



Newsletter

Giles Junior School

“Achieving excellence through Leadership”

**Autumn
Term
Friday 25th
November
2022**

Giles Junior School News

Is that the sound of bells I hear in the distance, along with angels singing? Well the festivities have begun and I have heard sweet singing from Year 3 who are rehearsing their Christmas Songs as well as Year 4 rehearsing for their Christmas Celebration. I had the delight of walking past 4 Zambia who were busy making items to be sold at the Christmas Fayre (see previous letter from The Lighthouse Team) and was astonished by the high quality of their ornaments which were being made out of clay.

On Monday we had a visit from a school Headteacher from Latvia who was visiting schools who have embedded The Leader in Me into their curriculum. Mr Strautins hoped to take back ideas to enhance the implementation of the 7 Habits in his own school. He was astonished by the confidence of the class greeters who welcomed him into their classroom and told him what they were learning in class. The most impressive features he took from Giles Junior were the physical emotional bank account cups in each classroom, the class mission and class WIGs (Wildly Important Goals). I also enjoyed hearing about the different approaches from Latvia, where they have a curriculum rooted in technology for future career options (they are a secondary school).

Parents evening face to face consultations, on Monday, will be held in **the hall**—as this is the first time we have held parents evening face to face since 2019 (when we had a spare classroom) there would have been no waiting area for those parents with children in year 5 and 6. As we have no additional classroom we thought holding it in this way would be helpful. For those of you attending the face to face meetings please come to the office area, to be directed to a waiting area in the dining room where there will be food tasting from Herts Catering in addition to a book fair being run by Mrs Jones. Your child's class teacher will collect you at the allocated time slot so please arrive in plenty of time.

Miss Whitby (Headteacher)

Parents Evening

Monday 28th November - Face to Face Appointments

OR

Wednesday 30th November - Online Video Appointments

Hopefully by now you have booked in your parents evening appointment. The face to face parents evening will take place on Monday 28th November and the online video parents evening is on Wednesday 30th November. This will allow you to meet with your child's class teacher either face to face or remotely by video call. **We would like your child to be present with you for the appointment, if possible.**

On the day of your video appointment (if this is the option you have chosen) please click the link which will be on your confirmation email. A reminder email will also be sent to you an hour before the appointment which will also have the link on.

On Monday 28th November at the face to face appointment evening, Herts Catering will be present offering **food tasting** with samples from the current lunch menu. We hope you might have a taste while you are waiting for your appointment.

You will also have an opportunity to purchase a book from the Book Fair, which will be present on Monday at the appointment evening.

Diary Dates - Autumn Term

Date	Time	Event
Mon 28th November	4.30-6.30pm	Parents Evening - Face to Face Appointment Day
Mon 28th November	4.30pm	Book Fair in school
Wed 30th November	3.30-5.30pm	Parents Evening - Video Link Appointment Day
Thur 1st December	All Day	Year 6 - 6th PGL Instalment Due
Thur 1st December	3.00-4.30pm	Christmas Fair
Fri 2nd December	All Day	Elf Day
Tue 6th December	2.00pm	Year 4 Christmas Performance (Afternoon showing with all of Year 4)
Wed 7th December	9.15am	Year 4 Christmas Performance (Morning showing with all of Year 4)
Fri 9th December		Occasional Day - School Closed
Mon 12th December	9.15-10.00am	Year 4 Merit Assembly (For invited parents only)
Mon 12th December	2.30pm	Year 3 Wales Carol Concert
Tue 13th December	2.30pm	Year 3 Italy Carol Concert
Wed 14th December	9.15-10.00am	Year 3 Merit Assembly (For invited parents only)
Thur 15th December	9.15-10.00am	Year 5 Merit Assembly (For invited parents only)
Thur 15th December	2.30pm	Year 3 Sweden Carol Concert
Fri 16th December	9.15-10.00am	Year 6 Merit Assembly (For invited parents only)
Tue 20th December	2.00pm finish	Last Day of Term
Mon 2nd Jan	All Day	Year 6 - 7th PGL Instalment Due
Thur 5th Jan		First Day of Term - All children back to school

Update From Scotland Class

In Scotland, this past week, we have welcomed two interesting visitors. One the IBA Light Weight champion boxer and the other Steve (Miss Keam's dad) who works for the London underground. We got to ask lots of questions and discussed what these roles look like in our community. The visit from the boxer allowed us to explore habit 7 (sharpen the saw) where we discussed self-discipline, motivation and mental health.

During our visit from Steve, we were given a giant map of the underground and even got to dress up as train drivers!

It is safe to say we were all inspired and are now beginning with the end in mind when it comes to thinking about future careers.

Miss Robinson and the team in Scotland.



Punctuality

Lateness to lessons disrupts teaching and hinders learning. Students must be within the school grounds no later than 9:00am and in their first lesson ready to learn by 9:00am. Aiming to arrive at 8:50am means that any complications that delay students in the morning can be dealt with and still leave students enough time to arrive promptly.

This will be monitored very closely over the coming months, so please aim to be in school on time every day.

Smiles@Giles After School Club Re Opening!

Thank you for your patience and understanding while our After School Club has been closed. We are happy to say that it will be **reopen from Monday 5th December, BUT only until 4.45pm.**

Mrs Watts is still unable to work due to her leg injury, but we hope after the Xmas break she will back to full health. The Club will be staffed by Mr Flood (who has been appointed as the After School Club Assistant, and is fully trained) along with another member of Giles staff.

We are keeping everything crossed that after Xmas we will be able to offer After School Club back to its original time of 6pm. If you need to book a session at Smiles@Giles, then please do so via the School gateway as usual.

Thank you for your continued support.

Smiles@Giles

Elf Day - Friday 2nd December



On Friday 2nd December 2022, we are taking part in Elf Day as part of their charity campaign for The Alzheimer's Society!

Children and staff are encouraged to come to school dressed in their best Elf costumes and enjoy taking part in the organised Elfie activities and magical Christmas fun in school that day!

Schools all across the UK will be taking part in Elf Day to raise awareness and money for the Alzheimer's Society.

We will not be asking for donations for this event.



Considerate Parking

Please may we remind you to be considerate when parking in the roads around the school grounds.

If you do happen to witness inconsiderate parking, please report these directly to Hertfordshire Constabulary or the local authority as appropriate. Please click on this link for guidance on how to report:

[Car parking concerns](#)

Thank you in advance for your understanding and your help in keeping our children and neighbours safe.

Christmas Jumper Day Thursday 8th December

This year Christmas Jumper Day will be on Thursday 8th December. The idea is to make your own Christmas jumper/ T-shirt. All you need to do is find an old jumper or T-shirt and add a sprinkling of glitter, stickers, tinsel, baubles, ribbon, cotton wool, pen to draw or anything you can find - get creative!

If children have already got a Christmas jumper and they would prefer just to wear this, that is fine.

We will have some extra decorations in school, so if you think your children may require some please ask your teacher. Prizes will be given out to the four most creative and festive jumpers in each year group.

We have also signed up to 'Save the Children' where the Christmas Jumper Day originated. If you can and would like to support mothers and children to receive food and medicine in Kenya then please donate. The UK government are going to match every £2 raised!!!

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mrs-maria-masvimbo-christmas-jumper-day>



Christmas Fair - Thursday 1st December

On Thursday 1st December from 3.00pm-4.30pm we will be holding our Christmas Fair. Every class will be making various Christmassy items to sell to their families, friends and the school community. Some children, including the Lighthouse leaders, will then run the stalls from 3pm until 4.30pm.

Items being sold, at the fair, will range from school-made mince pies, Christmas tree baubles, Christmas cards and so much more! The upper school choir is also going to perform some carols to raise Christmas spirits on the day.

This is the term that we raise money for a local charity and for our school fund. The Lighthouse Team have nominated to raise money for the Garden House Hospice. Proceeds from the Christmas Fair will be split 50/50 between the school and this charity that is close to many of our hearts and fulfils a crucial role within our community.

Open Afternoon - Friday 25th November

TODAY, Friday 25th November is our Open Afternoon. This will give families the opportunity to come and look at their child's books and see all the hard work they have put in to demonstrate their learning for this term.

Doors will be open **FROM 2:30pm**, as we appreciate that some families will need to visit more than one class to see their children's books. If you only have one child in the school feel free to arrive later than this (it is helpful to let your child know you will arrive a little later).

This will be a chance to preview learning prior to the parent consultations.

Book Fair at Giles Junior School

Come and visit the Travelling Book Fair! Browse and purchase books for your child, whilst at the same time helping us earn free books for our school.

The Book Fair will be in the school hall on: **Friday 25th November from 2:30-3:10pm** (during open afternoon) **and Monday 28th November from 4:30-6:30pm** (during the face-to-face parents' evening - although, feel free to come along for the book fair even if your parents' evening appointment is not on this day!).



Farewell

Mr Haley has now completed his apprenticeship at Giles Junior School. We wish him the best of luck with his future and feel sure he will have gained many skills which he can apply when he takes his next career step.

Additional Bank Holiday

His Majesty King Charles III will have his Coronation on Saturday 6th May 2023. **An additional bank holiday has been granted for the nation on Monday 8th May 2023;** the school will therefore be closed on this day.

Year 3 Visit to St Nicholas Church

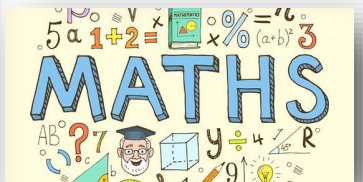
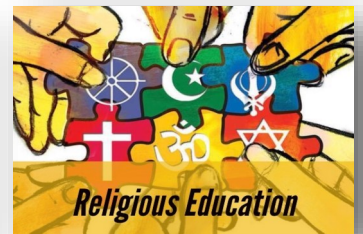
Last week Year 3 visited St Nicholas Church to learn more about Christianity. We went on a Christian object hunt and Vicar Mike explained the purpose of each one. We also spotted stained glass windows that told stories from the bible. In class, we made our own stained glass windows to depict an important moment in our lives.



During faith week last week, we walked to St Nicholas Church and learnt more about Christianity.

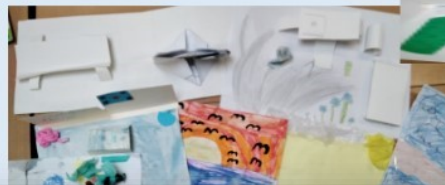
In Science, we did an experiment where we learnt more about friction.

A peek into ... Year 3



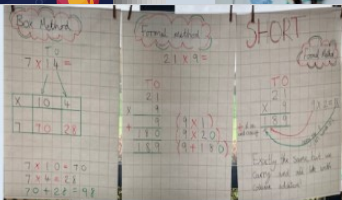
A peek into ... Year 4

Last Friday, we dressed up and participated in a colouring competition in support Children in Need.



Last week was faith week and the children reflected on their own idea of belonging. Children then used art materials to draw, paint or construct their special spaces.

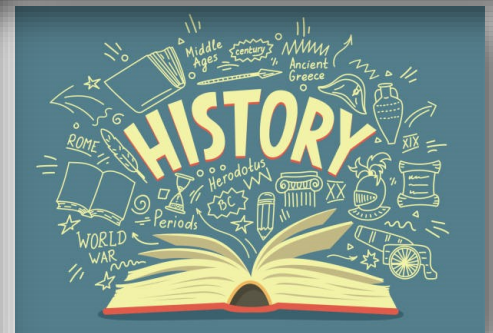
A peek into ... Year 5



In Maths, we are learning formal methods to multiply and in English we have started a new unit called 'The Present'.



In Geography, we are learning about the states in North America



A peek into ... Year 6

We created clay poppies for Remembrance day as it linked with our artwork. We've been looking and Ikuko who uses different techniques in her artwork. By using slip and score, we were able to create the poppies.

The year 6's went on a trip to RAF and one of the activities involved coding on computers.

