



Newsletter

Giles Junior School

“Achieving excellence through Leadership”

**Autumn
Term
Friday 27th
November
2020**

Giles Junior School News

There is a definite Christmas theme to the newsletter today! Miss Causton is now officially our Christmas Coordinator and following on from delivering the wonderful shoeboxes to families, next week we will begin some festivities in school. We will be starting with an “Elf” theme, next Thursday, where parents/carers can donate to a good cause and/or begin getting in the festive spirit. There is an additional letter which outlines some other festive activities which we will be running.

We are currently reviewing our plans to make sure we can resume to previous school hours following our Occasional day, which is next Friday 4th December. (These timings will be - Year 3&4 finish at 2.50pm and Year 5&6 finish at 3.00pm, Monday to Friday).

We have definitely realized the logistics of keeping pupils in class bubbles has its challenges, but have noticed the benefits too. Thanks to all the families for bearing with us while we smoothed out the details. Our plan moving forward is to keep within class bubbles until such time as the “science” (or a vaccine) allows normal services to resume.

I am sure many of you follow the news and have been made aware of Boris Johnson’s latest announcement, where by the lockdown will be eased on December 2nd as planned. He also outlined plans for a brief pause on restricting households mixing for the two days either side of Christmas day. I am sure all our families will join us in a concerted effort to keep our families and staff as safe as possible by continuing to follow government guidance to make sure we can all celebrate Christmas with our families. Hands, Face, Space. We continue to work on this with the children at school to help keep everyone safe.

I am certainly looking forward to having browse around the shops next week. I hope everyone has a lovely weekend.

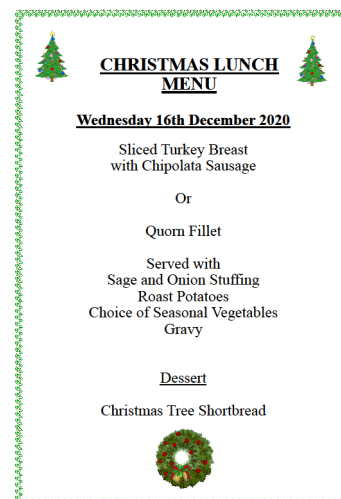
Miss Whitby
Headteacher

Christmas Lunch

Christmas lunch for pupils this year will be on Wednesday 16th December, please see the menu below.

To order a Christmas lunch children will just need to order lunch as normal on the day.

Children can also come to school wearing a Christmas jumper or something Christmassy on this day, if they want to.



Christmas Cards

The advice we have been given, is not to have Christmas Cards in school.

Instead, we will make cards as a class activity and share them with our buddy so everyone gets one homemade card.

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal



Thank you to the parents and staff that contributed to our Samaritans Shoe Box Appeal. Miss Causton managed to deliver our 23 shoeboxes to the Welwyn drop off point. Through this campaign, we are hoping to spread some festive cheer whilst also teaching the children at Giles Junior School about generosity and compassion for others. Thank you to Mrs Causton for arranging this appeal and all the wrapping!



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
Flu Nasal Immunisation - Day 2 (For remaining children who did not receive vaccine on day 1)	Tue 1st December	Afternoon
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	
Christmas lunch day for pupils (Christmas Jumpers can be worn or something Christmassy on this day, if you want to)	Wed 16th December	Lunchtime
Last day of term - Early finish	Fri 18th December	Year 3&4 - 1.50pm Year 5&6 - 2.00pm
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

National Elf day for the Alzheimer's Society

We are jingling with excitement to let you know that on **Thursday 3rd December 2020**, 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 donation to the cause, this would be incredibly appreciated, however it is not essential.

Here is the link to our Just Giving Page for donations:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/>



Mindfulness workshop for you and

your child

14th December 2020

4:00-6:00pm

FREE

Online

Learn how mindfulness can help you and your child to work together to reduce your stress levels. Share some time together and learn activities that the whole family can do together. Re-train your brains to deal with life's challenges both at home and outside?



You will need a Computer or Tablet (Mobile phones are not compatible)

If you would like to attend this workshop or would like some more information please contact: d.hansen@peartreespring.herts.sch.uk



The Secrets of Parenting Teens and Building Resilience

A FREE 6 week course for parents and carers of children aged 11+
Funded by Hertfordshire County Council Children's Services NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

Topics covered include:

- Teen development and the teen brain
- Building resilience/self-esteem
- Temperament and its effects on behaviour
- Dealing with challenging behaviour
- Improving communication and relationships
- What is anxiety and how it is displayed in young people
- Looking at wellbeing and anxiety of teens and the impact on the wider family
- Tools for managing anxiety and conflict
- Setting boundaries and managing house rules/parenting styles and strategies
- The power of empathy in connecting with young people
- Tools for emotional health and wellbeing

ONLINE SESSIONS

Date: Weds 27th Jan to 10th March
Time: 19.00pm to 21.00pm

Date: Mon 1st Feb to 15th March
Time: 19.00pm to 21.00pm

Date: Thurs 4th Feb to 18th March
Time: 19.00pm to 21.00pm



To book contact:
Vicky Knight (Course Manager)
Email: bookings@natural-flair.co.uk
Places are limited - Please call NOW on 01992 446 051 to secure your place on this popular course

Natural Flair Coaching Ltd Presents

Natural Steps

To Stronger, Safer Families

A Protective Behaviours Approach to Emotional Wellbeing
Now offered as an online course

Topics covered include:

- What it means to feel safe - how do we know?
- Problem solving and resilience skills
- How to support our child's worries
- Why do we get triggered? Our 'unwritten rules'
- How to build and maintain an effective support network
- Strategies to stay in control of our emotions
- What is behind anger and how this impacts behaviour

Dates: Day and evening courses available
Mon 25th Jan to 8th March 7pm to 9pm
or
Thurs 28 Jan to 11th March 9.30am to 11.30am
or
Tues 2nd Feb to 18th March 9.30am to 11.30am
or
Weds 3rd Feb to 19th March 9.30am to 11.30am

Venue: Available on your smart phone or laptop device in the comfort of your own home

This fun and inspiring online parent coaching course develops confidence, resilience and emotional wellbeing - It is packed full of strategies to support your family to manage their feelings and tips to support a calmer family life

Parents need to be referred onto this course or have a specific parenting need

For more information or to book a space please call 01992 446 051
Email: Bookings@natural-flair.co.uk