



Newsletter

Giles Junior School

“Achieving excellence through Leadership”

**Autumn
Term
Friday 29th
January
2021**

Giles Junior School News

Hello families,

I know that the news is a mixture of hope and uncertainty currently. With the vaccine roll out going well but decisions about schools and how we can get everyone back safely being truly out of our hands.

We are continuing to develop our distance learning offer. We are listening to what individual needs are and continually developing a model which can be flexible for those of you with larger families, as well as managing staff capacity. The addition of Seesaw has been excellent and we have had much positive comments on how this supports children by motivating them. The other crucial element to this is that teacher's are continually assessing the children in their class and noticing what they need to further their progress in. This will make the transition back into school much easier as teacher's will be able to address those areas of difficulty and move on more quickly where needed.

The decision we have made in terms of remote learning are based on where we feel the teacher's time is best spent. Currently a large portion of time is spent by teachers reviewing work, planning lessons, recording them and uploading them. This takes much longer than the usual process. Despite this, we are trialing other strategies with different groups of children and will continue to do so, to make this as effective as possible over the coming weeks.

Please note that school will be closed to ALL pupils during half term which falls 15th-19th February so make sure that you have made arrangements to care for your children.

Miss Whitby
Headteacher

Home Learning Engagement

We continue to work hard to contact parents where we have seen little work from pupils. Engagement with Seesaw has increased over the last week and we hope it will continue to do so over the next week.

We are aiming for 100% engagement so we can support children as needed.

Current engagement with posting home learning through Seesaw:

Year 3	82%
Year 4	85%
Year 5	78%
Year 6	81%

One thing we are trying to develop is that pupils are accessing the activities through Seesaw rather than the school website. This makes it easier for teacher's to check subject by subject. It also allows teachers to see where pupils are not uploading work for certain subjects so we can follow up.

See the next page for some basic tips on using Seesaw to view learning and then post to a subject. Some FAQs are attached to this newsletter to give additional help.



This couldn't be more relevant when our children are using technology so frequently due to the current circumstances.

There are some very basic steps to help your child stay safe when on line:

- Make sure your child is working where you can hear them
- If they see something which worries or upsets them tell a grown up
- Make sure they NEVER share their password with anyone except a parent
- Never share anything personal about them e.g. name, age, school online

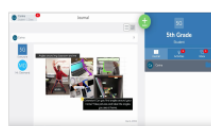
Weekly Zoom Class Calls

DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME
3 Wales Zoom Class Call	Every Tuesday up to 9th Feb	12.30pm
3 Italy Zoom Class Call	Every Friday up to 5th Feb	1.00pm
3 Sweden Zoom Class Call	Every Thursday up to 11th Feb	1.30pm
4 Costa Rica Zoom Class Call	Every Friday up to 12th Feb	9.30am
4 Zambia Zoom Class Call	Every Monday up to 8th Feb	1.00pm
4 Australia Zoom Class Call	Day will change each week, confirmation email will be sent out on a Monday	
5 Turkey Zoom Class Call	Every Wednesday up to 10th Feb	10.00am
5 France Zoom Class Call	Every Thursday up to 11th Feb	9.30am
5 Finland Zoom Class Call	Every Monday up to 8th Feb	12.00 midday
6 Germany Zoom Class Call	Every Thursday up to 11th Feb	1.45pm
6 Peru Zoom Class Call	Every Thursday up to 11th Feb	1.45pm
6 India Zoom Class Call	Every Thursday up to 11th Feb	1.45pm
Year 6 Assembly Zoom Call	Every Friday up to 12th Feb	2.30pm

Using Seesaw to its full potential

What the teacher sees is very different to what you will see as a parent of pupil. They will see a stream of work in a random order from all the children posting. We really hope that children will go through the activity option which is where all videos/writing frames can be viewed. Work can be submitted directly through here. Take a look at the top tips below and begin to explore the app more fully.

Tour of the Class App



Your Journal

When students sign in to the Class app, they see their journal



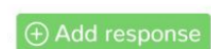
Create a Post

Click the green Add button to post to the journal using fun tools like Photo, Drawing, Video and more



Complete Activities

To see assigned activities, click the Activities tab under the class name. Find an activity to complete, then click Add Response



View Announcements, Messages, & Notifications

A red notification bubble appears when there's something to see

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

TALKING ASD & ADHD WORKSHOP: SIBLING STRUGGLES

For parents and carers of children aged 2-25yrs with suspected or diagnosed Autistic Spectrum Disorder and/or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.




**Monday
1st February 2021
9.30 - 11.30am**

Supporting Links
Promoting Strong Family Relationships

We will help you to learn about:

- What to do if your children are fighting or arguing.
- How to deal with jealousy.
- The pressures and worries on siblings in a family with a child with ASD/ADHD.
- Helping your children develop a network of support.
- Helping your children communicate with each other without conflict.
- Managing difficult feelings, your own and theirs.
- Where to access further help and support, both locally and nationally.

An online parenting workshop delivered to your home via Zoom




Full details on how to access and use this will be offered. 

Open to parents and carers across Hertfordshire


Pre-booking essential via Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talking-asd-and-adhd-sibling-struggles-for-parents-carers-in-herts-registration-130870913425>

Or contact Supporting Links
QUOTING REFERENCE SL421
01442 300185
info@supportinglinks.co.uk
www.supportinglinks.co.uk

Follow on:   

*"This helped me feel more in control, and less like a referee."
"The best Zoom experience I have had so far!"*

This workshop is provided free to parents by Hertfordshire County Council 

School Gateway

Now more than ever it is so important to get registered with the school gateway (if you have not done so already). All of our communication at the moment is being sent by an email or app message through the school gateway system.

Just search *School Gateway* in your App store and download. Simple!
The app is free and saves our school money!

Your login details will be automatically generated using the contact information we already hold for you on the school database, so it is very important the school have all your up to date contact details. You can also login to the online version of School Gateway, if you do not have a smart phone, although we do recommend using the App as it makes it far easier to get hold of parents when we need to.

As we are now a cashless school, any future payments for trips, clubs and dinner money will need to be paid through the School Gateway. As well as booking into Breakfast Club, After School Club and any extra curricular clubs will all be done through the app.

If you have any questions please contact the school or email: admin@gilesjm.herts.sch.uk



Support for Parents on the website

Don't forget to check out our "Support For Parents" page on the website. You can find this under the parents tab. This page is updated regularly with lots of useful information such as, courses for parents, helplines and information about different services available that provide help and support for parents and students. Also there is a guide to revision and online safety information.

Please click on the link which will take you straight there:

<https://gilesjm.herts.sch.uk/parents/support-for-parents/>