



Newsletter

Giles Junior School

"Achieving excellence through Leadership"

**Summer
Term**

**10th July
2020**

Giles Junior School News

Here we are!

We have arrived at the end of a very strange year. I never could have imagined at the beginning of the year what the end of the term would be like. It is rather surreal to say the least!

As ever we have learnt a lot about our families, our children and their resilience during this time. Teachers have upskilled and showed innovation when reaching out to families who are learning at home. I am now fully competent in the use of online conferencing which is just as well as I will be delivering school assemblies via this platform in September.

We are excited at the prospect of welcoming all the children back in September. The risk assessment and parent letters with details on what will happen in September will be sent out on Monday 13th July.

During this week we would be focusing on saying a fond farewell to our Year 6 children. We know they have missed out on much of the celebrations which has become a rite of passage at the end of their time at Giles Junior school. We were glad we were able to have the majority of year 6 in school for the past six weeks to at least have some closure on their primary school experience.

Thank you to Mr Kent and Mrs Woolston for organising videos, photos, gifts and memory books to help them remember the great times they had here. Also a thank you to Mr Bailey and Mrs Vary for getting to know the year 6 children for this last part of the year and giving them the opportunity to be as ready for their next school experience as possible.

I will look forward to seeing everyone in September and hope everyone stays safe and has an opportunity to enjoy the easing of the restrictions over the coming weeks!

Miss Whitby
Headteacher

Free School Meal Information

If your circumstances have changed recently, you may be entitled to Free School Meals. This also means discounts on school uniform and school trips.

Or, if you will be joining us in September in Year 3 and you were entitled to Free School Meals in the infants, you will need to re-apply for Free School Meals for Giles Junior School.

You may qualify for FSM's if you receive any of the following:

- Income support
- Income based Jobseekers Allowance
- Child tax credit (providing you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Pension Credit
- Support under part V1 of the immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

Please apply now online at

**[www.hertsdirect.org/
freeschoolmeals](http://www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals)**

Or contact 0300 123 4048

If you need further help or advice, please contact the school office. Even if you are not sure if you do qualify it is definitely worth applying!

Walking Trips for Key Worker Groups

Last week our key worker classes visited the 'Covid the Cobra' on Grace Way. We had a lovely walk to place our decorated stones that were kindly donated to us by ASC 2000 Ltd. We were amazed by some of the fantastic designs other people from Stevenage have done too.

The amount of stones were around 8000 at the time. There were stones based on fun themes, such as food and football, to important current affairs such as the BLM and the NHS.

We encourage you all to take a walk and see for yourselves!



Goodbye Message from Mr Mendes

Dear Giles family,
Not having the chance to address everyone personally, I would like to leave you a few words.

Joining Giles in 2014 was probably one of the best choices I have made professionally in my life. Here I found an amazing school, filled with great staff and pupils.

I have had an amazing 6 years running the PE & Sports department full of sweat, joy and laughs.

Sharing my passion for Sports to everyone was really a pleasure and watching our pupils progress and getting that same passion it was truly a joy.

We have achieved a lot as we were going into every lesson, sport club session and sport event. We would always try our best whilst having fun at the same time.

A new chapter in my personal life approaches but I will still follow Giles forever and cheer for your successes.

Like a wise person said one day: *"Do what you love, and you'll never work another day in your life."*

I found that here at Giles and I will never forget it.

Thank you all for your support and commitment throughout these years. Goodbye to all the pupils, parents and staff, I will miss you.

Mr. J Mendes

PE Teacher
PE Subject Lead
Sports Coach



New online Protective Behaviours course for Parents/Carers in Hertfordshire

Please contact the school if you are interested in this course as we have to make the referral for families to take part.

Topics Covered Include:

- What it means to feel safe (how do we know)
- Feelings, thoughts, behaviours and the links
- How to support our children's feelings - (anxiety, anger etc)
- Why do we get triggered (our unwritten rules)
- Communicating effectively in our families and building an effective support network
- Strategies to stay in control of ourselves and teach emotional regulation
- Positive parenting strategies (e.g. choices and consequences)

Click on the link below for further information..

https://mailchi.mp/5f194c56d547/fully-funded-parenting-groups-1014290?fbclid=IwAR2tBt8-txAalu_foYnEPZszqq1Q_TRE1PN39_j8ySvoNwhSDQEZGfQh7o



Clubs

We are hoping to restart all of our extra curricular clubs after the October half term.

Information will be coming out in September on all the clubs we have to offer and how you get booked in via the School Gateway!



Summer Reading Challenge 2020

The Summer Reading Challenge this year is digital!

Click on the link for more information to get registered:

[Summer Reading Challenge 2020](https://www.silysquad.org.uk)



Transition Information for our new Year 3's for September 2020

We hope you have managed to have a look at the transition video for Year 3. A link to this can be found on our website. Click on news & events on the home page and follow the latest news tab.

If you haven't managed to return your new starter information sheets yet, please can you do so ASAP, before the end of term. Thank you!

Dinner Money Update

Please be aware that from 1st September 2020, there will be an increase in the price of a school meal.

This will increase by 10p to **£2.70 per meal.**

(£13.50 a week if your child has a meal every day).

Year 6 Reminder

Please can children in Year 6 bring in an empty 2 litre fizzy drinks bottle to school next week. We are planning to make bottle rockets in the last week of term!

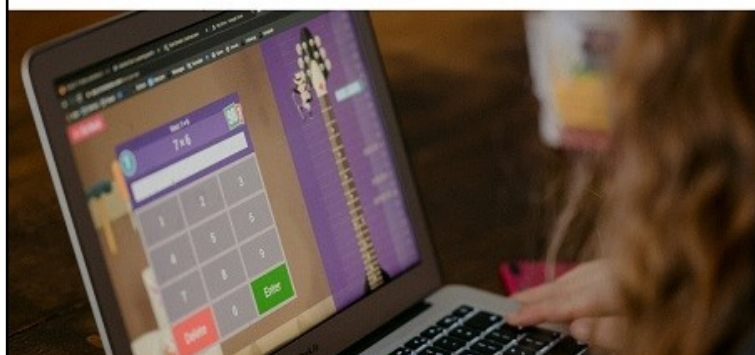
PROTECTING YOUR CHILDREN ONLINE

**Tuesday 14th July
1pm to 3pm**

Worried about whether apps like Zoom, Google Meet, WhatsApp and Microsoft Teams are safe for your children? More children are using online platforms to keep in touch with friends and family and to continue with their education. This 2-hour, free workshop will focus on measures to help keep children safe when using online devices and apps. Topics covered will include tips to stay safe online, privacy settings on devices and apps, protecting personal data online and how to set up parental controls on apps and devices.

**Adult-only course,
delivered online,
in real-time**

**FREE
but booking is
essential**



Book at;

01992 556194

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Education & Skills
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**COMMUNITY
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European Union
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matrix
Safely designed for children
and young people
to experience the world
of technology

Hertfordshire



Safe, active, together.

Summer 2020 Holiday Camps!

Multi-Activity Holiday Camps for your children!

Our Holiday Camps provide a safe, fun and social place for your child to be throughout the summer. We've designed our Holiday Camps with safety in mind: grouped bubbles, reduced numbers & much more!

For more info, and to book, visit...
premier-education.com/holidaycamps

★ Trustpilot 4.7/5
★★★★★

**Premier
Education**

DSPL | Delivering Special
Provision Locally
Achieving quality outcomes

Hertfordshire County Council have just released a new Blog to their Local Offer website and would like us to share it within our school community :

The Local Offer's resources area isn't just for help with home-schooling, read our latest blog to find out how this area of the Local Offer can help support you and your family during these difficult times:

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/resource-area-revisted

Visit www.hertsdirect.org/localoffer for services for children/young people with SEND.

Good bye and good luck to Year 6!

Good luck to all of Year 6 in your next chapter starting your secondary school experience. Unfortunately we did not get to say goodbye in the usual way this year, but we all wish you the very best. Take care of yourselves!



**WISHING ALL OF
OUR FAMILIES A
SAFE AND HAPPY
SUMMER BREAK**