



# Newsletter

## Giles Junior School

**“Achieving excellence through Leadership”**

**Autumn  
Term  
Friday  
23rd  
October**

### Giles Junior School News

Hello to our lovely families!

We have ended this busy half term on a high when we were joined by Zara from Warriorz who led an African dance session with every class. A big drive when re-working our curriculum is to consider the diversity we have within every subject. The children had an active time, learned about African dance culture and were able to “let go” and enjoy the session.

I feel I must apologise for the stress on the washing machines in family homes due to the muddy legs and shoes (and sometimes bodies) which have been coming home of late. Part of our strategy for the first few weeks had been to keep separate year groups from passing or contacting each other during their break and lunch times. We had been optimistic when hoping we could review at half term ... We are currently drawing a re-plan of how we manage break and lunch without the need to use the field. We are sorry for the inconvenience this has caused during the last few weeks and will synergise to come up with a solution ready for the first day back!

You will have been made aware that we have had a pupil test positive which has required close contacts to self-isolate for the recommended time. We have had calls from parents asking to be notified of the class or individual who has been confirmed as positive. We have a duty to protect the identify of the individual. We hope families can trust that we are following the necessary process and do only inform people who are directly affected. We took an open approach to inform all parents of the details they need to know. While I feel it is important to remain transparent as possible I have to be mindful that I must follow confidentiality guidelines. While we understand that having a positive case in school creates anxiety we hope that families will not direct any frustration or anger caused by this towards members of staff, who are all working incredibly hard under difficult circumstances.

**We would appreciate being informed of any positive cases which are confirmed during half term via the admin email, [admin@gilesjm.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@gilesjm.herts.sch.uk), so we can continue to take the right course of action should we need to.** You will notice that children have been sent home with an exercise book to keep in a safe place should it be needed.

Thank you again for all your support getting used to the changes this year has brought. We will continue to adapt procedures to support everyone in the best way we are able to.

Miss Whitby  
Headteacher

### Parents Evening Arrangements

This year we will be holding video appointments for parents evening. In order for us to be able to carry out the appointments in this way, you will need one of the following devices with a microphone and speaker :

- ◆ smartphone
- ◆ laptop or computer that has a webcam.

**The sessions will be held on Monday 23rd November and Wednesday 25th November 2020. Full details will be sent out to all parents straight after half term.** This will include full instructions and details of how to book in your session.

### Equity Statement & Competition

As mentioned previously with our effort to re-think how our curriculum and policies celebrate the diverse nature of our school, Giles Junior would like to share this statement with our families. Your child will have been told about a competition being run to come up with a simple and effective title, slogan or catch-phrase to encapsulate the message behind this statement. We look forward to seeing what ideas the children have!

*At Giles Junior School we develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which all those connected to the school feel proud of their identity and ability to participate fully in school life. We believe that diversity is a strength which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn with us, work with us and visit us. We strive to ensure that the Giles Junior community is provided with opportunities to flourish irrespective of background, beliefs, or abilities. We proactively challenge prejudice and promote understanding in relation to current affairs. Diverse and equal because we are one at Giles.*

### Autumn Diary Dates for Parents/Carers

(These dates could be subject to change)  
Any dates that are highlighted in yellow are new items

DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME
<b>Half Term - SCHOOL CLOSED</b>	<b>26th October - 30th October</b>	
Deadline to apply for a secondary school place (Year 6 students)	Sat 31st October	All Day
Year 6 Boys Internal Football Match (selected children only)	Tue 3rd November	3.15pm - 4.15pm
Year 6 Boys Internal Football Match (selected children only)	Tue 3rd November	3.15pm - 4.15pm
Year 6 Girls Internal Football Match (selected children only)	Tue 3rd November	3.15pm - 4.15pm
Flu Immunisation day (For the whole school)	Thur 5th November	All Day
Online Book Fair Details to be sent out to parents	Fri 6th November	All Day
Parents Evening - Video Appointments (details TBC)	Mon 23rd Nov	5.00pm - 7.30pm
Parents Evening - Video Appointments (details TBC)	Wed 25th Nov	3.30pm - 6.00pm
Year 6 - Health Questionnaire (School nurse in school to assist Year 6 children with this)	Wed 2nd December	All Day
<b>Occasional day - SCHOOL CLOSED</b>	<b>Fri 4th December</b>	
Last day of term - Early finish	Fri 18th December	Time TBC
<b>Christmas Holiday - SCHOOL CLOSED</b>	<b>21st December - 3rd January</b>	
<b>Inset Day - SCHOOL CLOSED</b>	<b>Mon 4th January</b>	
First day of the Spring Term - All children to return to school	Tue 5th January	8.40am - 9.00am doors open

### Secondary School Information (For Year 6)

This year Stevenage secondary schools will not be holding open evening events as planned, due to coronavirus. A lot of the secondary schools have decided that they will be offering virtual school tours only. Please check the individual school websites for further details.

#### Important dates – secondary school admissions

- 1 September 2020** : Online system opens for you to apply online  
Find individual school details in the [schools directory](#).  
**31 October 2020** : **Deadline to apply for a school place**  
**1 March 2021** : **National allocation day**

For further information please click on the link for Hertfordshire County Council website and click on school admissions : [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk)

### Poppies on sale after half term

We will have poppies on sale after half term. We will be asking for a small donation to “The Royal British Legion” in exchange for a poppy.



## Hot School Meal Menu for after half term

Hopefully you would have now received the new menu, which we emailed out to all parents. This will start after half term, from 2nd November 2020.

**A copy of the menu can also be found on the website under the parents tab and then school meals.**

The price of a meal is £2.70 per day and may be paid using the school gateway. This can be paid for weekly, in advance, or daily if preferred. We do not accept cash payments.

Week 1 - 12 <sup>th</sup> November, 23 <sup>rd</sup> November, 14 <sup>th</sup> December				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Vegetarian Sausages and Potato wedges	Macaroni cheese and herby bread	Roast pork with roast potatoes	Beef burger in a bun with diced potatoes	Cheese and tomato pizza with low fat chips
Jacket potato with cheese	Jacket potato with beans	Jacket potato with cheese	Jacket potato with beans	Jacket potato with cheese
Chicken mayo wrap	Ham flat bread	Egg roll	Cheese sandwich	Tuna baguette
Week 2 - 9 <sup>th</sup> November, 30 <sup>th</sup> November, 21 <sup>st</sup> December				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Meatballs baguette	Fillet of fish with diced potatoes	Roast beef with roast potatoes	Quorn hot dog with potato wedges	Cheese and tomato pizza with low fat chips
Jacket potato with beans	Jacket potato with cheese	Jacket potato with beans	Jacket potato with cheese	Jacket potato with beans
Cheese sandwich	Ham flat bread	Egg roll	Chicken mayo wrap	Tuna baguette
Week 3 - 16 <sup>th</sup> November, 7 <sup>th</sup> December				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Salmon fishfingers	Quorn pattie in a bun with diced potatoes	Roast chicken with roast potatoes	sausages with potato wedges	Cheese and tomato pizza with low fat chips
Jacket potato with cheese	Jacket potato with beans	Jacket potato with cheese	Jacket potato with beans	Jacket potato with cheese
Cheese sandwich	Ham flat bread	Egg roll	Chicken mayo wrap	Tuna baguette

### Student Achievement

Jack in year 5 attends the Warriorz Performing Arts Academy in Stevenage. During lockdown he continued to keep up his dance training via zoom meetings weekly and participated in multiple dance competitions online.

He was placed highly in these competitions but the main achievement was qualifying at the UDO British Championships in 1st place with his duo partner. He then went on and participated in the UDO World Championships and was placed within the top 14 in under 12 intermediate solos.

This is a huge achievement which takes great dedication. Well done Jack!



### Sports Fixtures

Mr Stephenson is excited to announce some internal sports fixtures coming up after half term. Starting with Year 6, Mr Stephenson has selected children to take part in some internal football matches. As we are unable to compete against other schools at the moment, hopefully the children will enjoy some healthy competition and get the chance to play a football match this way instead, for now.

If your child has been selected you will receive a letter giving further details. Year 5 letters will be going out after half term. Unfortunately we can not allow spectators into school to watch the matches, at the moment.

If you have any further questions about these matches please speak to Mr Stephenson or the school office.



### Halloween Advice from Hertfordshire County Council

Council leaders across Hertfordshire are encouraging families to celebrate Halloween safely, helping to save lives by preventing the spread of the coronavirus. This year, many Halloween traditions such as trick or treating carry a risk and the county's message is clear: **this Halloween, stick to a safer way of having fun.**



#### Top 5 low risk activities

- Carving or decorating pumpkins
- Taking part in a local 'spot the pumpkin' trail throughout half term week, where people display pumpkin or Halloween pictures in their windows and you have to try and find them all
- Organising a Halloween scavenger hunt, where children from your household are given lists of Halloween-themed things to look for either in your home, or outdoors
- Having a virtual Halloween costume competition using zoom or Skype
- Having a Halloween film night with your household