



# Newsletter

## Giles Junior School

**“Achieving excellence through Leadership”**

**Autumn  
Term  
Friday 26th  
November  
2021**

### Giles Junior School News

November is flashing before my eyes and soon it will be Christmas! As a school, we have had to make some difficult decisions in terms of how best to save our family Christmases which I know many families and of course, all our staff, want to enjoy without the need to isolate. We have had a number of cases but have not yet reached the “outbreak” stage (10% of the whole school or 5 cases which are likely to be connected within 10 days). We know there was disappointment among parents about not being able to come into school for various performances. We hope that the general consensus is that decisions are based on the bigger picture and not wanting to put on an event which could result in spreading COVID-19 so close to Christmas.

Having sent out a survey yesterday in regards to the end of term “Games Day” we had a response from 114 of you! It was helpful to see parents views in regards to whether this should be an opportunity to play traditional games or to allow children to have electronic devices as has been the case over the past few years. From those responses 82% of families were in support of a traditional games day which would be an opportunity to bring in a board game, puzzle book or card game to play with their friends. We had quite a few separate emails saying how strongly you felt about this and supported this slight amendment. Therefore on Friday 17th December the children are invited to bring in a game to play. My personal favourite is Connect 4 so I will see if I can find someone to play with me!

During monitoring outside school at drop off, we have certainly seen the majority of families taking heed of advice to park a little further away and walk their children into school rather than stopping in the road to let their child/ren out and then allowing them to cross in front of them. Thanks for this—we know it is tempting when you are in a rush for work.

I had the pleasure of going swimming with year 6 today! I was impressed with their behaviour and attitudes. A member of staff who takes one group commented how excellent they were and transitioning to the deeper pool to try out their new skills with great bravery. I was able to congratulate those children in person and hope to be able to go again before the end of term.

Miss Whitby  
Headteacher

### Don't Forget a Water Bottle

A decision has been made to close the water fountains until further notice, therefore all children will need to bring a water bottle to school every day!

A monitor will be allocated in each class to make sure all children take their water bottle outside at both break and lunch time, so the children can access a drink when they are playing outside. We will have disposable cups in school for children that forget to bring in their water bottle.



### Nasal Flu Spray - 2nd Visit Arrangements

Well done to all the children who managed to have their nasal flu spray on 18th November. The school nurses will be returning for the second day on 13th December.

**If your child did not manage to have their flu spray done or they were absent and you would like your child to have the flu spray, please ask the office for a consent form to sign ASAP ready for the next session on the 13th December.**

Thank you.

### **Dates for Diary UPDATED**

Date	Event	Time
Monday 29th November	Parent Consultations - Video Appointments (For all classes except 5 Turkey)	4.30pm - 6.30pm
Monday 29th November	Year 3 Church Visit	Within the school Day
Monday 29th November	Last Multisports club session this term	3.00pm - 4.00pm
Tuesday 30th November	Basketball Match - Internal fixture	3.00pm - 4.00pm
Tuesday 30th November	Last Netball session this term	3.00pm - 4.00pm
Wednesday 1st December	Parent Consultations - Video appointments (For all classes)	3.30pm - 5.30pm
Friday 3rd December	Elf Day for The Alzheimer's Society	All Day
Friday 3rd December	Parent Consultations - Video Appointments (For 5 Turkey class only)	3.30pm - 5.30pm
Monday 6th December	Occasional day - SCHOOL CLOSED	All Day
Tuesday 7th December	Last Technology Club session this term	3.00pm - 4.00pm
Wednesday 8th December	Last Rugby Club session this term	3.00pm - 4.00pm
Wednesday 8th December	Last Cheerleading Club session this term	3.00pm - 4.00pm
Thursday 9th December	Last Basketball Club session this term	3.00pm - 4.00pm
Thursday 9th December	WW2 Workshop for Year 6 (half of year 6)	All Day
Friday 10th December	WW2 Workshop for Year 6 (2nd half of year 6)	All Day
Friday 10th December	Last Stevenage FC session this term (Year 5&6)	3.00pm - 4.00pm
Monday 13th December	Nasal Flu Vaccination Day 2 (for children that we have consent for)	All Day
Monday 13th December	Year 3 Merits in class	9.00am - 9.45am
Monday 13th December	Last Rock Steady club session this term & Rock Steady Concert (performance to be recorded for parents)	1.30pm - 2.15pm
Monday 13th December	Last Stevenage FC session this term (Year 3&4)	3.00pm - 4.00pm
Tuesday 14th December	Year 4 Merits in class	9.00am - 9.45am
Wednesday 15th December	Year 5 Merits in class	9.00am - 9.45am
Wednesday 15th December	Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper/Accessory Day	All Day
Thursday 16th December	Year 6 Merits in class	9.00am - 9.45am
Friday 17th December	Games Day	All Day
Friday 17th December	Last Day of Term	Finish 2.00pm
20th December - 5th January	Christmas Holidays - SCHOOL CLOSED	
Thursday 6th January	First day back to school for all children	8.40-8.55am

### **End of Term Performances**

After careful consideration, we have decided not to put on any live shows or assemblies to parents at the end of term.

All performances will be recorded and sent to parents or carers in that year group, to watch at home before we break up. The date of the recording for the Year 3 & 4 performances will be confirmed with you ASAP.

We are as disappointed as you that we have had to take this measure and we do thank you for your understanding. The performances that will be affected are :

Year 3 Carol Concerts, Year 4 Christmas Play and the Rock Steady Concert.

The merit assemblies will now be held in classrooms and certificates will be awarded to the successful children. These will not be video recorded but your child will come home with a certificate for their amazing achievement.

### Video Call Parents Evenings Update

Thank you to all those parents and carers who have booked in for your video parent consultation. The booking system closed yesterday, Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November. Therefore you are no longer able to book your appointment online. If you still need to book in, please see your class teacher to arrange a separate time, or email the school office.

Interviews will last ten minutes, starting at your allocated time and will end automatically finishing after ten minutes. A countdown will be visible on both your screen and the teacher's screen so as to avoid being cut off mid-sentence. There is no opportunity to extend the meeting length.

**An automatic reminder email will be sent to parents 1 hour before your appointment which will contain a link to access the system.**

Video Call Times (for all classes except 5 Turkey):

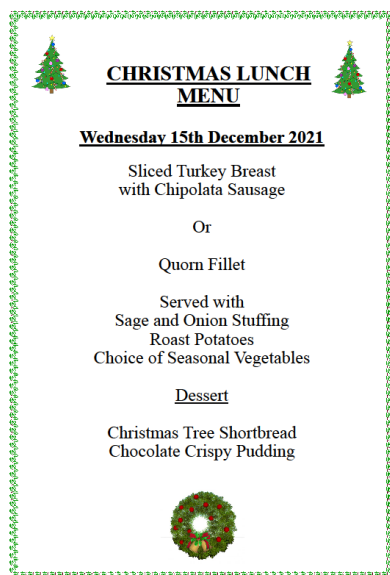
Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021: 4.30pm – 6.30pm or Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December: 3.30pm – 5.30pm

Video Call Times for 5 Turkey only:

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December: 3.30pm – 5.30pm or Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December: 3.30pm – 5.30pm

This is an important appointment and provides you with an opportunity to discuss your child's progress with their class teacher. **We would like your child to be present with you on the video call, if possible.**

### Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day - Wednesday 15th December



Christmas lunch for pupils this year will be on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December. To order a Christmas lunch children will just need to order lunch as normal on the day. Payment is to be made through the School Gateway and the cost of a meal is £2.70.

**Children can also come to school wearing a Christmas jumper or something Christmassy on this day, if they want to, along with the rest of their school uniform.**

### Kitchen Vacancy

**General Catering Assistant at  
Giles Junior School  
Term time only Ref: TAV8CZ4C**

Location: Stevenage  
Organisation: Giles Junior  
Contract Type: Permanent  
Hours per week: 10  
Salary: £3,920 per annum (£8.91 per hour)  
Closing Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021

#### **PURPOSE OF THE JOB**

To support the Cook Manager in the preparation, service and clearing up of the on-site meals service in accordance with the policy of HCL, including transported meals if appropriate to the Unit.

For further information and to apply for the role please click on the link below which will take you to the HCL website :

<https://vacancies.hcl.co.uk/vacancy/TAV8CZ4C/details>

### Sports Update

On a cold, damp evening on 11<sup>th</sup> November a group of our girls from Giles took part in a very exciting game of football against Round Diamond. The girls represented our school extremely well and played some super football against a good Round Diamond side.

Some girls played their first match for the school and showed their confidence by expressing their skills and enjoying the occasion. Giles won the match 7 - 1 with some girls scoring their 1<sup>st</sup> ever football goals. Thank you to all the parents and staff who supported us. We look forward to the next game!



### Surprise Visit for our Year 3&4 Stevenage After School Club for Anti-Bullying Week

We had an exciting Stevenage Football Club session on Monday 15th November. We had a surprise visit from the 1<sup>st</sup> team captain Scott Cuthbert and team mate, Jack Smith. They came along to talk about anti-bullying and any experiences they've had, as part of Anti-Bullying week.

The players read out scenarios and the children had to decide if it was bullying or not. They put thumbs up for not bullying and down if they thought it was bullying. They spoke a bit about why we shouldn't bully and how it can effect each other and the importance of being kind. Players and children all wore odd socks in support for Anti-Bullying week.

Children and players had a fantastic time! Thank you to the coaches and players at Stevenage FC for a very enjoyable and memorable session.



### Elf Day Friday 3rd December

We are jingling with excitement to let you know that on **Friday 3rd December 2021**, we will be taking part in Elf Day to raise money for **The Alzheimer's Society!**

All children and staff are invited to come to school dressed in their best Elf costumes and enjoy taking part in the organised Elfie activities and magical Christmas fun in class throughout the day.

If you would like to make a cash donation of £1 to the cause, this would be incredibly appreciated, however it is not essential.



**Angels**  
AUTISM & ADHD SUPPORT  
for parents/carers of children with ADHD and/or on the Autistic Spectrum

Do you need Support, Information, Advice and Strategies on ADHD and Autism?

We provide:

- Parent support group meetings led by a facilitator face to face and virtually over Zoom where you can chat with other parents and share ideas and experiences
- Evening support group meetings over Zoom
- Speaker Sessions and Workshops on ADHD and Autism
- Angels 1 to 1 - Individual appointment with Specialist Support Practitioners to help with particular issues at home and school
- Website and Facebook page, plus a private moderated Facebook group for members

Contact us:  
01462 685150  
info@angelsupportgroup.org.uk  
www.angelsupportgroup.org.uk

### School CLOSED - Monday 6th December

Please be reminded that on Monday 6th December the school will be closed to all children and staff as it is an occasional day.

### Year 6 - Big School Camp

If you are looking to follow the school payment plan for this event, the first instalment of £16.50 is due on the 31st December. This is payable through the school gateway.

Alternatively, you are able to start paying earlier than December, if you so wish, or you can pay more each month to clear the balance sooner or the amount in full.

The deadline for the full amount to be paid is 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

Walsingham Garden City Band  
Christmas  
Brass Band Concert

SATURDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2021 7.30PM

HOSTED BY ST NICHOLAS CHURCH  
RECTORY LANE, STEVENAGE SG1 4DA

TICKETS ON THE DOOR  
ADULTS £7.50 - CHILDREN FREE

IN SUPPORT OF BRIDGE BUILDERS CHRISTIAN TRUST

WWW.STNICHOLASCHURCH.ORG.UK  
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