



Newsletter

Giles Junior School

“Achieving excellence through Leadership”

**Summer
Term**

**12th June
2020**

Giles Junior School News

Hello Everyone,

While everything seems so strange and different we felt that we should be sending out newsletters as a way to keep families informed about what is still going on at school and what to expect in the future!

Most of our teachers and support assistants are now in school full time, teaching year 6 or additional vulnerable/Key Worker groups. The class emails are still available for you to email queries to although it might be they are not tended to as quickly as before. We would actively encourage parents to email queries to the class addresses as your child's teacher is best placed to discuss online learning or queries relating to your child as they know them best. If the teacher needs to pass information on to a senior member of staff, they will do this as needed. The emails end in the same way as the usual office email @gilesjm.herts.sch.uk but just need your child's current class in the front e.g. Sweden or Italy.

Teachers have continued to set weekly home learning maps for the large majority of pupils learning at home as well as providing paper copies for those without the means to print the work or to connect to the internet to view it. These are available every Monday for collection in the office.

During this time we have noted the benefits of having an accessible and easy to edit school website. We are updating this as a matter of course so do take the time to navigate the different areas so you can find any information you might have missed.

We have enjoyed welcoming back the majority of Year 6 on 1st June and have three additional classes to support those who are most vulnerable and those with families who are key workers. We have been overwhelmed with the positive response to the plans to keep your children safe, but allow them to enjoy being back at school and having some time to support their transition.

I am sure many of you watched or have read about the recent announcement from Gavin Williamson with a change of view stating “that would no longer mean welcoming all primary groups going back before the end of term.” In lieu of this latest plan we would like to reassure you that transition arrangements are being considered and may be remote or via a video and/or leaflet. When we have further details these will be shared with you towards the end of June.

Take care,

Miss Whitby
Headteacher



SMARTY
SCHOOLWEAR Est. 1986

There is now a convenient click and collect service available at the new Smarty Schoolwear shop currently located in Stevenage Town Centre. With the current situation as it is, Smarty Schoolwear have requested that if you require to browse the uniform and try garments on then please call them to book an appointment. This is to keep the amount of customers in the shop at any one time to a minimum and so social distancing can be possible.

For September 2020 starters, please try to book appointments early with Smarty Schoolwear. For existing parents/carers please check your child's uniform requirements for the new term as early possible. Try to avoid leaving it to late August to purchase new uniform.

Further details about uniform and how to order is all on our website. Just click on the parents tab and then the school uniform tab or click on the link below which will take you straight there:

[https://
gilesjm.herts.sch.uk/
parents/school-uniform/](https://gilesjm.herts.sch.uk/parents/school-uniform/)

School Gateway

Since March, we have been using the School Gateway for messaging, if you have not downloaded the app already please do so!



Just search School Gateway in your App store and download. Simple!

The app is free and saves our school money!

Your login details will be automatically generated using the contact information we already hold for you on the school database, so it is very important the school have all your up to date contact details. You can also login to the online version of School Gateway, if you do not have a smart phone, although we do recommend using the App as it makes it far easier to get hold of parents when we need to.

We always had the aim that Giles Junior school would be a completely cashless school eventually, and the current Covid-19 outbreak has made us reconsider how we can make changes to improve the health and safety of our community. **Once the school reopens after the Covid19 lockdown, the school office will accept payments only through The School Gateway and no cash will be accepted.**

Please note that if your child is joining us in September 2020 you will not be able to access the Gateway, for the Junior School, until your child's first day.

New Starters

Our list of new starters is rather long!

Despite only having two leavers this year we have a number of new positions which we have recruited for.

Family Support Worker – Mrs L Smith

Year 3 TA - Mrs Haywood

Year 5 TA – Miss Ball

Year 5 teacher (for additional class)
Miss Causton

Mrs Winnett - 1:1 Year 3 support

Mrs Ince - 1:1 Year 3 support

A video is currently being compiled for the new year 3 pupils joining us in September and will be available on the school website. If you would like to put some names to faces then please watch this - we will send a parentmail with the link so you can find it easily.

We are looking forward to welcoming our new starters in September and are sure all the families will offer them a warm welcome as they meet them in many capacities during the school year.

Goodbyes

At the end of term we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Edwards who has been working at this school since 1988! Of course this is a terrible loss to the school and when we think about the hundreds of children she will have cared for, the mind boggles! She will be missed, despite the fact that Mrs Edwards “doesn’t want a fuss” we will have a think about how we can socially distance while giving her a great send off!

We will also be saying goodbye to Mr Mendes too, due to him moving back to Portugal to be closer to his family. Mr Stephenson, an experienced and passionate PE lead will be joining us in September to continue all the amazing hard work Mr Mendes has put in to make Giles Junior excellent at sports.

We will also be saying a sad goodbye to our long standing Chair of Governors, Mrs Karen Wheatland. I would like to offer my personal thanks to all the support she has given directly to me over the last two years and her uncompromising support which has led to better outcomes to the hundred of children who pass through our doors. Kim Hedley has been nominated to take her place; I have no doubt she will work with us just as effectively as Mrs Wheatland and will look forward to meeting with her to discuss future plans for Giles Junior School.

Mrs De-Vall our Attendance Support and Midday Supervisor left us earlier this term. We wish her all the best as she takes up her new role in a local secondary school.



Meet our new staff

Please see the staff profiles below to give you a little flavour of the amazing new team members we look forward to embedding in our team from September 2020. We also have three learning support assistants joining us in September and will introduce them at the next newsletter.

Mr Stephenson **PE & Sports Lead**

Hi I'm Mr Stephenson (Mr. S). I started my career as a sports coach and have been a PE teacher for the past 7 years. I have strived to become a consistently excellent PE teacher, obtaining high skills to teach across all key stages from Early Years to Key Stage 2. Alongside this experience I also have a thorough understanding of the assessment and attainment for each key stage. My teaching philosophy is centered around the whole child. I strive to ensure my practice is highly inclusive, encouraging individuals to challenge themselves, regardless of ability or background. My high quality teaching and expectations in each lesson and other curricular activities reflect this. I want each child to have fun in my lessons whilst also developing new skills and building on prior knowledge. I am thoroughly looking forward to developing my career at Giles School; I believe in children becoming risk takers who are not afraid to make mistakes; to develop a growth mindset whereby they find an alternative way to reach a goal. I am passionate about helping children to achieve these goals and find the alternative route. I believe in giving every child the opportunity to flourish in their own environment and aim to build that trust and empathy with children that I teach. I am excited to influence the learning and experiences of all children at Giles Junior School.

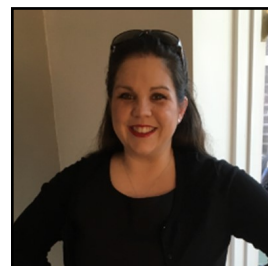


Miss Causton **Year 5 Class Teacher**

Hi Giles! My name is Miss Causton and I will be working in year 5 in September. I am so excited to join the team and can't wait to bring lots of arty fun to the school! I have worked in year 5 at another Stevenage school for the past two years and think it's a great year to teach, with lots of humour and fun along the way! I am unicorn obsessed and Christmas crazy - I hope you can join in with the magic! See you soon!



Mrs Ball **Year 5 Class** **Teaching Assistant**



Hello everyone, my name is Nadine Ball and I am very excited about joining Giles Junior School in

September in the role of Teaching Assistant in year 5. I am really looking forward to meeting lots of new faces and learning about you all, and becoming part of your wonderful team. In my previous role, I worked across year groups 3 to 6 and gained my higher level teaching assistant status and look forward to progressing my teaching career at Giles Junior School. I have also previously worked with and supported children with SEND and have worked within a primary school setting for the past 7 years. I look forward to meeting you all in September.

Mrs Haywood **Year 3 Class Teaching Assistant**

I am Mrs Haywood and in September I will be joining Giles Junior School as a Teaching Assistant in year 3. I am really looking forward to meeting you all, learning with you and having fun with you. I have been a Teaching Assistant in an infant school for the last 8 years and I'm excited to have the new experience of working in KS2.



Mrs L Smith - Family Support Worker

My name is Laura Smith and I will be taking on the role as Family Support Worker for Giles Junior School. My role in the school is to provide support, advice and information to families within the school community. I can help you with any worries you may have, offer practical help, emotional support or just lend a listening ear. I've been working with children & families for over 20 years now & have been working as a Family Support Worker within the community for the past 2 years. I'm really excited to be joining Giles Junior school & looking forward to meeting you all over the coming months.

