



Newsletter

Giles Junior School

“Achieving excellence through Leadership”

**Autumn
Term
Friday 25th
September
2020**

Giles Junior School News

Hello,

Welcome to newsletter number 2 - that must mean two weeks have gone by! I feel like if I blink I will miss it at the moment.

Giles Junior is certainly in full swing now. Class teachers have reported that the soft start and having a twenty minute window has worked very well. The children can come in more gradually and settle into the routine. Thank you for parents adapting to this and for applying the one way system. We would ask families to arrive no earlier than 8:40am. We have had children knocking on the door at 8:30am, which is difficult for staff who are trying to get ready for the day, in addition to the fact that we are trying to reduce any waiting on site. If your child is a lone walker then see if they can time their walk so they avoid waiting alone on the playground before being let in at 8:40am.

We have had many families explaining that holidays have been postponed due to travel restrictions and therefore have had little choice on dates to rebook. Just to make families aware we have agreed that these will not be authorized, but will not count towards a fine as we appreciate that circumstances have been difficult during the summer.

At this time of year it would be usual procedure to invite parents/carers in to school for a hot drink and to spend some time in their child's class to hear about what they will be learning about this term. As we are unable to accept visitors into school we wanted to make parents/carers aware that all curriculum information is now on the website. Please visit the Curriculum tab and then choose the relevant subject from the drop down menu. Here it will give an overview as to what key learning will take place across the whole year in each subject. We hope this will help families support their children at home as best they can.

We are currently consulting about the best way to carry out parent consultation evenings, which are usually held mid to late November. We will be in touch with details as to how this will work in plenty of time.

Have a great weekend!

Miss Whitby
Headteacher

Free School Meals

If your situation has changed recently you may be entitled to Free School Meals for your child / children, please apply ASAP to find out. Your child can get a free school meal if you receive any of the following:

Income Support

Income-based Jobseekers Allowance

Income-related Employment and Support Allowance

Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit

Child Tax Credit (as long as you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and you don't get more than **£16,190** a year)

Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

Universal Credit (with annual earned income of no more than **£7,400** after tax and not including any benefits you get).

Apply today, using the link below, if you receive any of these benefits. It takes **5 mins** and in most cases they can tell you straightaway if your child can get free meals at school.

www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals

Autumn Diary Dates for Parents/Carers

DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME
Year 5 Trip to West Stow (Finland & half of France)	Wed 7th October	All Day
Year 5 Trip to West Stow (Turkey & half of France)	Thur 8th October	All Day
Deadline for return of flu immunisation consent forms to class TA (every child needs a form returned stating if it is a yes or no)	Mon 12th October	All Day
School photographer in to take individual shots of children	Fri 16th October	All Day
Half Term - SCHOOL CLOSED	26th October - 30th October	
Flu Immunisation day (For the whole school)	Thur 5th November	All Day
Year 6 - Health Questionnaire (School nurse in school to assist Year 6 children with this)	Wed 2nd December	All Day
Occasional day - SCHOOL CLOSED	Fri 4th December	
Last day of term	Fri 18th December	2pm early finish
Christmas Holiday - SCHOOL CLOSED	21st December - 3rd January	
Inset Day - SCHOOL CLOSED	Mon 4th January	
First day of the Spring Term - All children to return to school	Tue 5th January	8.40am - 9.00am doors open

Swimming

We have made the decision NOT to go ahead with swimming lessons for Year 4 just yet. We would like to think that by the end of the Autumn term we would have returned to some normality and can resume swimming lessons as usual in the following term (from Jan 2021). We have sent out a survey this week to all parents regarding swimming. The purpose of this survey will be to identify the best way to make sure we have children swimming 25 metres by the end of KS2. We may consider changing the year group in subsequent terms to make sure all children are swimming effectively. You will be informed as soon as possible.

Lost Property

If your child has a lost item and needs to check lost property, they will need to speak to their class TA. Only the class TA's will have access to lost property for their year group. Every effort will be made for your lost item to be returned ASAP. Please remember to name all items.

Nasal Flu Immunisation

Please note that we will need a signed **consent form returned for every child**, stating whether it is a YES OR NO.

All forms need to be **handed back in to the class Teaching Assistant ASAP before the 16th October**, thank you!

Please click on the link for further information :

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/child-flu-vaccine-questions-and-answers/>

Self Isolating Reminders

If a **Giles Junior School child** has displayed covid symptoms, there is a **10 day isolation period** required, unless a negative test result can be provided before then. Please inform the school ASAP.

If a **member of your household** has displayed covid symptoms, there is a **14 day isolation period** required, unless a negative test result can be provided before then. Please inform the school ASAP.

Please provide the school with evidence of a negative test if your child is returning to school before the end of their isolation period. If you have any questions please contact the school office.