcfoundation.com/national-story-week-2023/>

Any questions or queries, please contact the Education Team at: school@staveleyfc.com
 Staveley Football Club Foundation.

**Wishing you all
a happy and
healthy half
term!**

World Book Day Thursday 2nd March 2023



This year World Book Day will be celebrated on 2nd March 2023. This year's theme is "You are a Reader".

With this in mind, we are welcoming children to come into school dressed as themselves to show that we are all readers here at Giles Junior School! Children are also welcome to come dressed up in costumes representing their favourite character, author or book.

We are holding a sponsored **Reading Bingo** fundraiser on this day too, as we would like to add some exciting, new books to our class libraries.

All year groups will be given their own Reading Bingo sheet with fun activities. At the end of the day, the children will come home with their sheet showing how many reading activities they have covered. The Reading Bingo will run as a sponsored event where we will invite you to sponsor each reading activity your child completes on the day, or an option to donate a set amount instead.

The sponsorship form will be going home on 10th February. **Please can all sponsorship money be paid into the payments section of the School Gateway, by Friday 10th March 2023, under : "World Book Day 2023 Sponsorship Money".**

Thank you for your continued support.

Hertfordshire Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre

Miss Dobson will be running the London Marathon in April. She is aiming to raise £2000 for the Hertfordshire Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre Ltd.

Any donations would be greatly appreciated:
<https://2023tcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/jess-dobson>



Good Luck Miss Dobson!



Clubs After Half Term

All clubs to continue straight back up after half term, running through to the week of the 20th March. These include: Stevenage FC, Rock Steady, Art, Dodgeball, Cheerleading also the selected Training Sessions for Football, Netball and Tag Rugby.

Gentle Reminder about Trips and Payments

As we are a cashless school all payments are processed through the school Gateway. Please see below a list of active payments that are open on the School Gateway. As always, if you have any questions or concerns about making payments, please contact the school office.

Celtic Harmony Trip - Year 3
Monday 20th February

Harry Potter Studio Tour - Year 5
Tuesday 28th February

Swimming - Year 5
Whole of the Spring Term
(last session on 29th March)

PGL Trip - Year 6
Sunday 18th - Wednesday 21st June
Payment deadline is the 1st April
(All instalments need to be paid by this date)

Smiles@Giles After School Club
If you need to book in please click into the club section of the school gateway, choose your session, then make payment

Breakfast Club
If you need to book in please click into the club section of the school gateway, choose your session, then make payment

Upcoming Trips for the Summer Term

We have some upcoming trips planned for Year 3, Year 4 and Year 6 to take place during Science Week (week beginning 15th May). Please look out for details about these trips, the letters will be going out after February half term.

Qualified Coaches
GIRLS AGES 5-7
Saturday 12.30 - 1.30pm

FAIRLANDS FIREHAWKS
£50 For 12 weeks Full kit included
Location: Martins Wood Primary School, Mildmay Road, Stevenage, SG1 5RT
Book your place now, visit www.fairlandseyouthfc.com

February Half Term Play sessions
At Bantley Hill, Pin Green and St. Nicholas play centres

Free for Stevenage children aged 5 - 12 years old

Monday 13th to Friday 17th February 2023				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM Team sports challenge	AM Valentine's Crafts	AM Country fair fun and games	AM Blended challenge	AM Tests facts from around the world
PM Scavenger Hunt	PM The great pottery throw down	PM Badge making	PM Bingo starts at 2.30pm	PM Around the world quiz

Holiday play session times:
Monday to Friday 10am - 1pm & 1pm - 4pm

Term time afterschool opening times
Monday to Friday 3.15pm until 5.30pm

IT'S FREE

To register and book please visit:
www.playwaze.com
or visit the play centre for further information

These sessions will be run following the current Government Covid safety guidance.
Follow us on social media for Play and wellbeing service event updates:
www.stevenage.gov.uk
play.section@stevenage.gov.uk

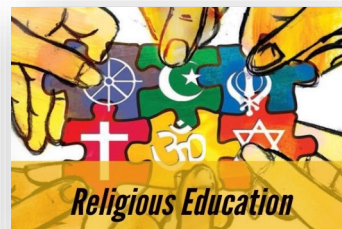
Stevenage Borough Council

A peek into ... Year 3

We have been making pneumatic monsters as part of our DT unit.

It's Mental Health week so in PSHE we have been practising some yoga!

Namaste!

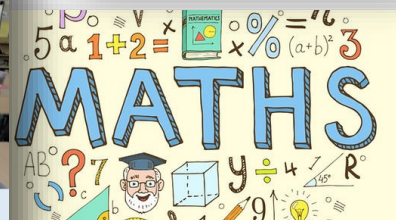


Religious Education



Could fractions get any more fun?

In maths, we used Rainbow Drops to find fractions of amounts. Yumm!



A peek into ... Year 4

In Art, we completed a printing project based on the work of the artist Andy Warhol.

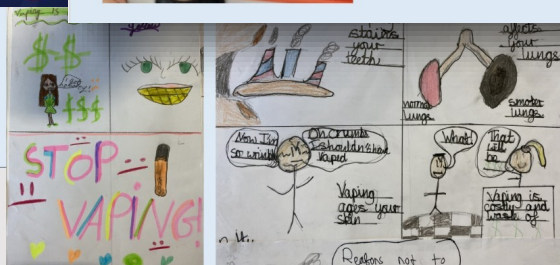


In Science, we are learning about States of Matter and experimented by melting white, milk and dark chocolate and recorded the rate at which they melted.

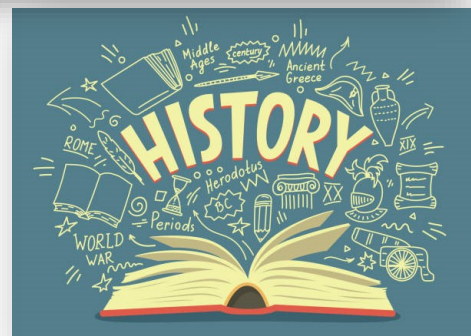


A peek into ... Year 5

In PSHE, we've been learning about the dangers of vaping.



"I was surprised to learn that vaping is addictive and that if you drink the liquid you will be very ill. I would not recommend it because it becomes very expensive." Lewis



A peek into ... Year 6

In India, we have been learning about reflection and translation in our Maths lessons. We have also been baking bread and cooking soup in our D&T lessons.

In Peru, we have been using our WW2 learning from last term to produce a recount in the style of an evacuated child!

In Germany, we have been completing cross-curricular writing which has been about South America. We have produced fact files about the different countries.

