



Newsletter

Giles Junior School

“Achieving excellence through Leadership”

**Spring
Term
Friday 12th
February
2021**

Giles Junior School News

It seems a bit strange to be saying that half term is here. It has certainly been an unusual 6 weeks at school and no doubt very different for families too. We genuinely do know this situation is stressful for everyone and appreciate how hard everyone is working.

We continue to have requests for children in school and are running above our ideal capacity. We know that children may struggle to work at home and that they miss the social aspect of school but can't accept any more children on site other than the ones we currently have who are either families of key workers or identified as vulnerable.

We dearly hope that schools will reopen on March 8th but also know this is not in our circle of influence. I have many people in and out of school ask me when schools will re-open. They are often shocked when my response is that I will not know until the next announcement is made on 22nd February. Once we know more we will continue to follow instructions from the government in terms of how and when we can invite more pupils in to school safely.

We have been humbled and amazed at what wonderful work the children are producing and can see how incredibly hard families are working with their children at home while juggling jobs and siblings. We hope that everyone will be able to have some relaxation over half term even though we continue to be at home with little opportunity to socialize as we normally would. Take care and we hope to see everyone soon.

Miss Whitby
Headteacher

Year 6 Request

Please can Year 6 save an empty egg box, as you will need one for a lesson after half term. Thank you!

Reporting of Positive cases in February Half Term

If your child tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) at any point during half term, 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

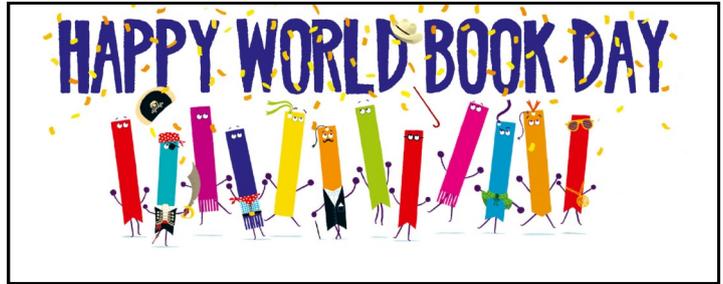
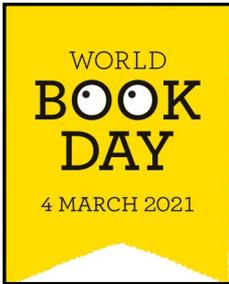
Remember as soon as your child or any member of your household develops symptoms, they must start self-isolating immediately and book a test.

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/>

Outstanding Dinner Money

If you have an outstanding amount on your child's dinner money account. Can you to log on to the School Gateway and pay this ASAP. Thank you.



World Book Day is one of our favourite days of the year at Giles. Each year, we invite the children to dress up as their favourite book character and enjoy activities related to books, and this year we do not want to let COVID get in the way of this!

For children who will be in school on that day, you are welcome to come into school dressed up as a book character. As the weather at this time of year is unpredictable, please ensure your child has suitable footwear and a coat for playtime.

For children who will be learning at home on that day, you are welcome to dress up and post a photograph of yourself on Seesaw for us to see! If you do wish to take part, but are unable to organise a costume, Seesaw allows you to take a photograph of yourself and annotate it so you could have a go at turning yourself into a book character that way!

The dressing up part of World Book Day is entirely optional, and please do not feel the need to buy expensive costumes. We are hoping, if you do choose to take part, costumes can be made with a little help from a parent/carer. Your teachers will be planning some activities related to books as part of your learning for that day (both in school and remotely).



Student Achievement

Sienna C, in Year 5, is running 50 miles through February for the Stevenage charity 'Feed Up Warm Up'. It was a charity of her choice and she said raising money would make 2 achievements, as she would have achieved the miles and also helping others at the same time.

Sienna went to visit the charity on Tuesday and discussed the many ways in which her money can be used to support the people in their care. She was gifted a hi-vis and jumper to run in with their logo on. She also helped them to pack up food parcels and discuss what goes inside them.



We wish Sienna lots of luck in achieving her goal for charity, very well done for all your efforts and we are all cheering you on!

This is the link to her 'Go Fund Me' page if anyone would like to sponsor her :

gf.me/u/zhgyy2