



Newsletter

Giles Junior School

“Achieving excellence through Leadership”

**Autumn
Term
Friday 11th
December
2020**

Giles Junior School News

I can definitely hear the sleigh bells jingling in the distance ... the end of term is swiftly approaching. It has certainly been an interesting term. I can only apologise for the changes we have had to make and sincerely thank everyone for their support, knowing that we have always strived to make sure learning can continue while managing the rate of infection. I can definitely add some extra things to my CV now ... risk assessment planning, infection control, remote assemblies!

The box to the right of this message is really important as I will continue to help the NHS with their contact tracing process until Christmas Eve. Please make sure you are checking for any notifications from Giles during the holidays. We hope that our effort can prevent an escalation in infections, which will eventually mean that Hertfordshire might fall to Tier 1, which will further ease the restrictions which have had such an impact on our ability to spend time with friends and family.

Thank you so much for your kind donations on Elf Day. It was such a relief to actually relax, have some fun and the children were able to begin preparing for the festivities which are not quite the same as normal.

It has been good news to hear the Covid vaccine is beginning to be introduced and to have the possibility to return to normal school routines is welcomed. We will continue to keep children in class bubbles until such time as the infection rate is lower.

We are looking forward to merit awards, Christmas lunch and other festive treats in classes and will look forward to celebrating with the children next week.

Miss Whitby
Headteacher

Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day Wednesday 16th December

Christmas lunch for pupils this year will be on Wednesday 16th December. To order a Christmas lunch children will just need to order lunch as normal on the day. Payment is to be made through the School Gateway and the cost of a meal is £2.70.

Children can also come to school wearing a Christmas jumper or something Christmassy on this day, if they want to, along with the rest of their school uniform.

Reporting of Positive cases in the Christmas Holidays

If your child tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) at any point during the Christmas break, please notify us as soon as possible so we can complete the relevant tracking and tracing process, if required, and notify any other children or staff who have been close contacts and who need to self-isolate.

During the holidays you should contact

COVID@gilesjm.herts.sch.uk

this will be monitored until Christmas Eve as after this point your child(ren) shouldn't be in close contact of anyone at school. Please don't call the normal absence line as this won't be covered during Christmas holidays.

Remember as soon as your child or any member of your household develops symptoms, they must start self-isolating immediately and book a test regardless of it being Christmas.

Main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you're not sure whether symptoms suggest that they have COVID-19 or an everyday cough or cold, you can consult this online NHS symptom checker:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

Autumn Diary Dates for Parents/Carers

(These dates could be subject to change)

DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME
Christmas lunch day for pupils (Christmas Jumpers can be worn or something Christmassy on this day , if you want to)	Wed 16th December	Lunchtime
Christmas paper chain day (£1 donation to take part)	Thur 17th December	All Day
Last day of term - Early finish Games Day	Fri 18th December	Year 3&4 - 1.50pm Year 5&6 - 2.00pm
Christmas Holiday - SCHOOL CLOSED	21st December - 3rd January	
Inset Day - SCHOOL CLOSED	Mon 4th January	
First day of the Spring Term - All children to return to school	Tue 5th January	8.40am - 9.00am doors open

National Elf day for the Alzheimer's Society



£251
raised of £200 target
by 36 supporters



Last Day of Term - Friday 18th December 2020

On the last day of term we will be having a games day. Children can bring in an electronic item or game to play with at their desk, alongside **but not sharing with others**. Please remember to remove Sim cards from mobile phones. There will be other activities like Christmas colouring and word searches also.

We will be finishing early on this day :

Year 3&4 - 1.50pm

Year 5&6 - 2.00pm

Christmas Cards

In order to give the children an opportunity to send Christmas cards to their classmates and those in other classes, we have set up baskets for the children to deliver their cards into. These cards will be quarantined for 72 hours before they are delivered to the children.

Please ensure that the child's name and class are written on the envelope.

The last date we can accept cards into school is Monday 14th December.



Distance Learning Survey

As a school we continue to strive to listen to the needs of our families and make sure we are making improvements to what we offer. As a school, distance learning is something which has been



completely new to us since the pandemic. We would really appreciate parent's opinions as to how they have felt provision has been delivered for those children who have been required to self-isolate. Please click on the link below to fill in the survey.

Please note this is just to capture experiences from September 2020.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc3Bf-hN-rG4Cw8LJyHXG6aIH8azCqrfocvIXnxTOw7NNLrd-w/viewform?usp=sf_link

Book Donation

We would like to say an enormous THANK YOU to Amelia in 5 France for donating a large number of books to us after having a clear out! They were in excellent condition and have helped us to fill up some of our book corners. We know that lots of children will get great enjoyment out of these and it is greatly appreciated.