



Newsletter

Giles Junior School

“Achieving excellence through Leadership”

**Autumn
Term
Friday 11th
November
2022**

Giles Junior School News

It is all go at the moment with themed weeks, visits and lots of activities in school. We are looking forward to seeing parents come and tour the art creations linked to remembrance and consider this an important part of learning for pupils.

We ran a pupil survey last week and were thrilled with the results! 97% of pupils think the Headteacher and teachers do a good job! Hooray! The second highest result was 94% of pupils think the teachers are friendly and helpful. During the free text children had an opportunity to say what they liked best about Giles Junior and what we could do to improve. PE and kind teachers got a lot of mentions across the school. Other subjects such as art and maths were high on the agenda. Many children mentioned their desire to have more equipment or a climbing frame on the playground. There is good news on this front as we have scheduled the installation of some play equipment (January 2023).

We will be running our parent survey during parent consultation week so hope parents and carers feel as positively as the children do!

We were VERY proud of our team who went to play dodgeball last week and came away with fourth place but most importantly they were voted “most honest” by the others teams taking part. All the staff felt this reflected the integrity that our pupils show and we are very proud of them.

We seem to have had a lot of positive feedback lately, about our pupils, when we have been outside school and we were thrilled when the swimming teacher commented our year 6 pupils were a pleasure to teach and they wish all the other schools were like them.

And that is what school is all about—positive attitudes. Wishing you all a good weekend.

Miss Whitby (Headteacher)

Parents Evening

Monday 28th November

Face to Face Appointments

OR

Wednesday 30th November

Online Video Appointments

For parents evening we would like to offer you the choice of booking an online OR face to face meeting. The face to face parents evening will take place on Monday 28th November and the online video parents evening is on Wednesday 30th November. This will allow you to meet with your child's class teacher either face to face or remotely by video call. This is an important appointment and provides you with an opportunity to discuss your child's progress with their class teacher. **We would like your child to be present with you for the appointment, if possible.**

The online booking appointment system opens from 6.00pm on Monday 14th

November, you will be able to book your appointment from this time. The booking system will close on Wednesday 23rd November at 6.00pm. Please visit <https://gilesjm.parenteveningsystem.co.uk/> to book in your appointment ASAP (from 6pm on 14th November).

If your child has an SEN review (you may have had this already or have one booked in) then you do not need to book an appointment.

On Monday 28th November at the Face to face appointment evening, Herts Catering will be present offering food tasting with samples from the current lunch menu. Please pop by the dining room before or after your appointment to have a taste.

You will also have an opportunity to purchase a book from the Book Fair, which will be present on Monday at the appointment evening.

Diary Dates - Autumn Term

Date	Time	Event
Mon 14th November	All week	Beginning of Faith Week
Wed 16th November	Within school day	Year 3 Children to visit St Nicholas Church
Fri 18th November	All Day	Children in Need dress up day (spots, stripes or anything colourful)
Mon 21st November	All Day	Odd Socks Day - start of Anti-Bullying Week
Mon 21st November	TBC	Anti-Bullying Workshop (Day 1 - year groups split over 3 days)
Tue 22nd Nov	All Day	School Nurses in for Year 6 for Health & Wellbeing Questionnaire - Day 1
Wed 23rd November	All Day	Nasal Flu Immunisation for the whole school - Day 2
Thur 24th Nov	TBC	Anti-Bullying Workshop (Day 2 - year groups split over 3 days)
Fri 25th Nov	TBC	Anti-Bullying Workshop (Day 3 - year groups split over 3 days)
Fri 25th November	2.30pm	Open Afternoon
Fri 25th November	2.30pm	Book Fair in school
Mon 28th November	4.30-6.30pm	Parents Evening - Face to Face Appointment Day
Mon 28th November	4.30pm	Book Fair in school
Wed 30th November	3.30-5.30pm	Parents Evening - Video Link Appointment Day
Thur 1st December	All Day	Year 6 - 6th PGL Instalment Due
Fri 2nd December	All Day	Elf Day
Tue 6th December	2.00pm	Year 4 Christmas Performance
Wed 7th December	9.15am	Year 4 Christmas Performance
Fri 9th December		Occasional Day - School Closed
Mon 12th December	9.15-10.00am	Year 4 Merit Assembly (For invited parents only)
Mon 12th December	2.30pm	Year 3 Wales Carol Concert
Tue 13th December	2.30pm	Year 3 Italy Carol Concert
Wed 14th December	9.15-10.00am	Year 3 Merit Assembly (For invited parents only)
Thur 15th December	9.15-10.00am	Year 5 Merit Assembly (For invited parents only)
Thur 15th December	2.30pm	Year 3 Sweden Carol Concert
Fri 16th December	9.15-10.00am	Year 6 Merit Assembly (For invited parents only)
Tue 20th December	2.00pm finish	Last Day of Term
Mon 2nd Jan	All Day	Year 6 - 7th PGL Instalment Due
Thur 5th Jan		First Day of Term - All children back to school

Christmas Performance Dates

The Christmas performance dates have been confirmed for years 3 & 4, further information will be sent out nearer the time.

Tuesday 6th December at 2.00pm - Year 4 Christmas Performance

Wednesday 7th December at 9.15am - Year 4 Christmas Performance

Monday 12th December at 2.30pm - Year 3 Wales Carol Concert

Tuesday 13th December at 2.30pm - Year 3 Italy Carol Concert

Thursday 15th December at 2.30pm - Year 3 Sweden Carol Concert

Children In Need



On Friday 18th November we will be joining in with **Children in Need** to join the Great SPOTacular!

Children will be welcome to wear spots, stripes or something colourful to school on this day.

If you would like to make a donation to Children In Need please can we request that this is to be paid direct to the charity through the following link : <https://donate.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/>

Clothes Bank

At Giles Junior we are lucky enough to work closely with some of our amazing local charities including Stevenage Clothes Bank and Stevenage Food Shed. We understand that due to the current financial climate families are feeling the pinch more than ever before. If you require any support from these organisations, please contact Mrs Smith our Family Support Worker who will be happy to submit a referral on your behalf.

TT Rockstars Champion League

Last month, we started our TT Rockstar competition in school. 6 India were the winners and were rewarded with some hot chocolates. Well done to Finland, Australia and Wales who won in their year groups. I'm really impressed with the effort the children are putting in.

Please can parents practice times tables with children even if it is for a few minutes.



Year 6 Rowing Event

The Year 6 children were taught how to use a rowing machine by a specialist fitness instructor from Stevenage Sporting Futures. The children were placed into teams to compete against each other, covering as much distance as possible. They then went onto play a few excitable games to end the session. Much fun was had by all involved!



Dodgeball Competition

On Monday 7th November Mr Glennon took a group of children to a dodgeball competition at Barnwell School. They competed against twelve schools and only lost two matches. Sadly one of them was the semi-final for gold and the other was the bronze medal match. We managed to achieve fourth place overall which is such an amazing achievement.

They didn't leave empty handed though as Giles Junior School was voted, by the other teams in the competition, the most **honest team** in the tournament. They came back to school with a certificate for honesty and to look after the Stevenage Sporting Futures Honesty Bear for the week.



Year 3 Egyptian Workshop

On Thursday 3rd November Year 3 travelled back to Ancient Egypt and learned about Pharaohs, the afterlife and how to write using hieroglyphics. Our lovely workshop leader used artefacts and objects to make our learning come to life.



Open Afternoon - Friday 25th November

On Friday 25th November we will be holding an Open Afternoon. This will give families the opportunity to come and look at their child's books and see all the hard work they have put in to demonstrate their learning for this term.

Doors will be open **FROM 2:30pm**, as we appreciate that some families will need to visit more than one class to see their children's books. If you only have one child in the school feel free to arrive later than this (it is helpful to let your child know you will arrive a little later). **This will be a chance to preview learning prior to the parent consultations.**

3 Italy will have had a further notification explaining that Italy will be in a workshop until 2:50pm, at which point they will return to class to share their learning.

Book Fair at Giles Junior School

Come and visit the Travelling Book Fair! Browse and purchase books for your child, whilst at the same time helping us earn free books for our school.

The Book Fair will be in the school hall on:

Friday 25th November from 2:30-3:10pm (during open afternoon) and **Monday 28th November from 4:30-6:30pm** (during the face-to-face parents' evening - although, feel free to come along for the Book Fair even if your parents' evening appointment is not on this day!).



 **£15**
Plus booking fee
Glass of Prosecco included

Presents an evening of
Classical, Jazz
and Modern
Music

Christmas

Musical Evening

With Pianist Iain Farrington

2 DEC 7:30 PM : **Kingshott School**
Stevenage Road, St Ippolyts, Hitchin, SG4 7JX

Licensed Bar Available
Tickets available at <https://Tickets-SBM.eventbrite.co.uk>

In aid of Stand-by-me Bereavement Support
Registered Charity 1161035



Once Upon a Time

Storytime for under eights


Sunday 11 December
2.00-2.30
with a craft activity

All activity sessions are free but have a suggested voluntary donation of £1.00

0300 123 4049
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/libraries

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD and friends




With Booster Cushion Theatre Co.

Stevenage Central Library
Sunday 20 November 1.00pm

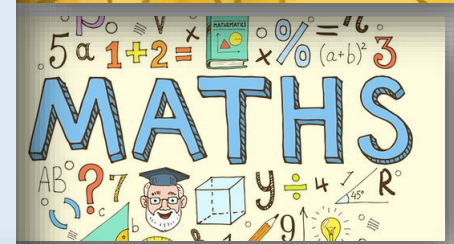
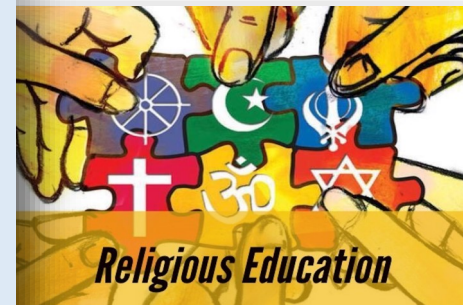
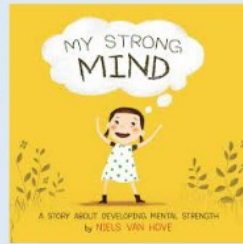
Tickets £3.00 per person
available in the library

0300 123 4049
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/libraries



In English, we are using the text 'My Strong Mind'. We are relaxing our minds using the rocking boats we made following instructions in English.

A peek into ... Year 3



A peek into ... Year 4

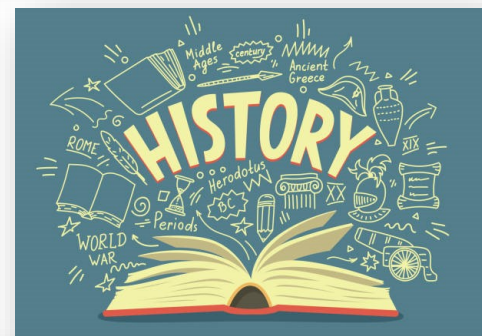
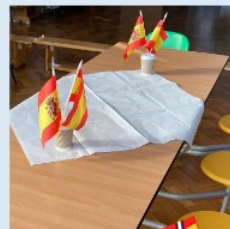
In Art, we used inspiration from our artist Andy Warhol to create colourful poppy displays ready for Remembrance Day!

For Science, we introduced our new topic of Sound with a Sonic Sound Workshop. We learnt more about how sound travels through vibrations and how we hear sounds.



A peek into ... Year 5

In Spanish we set up a cafe where we needed to use the vocabulary learnt in our previous unit to order items to eat.



A peek into ... Year 6

We also created a display after learning about influential people during Black History Month.

In Year 6, we have been practising long division.

