



# Newsletter

## Giles Junior School

**“Achieving excellence through Leadership”**

**Spring  
Term  
Friday 19th  
March  
2021**

### Giles Junior School News

Hello Everyone,

Just as we get back into the swing of things the term is ending! We are very much hoping the sun will shine and we can enjoy the Easter break being ready for the summer term. We have genuinely been so impressed with the attitude of children upon their return. I think it is clear we can bust the popular myth that children don't like school! The school is buzzing with positivity and the children have expressed a real gratitude to be back at school.

We know the pandemic is not yet over but staff are starting to receive vaccines within their age bracket and we continue to apply all the measures to reduce the risk of transmission in school.

You will all be aware that ALL parents/carers can test themselves at home twice a week. All staff are now in the habit of doing this and while it is not the most pleasant experience it does pick up any cases where there are no symptoms present. We would strongly urge this to be taken up by everyone. Details are on the next page of the newsletter.

During the Easter Holidays we will continue to monitor any positive cases - please can we ask that this is sent to [COVID@gilesjm.herts.sch.uk](mailto:COVID@gilesjm.herts.sch.uk) as this is monitored closely for any notifications and means we can have a swift response if we need to contact any families.

Miss Whitby  
Headteacher

### School Timings after Easter Holidays

**School timings will remain the same after Easter :**

Please arrive to school between 8.40am-9.00am, please avoid arriving too early, registers will be taken in class promptly at 9.00am.

**Pick up time for Year 3&4 is 2.50pm. For Year 5&6 it is 3.00pm.** If your child has a sibling in both phases, the younger sibling will wait in class until 3.00pm to avoid families having to wait.

If all families can continue to follow the one way system around the school and please can all parents continue to wear face masks whilst on school grounds. Thank you.

### **School CLOSED** **Monday 12th April 2021**

Please be reminded that children **return to school after Easter on Tuesday 13th April** as the Monday 12th is an INSET DAY.

### Parents Evening

This year we will be running video appointments for parents evening again. This will allow you to meet with your child's class teacher remotely by video call. In order to do this you will need a smart phone or laptop with a microphone for the appointment.

The video calls will be held on:

**Monday April 26th 4:30-6:30 and Wednesday April 28th 3:30-5:30.**

The online booking system will be going live at the beginning of next term when you will be able to book in for your video appointment. A letter will be going out shortly with all the details and confirmation of date that the system will be live to parents.

**As usual, if you have had an SEN review, this is in place of a separate consultation.**

### **Rapid Flow Testing**

There are different ways to obtain a test for school staff, pupils, and members of their households, childcare and support bubbles in England who do not have symptoms of coronavirus.

From 1 March 2021, if you're a member of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of staff or a pupil you can get a twice-weekly test:

- through your employer if they offer testing to employees
- at a local test site
- by collecting a home test kit from a test site by ordering a home test kit online

#### **Get a test through your employer**

Your workplace may offer rapid lateral flow testing to you. Contact your employer to find out more.

#### **Take a test at a rapid lateral flow test site**

You can take a rapid lateral flow test at a local site. Testing at these sites is assisted, which means you will swab yourself under the supervision of a trained operator. You may need to book an appointment.

[Find your nearest rapid lateral flow test site](#)

#### **Collect test kits**

You can collect 2 packs of home test kits at a local collection point. Each pack contains 7 tests.

Anyone 18 or over can collect. You can check online if the location is busy before you go.

[Find your nearest home test kit collection point](#)

#### **Order home test kits online**

If you cannot get tested at your workplace, or are unable to go to a test site or collect test kits, you can order a home test kit online. However, please do not order online if you can get a test through other methods. This frees up home delivery for those who need it most.

Click here to [Order rapid lateral flow home test kits](#)

I would urge all of our families to order lateral flow tests to help make our school community a safer place.

### **Wear Orange Day** **Monday 19th April 2021**

Following on from the fantastic fundraising achievements of Sienna C in Year 5, which we reported on in the last newsletter, Sienna has now come up with another fantastic plan. Sienna has contacted a number of Stevenage schools to see if they will take part in a "wear orange day" on the 19th April. The goal for Sienna is to raise enough money to cover family food parcels for 53 local families and of course raise awareness for this fantastic charity.

If you are able to make a donation we have set up a Just Giving Page, if you are not able to donate please just wear orange on the 19th April and help us raise awareness for this local charity.

Just giving Page : [CLICK HERE](#)

Please have a look at the Feed Up Warm Up Website for more details :

<http://feedupwarmup.co.uk>



### **New Summer Term Lunch Menu**

Please look out for a new lunch menu which will be coming out for the summer term.

We shall be emailing this out to parents next week as well as uploading it to the website (under parents tab - school meals).

The price of a school meal will stay the same at £2.70.

### **Extra Curricular Activities**

At the moment we still need to delay the start up of any clubs, we do not want any additional mixing. We will again review the situation in the summer term.

### **Games Day - Last Day of Term**

Friday 26th March is the last day of term and will be a games day, as usual. The children may bring in a game and electronic devices.

**Please can all sim cards be removed.**

**School will finish early on 26th March at :**

**1.50pm for Years 3 & 4**

**2.00pm for Years 5 & 6**

## **Term Dates**

**(A paper copy is available in reception if required)**

### **Remaining Dates for 2020/2021**

#### **SPRING TERM 2021**

<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>~ Inset day (school closed)</b>
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	~ First day of term for children
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	~ First day of half term
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	~ Last day of half term
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	~ Last day of term <b>(school closes at 2pm)</b>

#### **SUMMER TERM 2021**

<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>~ Inset Day (school closed)</b>
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	~ First day of term for children
<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	<b>~ Bank Holiday (school closed)</b>
<b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>~ Inset day (school closed)</b>
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	~ First day of half term
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	~ Last day of half term
<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>~ Inset day (school closed)</b>
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	~ Last day of term <b>(school closes at 2pm)</b>

### **Term Dates ~ 2021/2022**

#### **AUTUMN TERM 2021**

<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September</b>	<b>~Inset Day (school closed)</b>
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	~ First day of term for children
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	~ First day of half term
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> October	~ Last day of half term
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	~ Last day of term <b>(school closes at 2pm)</b>
<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>~ Inset Day (school closed)</b>
<b>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December</b>	<b>~ Occasional Day (school closed)</b>

#### **SPRING TERM 2022**

<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>~ Inset day (school closed)</b>
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	~ First day of term for children
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	~ First day of half term
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	~ Last day of half term
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	~ Last day of term <b>(school closes at 2pm)</b>

#### **SUMMER TERM 2022**

<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>~ Inset Day (school closed)</b>
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	~ First day of term for children
<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May</b>	<b>~ Bank Holiday (school closed)</b>
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> May	~ First day of half term
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	~ Last day of half term
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>~ Inset day (school closed)</b>
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	~ Last day of term <b>(school closes at 2pm)</b>

### **Two Online Parenting Courses Fully Funded By Herts County Council**

**These online parenting courses have just been released for Summer Term 2021** and are available to any referred parents, so please let the school know ASAP if you are interested.

Course 1: A Protective Behaviours Approach To Emotional Safety and Wellbeing For Families [Click here for details](#)

Each Thursday from 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr 9:30am - 11:30am for 6 weeks

Each Wednesday from 9<sup>th</sup> Jun at 7pm - 9pm for 6 weeks

Course 2: The Secrets to Parenting Your Teenager [Click here for details](#)

Each Tuesday from 20<sup>th</sup> Apr at 7pm - 9pm for 6 weeks

Each Wednesday from 21<sup>st</sup> Apr at 7pm - 9pm for 6 weeks

Each Monday from 7<sup>th</sup> Jun at 7pm - 9pm for 6 weeks