



Newsletter

Giles Junior School

“Achieving excellence through Leadership”

**Autumn
Term
Friday 15th
January
2021**

Giles Junior School News

Hello everyone,

I don't think anyone imagined the beginning to 2021 would be quite so disruptive. We know there is good news with the vaccinations having begun and I do feel there is an end in sight to the rollercoaster we have all been on since March 2020.

As a school we have learned a lot from the last lockdown and we have improved our remote learning as a result of this. Recent changes have been the consequence of previous parent feedback from preferences which were stated during a previous survey. We continue to work hard to respond to families queries and offer support as best we can during these challenging circumstances.

The main improvement we wanted to make was to ensure that the teaching sequences delivered to those in school match those who are at home. We hope this will reduce the gaps in learning which we noticed when the children returned in September. We have to consider the range of family circumstances and barriers when asking children to engage in distance learning. It is important to strike the balance of reducing pressure on parents with appropriate challenge to families where there is minimal engagement with learning during this period. We thank families for any feedback which we have had so far, much of it positive and all of it constructive in some form or another.

The innovation of staff has amazed me, in addition to the adept speed at which the children have got to grips with technology which is relevantly new to them! (See below information about Seesaw). We are impressed with the level of engagement from the children and know that support from family members is crucial when sustaining that.

I have put together a few FAQs about how we decided to provide distance learning and hope this may provide a helpful context for any parents/carers who are interested to know more. Please see page 2 for this information.

While weekends are not that thrilling at the moment I do hope everyone can have a chance to relax and enjoy some family time together which doesn't involve school work.

Take care and stay safe!

Miss Whitby

Smarty Schoolwear

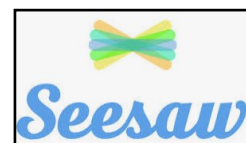
Smarty Schoolwear are currently closed for the lockdown period apart from ordering for key worker/vulnerable students going to school.

Parents of children who are attending school in lockdown can place orders online and use the Deliver to School option. The uniform is then delivered to school every Tuesday. The Click and Collect option has been disabled temporarily due to the Smarty Schoolwear shop being closed.



See Saw

We have been using this platform since Wednesday and have had really good uptake. It has been fantastic to see students work and to offer encouragement and feedback to pupils who are learning remotely. Current uptake is below for each year group. We would like to see 100% engagement with this platform so we can be ready to continue learning when we are all back together. Please let us know if you need support getting set up. A link to a video here shows you how to get set up.



[Click here for the video.](#)

Users currently subscribed in each year group

Year 3: 29 Year 4: 29 Year 5: 29 Year 6: 89

Weekly Zoom Class Calls

DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME
3 Wales Zoom Class Call	Every Tuesday up to 9th Feb	12.30pm
3 Italy Zoom Class Call	Every Friday up to 5th Feb	1.00pm
3 Sweden Zoom Class Call	Every Thursday up to 11th Feb	1.30pm
4 Costa Rica Zoom Class Call	Every Friday up to 12th Feb	9.30am
4 Zambia Zoom Class Call	Every Monday up to 8th Feb	1.00pm
4 Australia Zoom Class Call	Day will change each week, confirmation email will be sent out on a Monday	
5 Turkey Zoom Class Call	Every Wednesday up to 10th Feb	10.00am
5 France Zoom Class Call	Every Thursday up to 11th Feb	9.30am
5 Finland Zoom Class Call	Every Monday up to 8th Feb	12.00 midday
6 Germany Zoom Class Call	Every Thursday up to 11th Feb	1.45pm
6 Peru Zoom Class Call	Every Thursday up to 11th Feb	1.45pm
6 India Zoom Class Call	Every Thursday up to 11th Feb	1.45pm
Year 6 Assembly Zoom Call	Every Friday up to 12th Feb	2.30pm

We will still be sending out a reminder message before your call each week.

If you have any questions please contact your class teacher via the class email addresses or the school office email - admin@gilesjm.herts.sch.uk

Parent FAQs Distance Learning

Why do you use YouTube to upload videos as this can be distracting and children might click away from the lesson?

To allow us to post on the website YouTube compresses the video so we can post it here. However, we can post videos in See Saw and will be doing this also therefore if parents prefer their child to access it through the app and avoid YouTube they have this option.

Why aren't you using Google Classroom?

The children do access this in school. We are aware that many of our families access distance learning on a tablet. Functionality is drastically reduced when viewing or working on this platform. This is why we have added See Saw as we feel it is more intuitive for children to use so they can be more independent in addition to being able to give feedback via this platform in a more meaningful way.

What are the teachers responsible for when they are working remotely?

While we have approximately 70 children per year group learning remotely it requires a lot of time to plan and respond to those children. We are assigning teachers time throughout the day to plan and record lessons, time to review learning which is posted and offer feedback. They are also making phone calls, responding to emails and giving remote support all throughout the day. One member of the teaching team is teaching all day with the children who are at school which means the other two teachers will support the children of that class in addition to their own class. Teachers are also accessing training and webinars remotely as part of their own professional development.

How often should we expect feedback?

There may be one or two teachers checking the work of 90 pupils across the day and seeing what is uploaded. This is 180 pieces of learning a day! The teacher assigned to check for feedback will do so a minimum of 3 times a day spaced out to capture what is uploaded. Feedback will range from a like, a typed or audio comment. This detail will vary depending on whether the child needs further advice according to the work presented. As we are still developing the use of Seesaw we are increasing the functions we use such as assigning skills matrix which allows to assess for presentation, quantity and quality by rating each piece of work. We are also considering ways in which we can allow children to self mark by providing answers towards the end of the day so they might be able to self check before posting which will allow us to hone in where children require extra support.

What do I do if my child is struggling?

We are committed to working with families to make sure we are giving an appropriate level of learning for every child. In the first instance contact your child's class teacher who will respond via phone or email to work on adapting learning in an appropriate way.

Hello from your Giles Junior School Governing Board!

We thought you might like to know a little about us and maybe think about joining us. We are a friendly group working closely with the teaching staff who we know as friends. We work as a team to support the school in a strategic way to ensure our pupils are developed to their full potential and that the school's money is well spent. We act as critical friends and ask many questions to both challenge and support the school's leaders; we are a diverse group with different backgrounds and a variety of skills but the most important skill we hope we have is common sense. Our passion is ensuring the best education for the children at the school.

Being a governor means spending a few hours a week on the role and attending two or three meetings each term. Your employer has to allow you reasonable time off from your work to allow you to fulfil your governor duties, but does not have to pay you for this time (though many do).

Most people over 18 can be a school governor and you do not need to be a parent of a child who is at the school. Being a governor means you will be making a positive and rewarding contribution to the school and local community, and your skills will help the governing board to be more effective, which leads to improvement for the school and to the pupils' education and development. You do not need any special skills or knowledge of the education system – you will quickly learn about this as you settle into your role – and you don't need to be 'a professional.'

You can find out more about us on the school's website, and more about being a governor on this short video:- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SoMsVNRg3rc&feature=youtu.be>

Please go to the Governors section on the school's web site if you would like to have more details and would like to apply to become one of our governors.

Kim Hedley, Chair of Governors

 Autism | ADHD
Neurodiverse Conditions

ONLINE
SENSORY SIGNS, SIGNALS & SOLUTIONS WORKSHOP

Date: Monday 18th January 2021
Time: 7pm - 9pm
Cost: Free - For Parent/Carers

This workshop looks at the signs and signals you may see when someone is experiencing sensory processing disorder or difficulties, it then moves on to look at strategies and solutions that may help with these.

Workshop Content:

- Senses - how many & what they are
- What is sensory processing disorder?
- What does this mean for your child?
- SENSISE
- Individual senses
 - Signs and Signals
 - Solutions
- Sensory Circuits
- Sensory Equipment
- Resources

Please use the Eventbrite link below to reserve your place:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sensory-workshop-tickets-131683624265>

Limited Places Available

   www.spaceherts.org.uk

spaceherts@gmail.com

SUPPORTING FAMILIES IN HERTFORDSHIRE - AUTISM | ADHD | NEURODIVERSE CONDITIONS
HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL AND HERTS A&A 117 8178

 Autism | ADHD
Neurodiverse Conditions

CYBERBULLYING
PARENT/CARER Q & A

THURSDAY 21ST JANUARY 2021
10AM - 11.30AM

Our children are spending increasing amounts of time online with education, entertainment and socialising taking place in from of a screen.

Sadly 70% of children experience bullying online.

- Possible signs that your child is being cyberbullied
- How to report online bullying
- Resources to help keep your child safe online

Join Sam from TechSafe to discuss your concerns, get some practical tips and advice. As well as sharing your successes and challenges!

Please use the Eventbrite link below to book your place:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tech-safe-cyberbullying-qa-tickets-13369695415>

Limited Places Available


   www.spaceherts.org.uk

spaceherts@gmail.com

SUPPORTING FAMILIES IN HERTFORDSHIRE - AUTISM | ADHD | NEURODIVERSE CONDITIONS
HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL AND HERTS A&A 117 8178

TALKING ASD & ADHD WORKSHOP: SIBLING STRUGGLES


For parents and carers of children aged 2-25yrs with suspected or diagnosed Autistic Spectrum Disorder and/or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

 **Monday 1st February 2021 9.30 - 11.30am**

We will help you to learn about:

- What to do if your children are fighting or arguing.
- How to deal with jealousy.
- The pressures and worries on siblings in a family with a child with ASD/ADHD.
- Helping your children develop a network of support.
- Helping your children communicate with each other without conflict.
- Managing difficult feelings, your own and theirs.
- Where to access further help and support, both locally and nationally.

An online parenting workshop delivered to your home via Zoom

Full details on how to access and use this will be offered. 




Open to parents and carers across Hertfordshire

Pre-booking essential via Eventbrite


<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talking-asd-and-adhd-sibling-struggles-for-parents-carers-in-herts-registration-130870913425>

Or contact Supporting Links
QUOTING REFERENCE SL421

01442 300185
info@supportinglinks.co.uk
www.supportinglinks.co.uk

Follow on:   

"This helped me feel more in control, and less like a referee."
"The best Zoom experience I have had so far!"

This workshop is provided free to parents by Hertfordshire County Council 

Support for Parents on the website

Under the parents tab on the website there is a section for support for parents. On this page you can get lots of useful information such as, courses for parents, helplines and information about different services available that provide help and support for parents and students. Also there is a guide to revision and online safety information.

Courses will be updated on this page regularly so it is definitely worth taking a look!

Please click on the link which will take you straight there:

<https://gilesjm.herts.sch.uk/parents/support-for-parents/>