



# Newsletter

## Giles Junior School

**“Achieving excellence through Leadership”**

**Autumn  
Term  
Friday 10th  
September  
2021**

### Giles Junior School News

Welcome Back!

I can't believe we have completed our first full week already. I have been overwhelmed by how positive the past week and a bit have been. The children have settled very well in their new classrooms and the teachers have been glowing with praise about their excellent attitude to learning.

I think that the saying “you don't know what you've got until it's gone” really sums up the past two years in terms of school life. Certainly, the experience of having the whole school together singing is one of my highlights so far. I am also enjoying wearing lipstick again after some intense mask wearing over the past few months!

While we adjust to being back at school with less restrictions, we do have to be mindful of the new rules surrounding isolation and what that means for us as a school and you as families wanting to make sure your child/ren have a full year at school.

Contained at the end of this leaflet are some clarifications which I hope will be useful to make it clear the different paths we may have to take, depending on a range of scenarios we may find ourselves in.

Next week we are full steam ahead with important face to face communication with parents in the form of our open mornings. Information is below in regards to the purpose of these and how they are facilitated, a letter has also gone out today about it.

After School Clubs are another aspect of school life which everyone has missed. We are so grateful that we have widened our offer of extra curricular activities due to staff who are willing to offer their time to lead them, as well as external providers offering new and exciting opportunities. If your child is on the waiting list you can be reassured that they will have priority next term should they still wish to attend. The waiting lists are now closed for this term.

Miss Whitby

### Open Mornings

We will be running an Open Morning for each year group next week. This is an opportunity to meet your child's Teacher and Teaching Assistant, to see the environment that your child is working within and for the Teacher to introduce you to areas of the curriculum, what we do and why, and allow you an opportunity to ask any questions which might help us work together this year.

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September Year 4, Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September Year 3, Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September Year 5 and Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September Year 6.**

Please drop your child off as usual and make your way into the school through doorway in the middle of the playground where your class TA will greet you and sign you in. We are sorry that we can't accommodate more than one adult per child due to the fire regulations of the number of people in one class. Please fill in [this survey](#) to indicate if you are coming.

### Dates for Diary (Updated)

Date	Event	Time
Mon 13th September	Rock Steady Club starts	Within the school day - pm
	Multisports Club Starts	3.00-4.00pm (Collection point for parents - double doors on playground leading to hall)
	Technology Club for Years 5&6 Starts	3.00-4.00pm (Collection point for parents - year 4 Zambia classroom)
	Stevenage FC for Years 3&4 Starts	3.00-4.00pm (Collection point for parents - Astro)
Tuesday 14th September	Year 4 Curriculum Meeting for parents	9.00 -10.00am
	Technology Club for Years 3&4	3.00-4.00pm (Collection point for parents - year 4 Zambia classroom)
	Netball Club Starts	3.00-4.00pm (Collection point for parents - double doors on playground leading to hall)
Wednesday 15th September	Year 3 Curriculum Meeting for parents	9.00-10.00am
	Year 6 Swimming session	10.00-10.30am (Coach collection at 9.30am)
	Rugby Club Starts	3.00-4.00pm (Collection point for parents - Scotland classroom located on the playground)
	Cheerleading Club Starts	3.00-4.00pm (Collection point for parents - double doors on playground leading to hall)
Thursday 16th September	Year 5 Curriculum Meeting for parents	9.00-10.00am
	Basketball Club Starts	3.00-4.00pm (Collection point for parents - double doors on playground leading to hall)
Friday 17th September	Year 6 Curriculum Meeting for parents	9.00-10.00am
	Stevenage FC for Years 5&6 starts	3.00-4.00pm (Collection point for parents - Astro)

## BIRTHDAY PARTY

### GILES JUNIOR SCHOOL IS 50!

Saturday 25th September 2021

12:00-15:00

Giles Junior School  
Durham Road  
SG1 4JQ

Food and refreshments will be available to purchase.  
Come and take a trip down memory lane  
with old photographs and school tours.

This is a ticketed event.  
Please RSVP by email letting us know how many people  
will be attending and we will send you a ticket.  
RSVP@gilesjm.herts.sch.uk



### Congratulations

Wedding bells were ringing in August when Miss Keable (after a few postponements) managed to have her wedding and celebrate her marriage with family and friends. We are adjusting to her new name Mrs Oram and are all so happy she has overcome many obstacles to have the wedding of her dreams. We wish her family a happy and content future.



### Change of Details

Please remember to inform us of any change of personal details ASAP.

Please complete a change of details form which can be found in the front reception and pop it in the post box.

Thank you.

### **COVID UPDATE**

Now that the term has started, I thought it would be useful to share with you all the protocol when a child gets a positive PCR result. The systems are very different from before, and the guidance has moved from extreme caution to the other end of the spectrum over the summer!

If the school is notified of a case, we will expect the child to return to school 10 days after the positive test result. There is distance learning available on the school website. This can be found at <https://gilesjm.herts.sch.uk/curriculum/distance-learning-1/>. Each year group has linked relevant learning for the half term to videos and activities which your child can do at any time should they self-isolate at any point during this year. They will be able to post this on Seesaw. For those parents who have not yet used Seesaw, details will follow to allow you to upload work which can be viewed by their class teacher. (We will also be using this platform in school to share work with parents at home to make sure you can see your child's progress across the year). This is the case as long as they are not actually really poorly. If they don't feel well enough, they would not be expected to do anything other than get better.

The school will send out a year group notification which will state there is a positive case as we feel it is important that parents have this information shared. It is only when there is a significant cluster of cases - 5 or more - that we are expected to notify Public Health and risk assess whether the class should stay open. The school also operates within strict expectations of confidentiality and will not share information about individuals with other families. Should parents choose to share this with each other, this is entirely up to them.

If a member of your immediate family is designated Critically Extremely Vulnerable, it might be useful if you let us know. As the expectation is that all the adult community are double vaccinated and therefore relatively well protected, we would only need to be made aware if someone has a significant underlying health problem. We could then give you the heads up if we learnt of a positive case in your child's class.

As we now have had a confirmed positive case within the school, please be very cautious and if your child feels a bit unwell with mild symptoms that could potentially be COVID, then it would be sensible to keep them off school and consider next steps. I am aware of other schools already dealing with significant staff shortages and would also ask you to consider sensible social distancing on the playground and any other measures you think might help to stop the spread of infection.

We have updated our risk assessment for the day to day running of the school where we have been able to relax some systems to allow us to teach the curriculum more effectively. We have the addition of an outbreak management plan which would come into place should we have an outbreak in school (defined by 5 pupils/staff who have been in close contact testing positive within 10 days of each other) where we would be required to tighten restrictions to help reduce the spread of the virus.

The most important thing that families can do to help us are:

- Keep children at home if they display symptoms of COVID (temperature, cough or loss of taste/smell) and get a PCR
- Please remember that Lateral Flow Tests are not advised for anyone with symptoms or to be used with children who are at Primary School
- Notify the school as soon as possible with any confirmed PCR results (negative or positive) (COVID@gilesjm.herts.sch.uk) providing the information: Name, Class, date of onset of first symptoms OR date of positive PCR test (if no symptoms)
- If your child has symptoms in school collect them as soon as possible and arrange a PCR test

## Building Works

Mr Brown was busy over the summer break overseeing routine visits and some building works to improve our school. Two projects were putting a window into the room we call Barbados, which is in the hall, and the other was to replace the fencing around the table tennis table. Current works are steaming ahead to create two additional offices in After School Club to house our ever expanding team. We are really looking forward to having parents come into the school who may never have



had the opportunity to see inside due to the previous restrictions.



## Diabetes UK

Mr Flood (one of our Year 5 TA's) has just completed a 44 mile swim to raise money for Diabetes UK. He started the first of his swims on the 4th August and completed the full distance over 4 weeks.

He is on target for reaching a lifetime fund raising sum of £96,500. Please click on link below to read Mr Flood's story and please donate, if you can! Thank you.

<https://swim22.diabetes.org.uk/fundraising/keith429>

## School Transitions: Managing Anxiety and Worries in Children and Young People



**Who is this workshop for?**  
Parents of a child/young person and/or young people who are struggling with the transition into a new school year or a new school. Parents and young people can attend.

### What will be covered?

- What anxiety looks like
- How to identify and explore worries
- Strategies for managing anxious thoughts
- Strategies for managing physical symptoms related to anxiety
- How to implement a step-by-step plan to manage anxious behaviours
- Practical tips on school transitions
- General emotional wellbeing tips



### Dates

All workshops are via MS Teams



Wednesday 15th September 2021  
6pm - 8pm  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/school-transitions-managing-anxiety-worries-in-children-and-young-people-tickets-1600544068>

Thursday 16th September 2021  
6pm - 8pm  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/school-transitions-managing-anxiety-worries-in-children-and-young-people-tickets-1600544068>



## Where to find your nearest play centre.

Bandley Hill Play Centre

Featherston Road

Stevenage SG2 9PP

01438 218848

Pin Green Play Centre

Hampson Park

Webb Rise

Stevenage SG1 5QU

01438 726749

St. Nicholas Play Centre

St. Nicholas Park

Pilgrims Way

Stevenage SG1 4PT

01438 722753

**Play session Terms and Conditions**

- There are no restrictions to the number of sessions booked (subject to availability).
- Your child must live (reside) in Stevenage.
- The sessions are for children aged 5 - 12 years old only.
- The play sessions are for children only, parent/carer are not allowed into the play centre unless they are essential in supporting their child with additional needs.
- Inclusion: If a parent/carer will be attending to support their child with SEN/additional needs, please email your contact details to play@stevenage.gov.uk and a member of the team will contact you to discuss arrangements (The Parent/carer would need to provide evidence of a recent clear Covid test).
- If you book on to a session and you don't meet these criteria, you will receive a follow up email explaining why your booking has been cancelled.
- In exceptional circumstances, we may need to close the play centre and this may be at short notice. Parent/carer will be informed as arrangements can be made for their children to be collected.
- Additional short notice - child spaces**
- To check if there are any spaces available at short notice on the day, please telephone either:
  - Bandley Hill on 01438 218848
  - Pin Green on 01438 726749
  - St. Nicholas on 01438 722753
- Please telephone prior to the session time to check if we have any spaces available.
- You will need to have registered your child online to be able to request a short notice space over the phone.
- If you were unable to pre-book you can turn up on the day and see if we have any unreserved spaces available. Places will be limited and allocated on a first come first serve basis.
- Please contact your local play centre if you need any help completing the online registration forms.



[www.stevenage.gov.uk](http://www.stevenage.gov.uk)

Stevenage Borough Council

## Supporting Your Child's Emotional Wellbeing



### Who is this workshop for?

Parents of children aged 5-11 wanting to learn information and strategies on how to support their child's emotional wellbeing and support their child to emotionally regulate.

### What will be covered?

- What are emotions and why do we have them?
- The Fight, Flight and Freeze Response
- Recognising, Labelling and Normalising Emotions
- General Emotional Regulation Strategies
- Specific Emotional Regulation Tips for Anger, Anxiety and Feelings of Sadness
- Additional resources



### What will I learn?

- How our brains are linked with emotion and how thoughts, feelings and behaviours interact
- Strategies to support your child to recognise, label and regulate emotions and maintain general wellbeing
- How to support your child to effectively problem solve and manage their thoughts



### Dates

All workshops are via MS Teams



Wednesday 22nd September 2021

10am - 12pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/supporting-your-childs-emotional-wellbeing-and-ability-to-self-regulate-tickets-1600544068>



Tuesday 19th October 2021

6pm - 8pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/supporting-your-childs-emotional-wellbeing-and-ability-to-self-regulate-tickets-1600544068>



Tuesday 23rd November 2021

10am - 12pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/supporting-your-childs-emotional-wellbeing-and-ability-to-self-regulate-tickets-1600544068>



## Supporting Your Child With Sleep Difficulties



### Who is this workshop for?

Parents/carers of children and young people struggling to fall asleep or stay asleep. Although some of the topics in the workshop are targeted at primary school aged children, the content can also be applied to older children in secondary school.

### What will be covered?

- Why sleep is important
- Reasons children may have sleep difficulties
- Bed wetting
- Signs of poor sleep & sleep hygiene tips
- Other Factors that may impact on sleep
- Creating a step-by-step plan to address worries
- Using praise & rewards



### What are the outcomes?

- You will gain knowledge, advice & practical strategies to manage your child's sleep difficulties
- You will also be given a list of useful resources and websites



### Dates

All workshops are via MS Teams



Wednesday 15th September 2021

10am - 11.15am

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/supporting-your-child-with-sleep-difficulties-tickets-1600544068>



Tuesday 26th October 2021

12pm - 1.15pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/supporting-your-child-with-sleep-difficulties-tickets-1600544068>



Wednesday 17th November 2021

10am - 11.15am

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/supporting-your-child-with-sleep-difficulties-tickets-1600544068>

