



# Newsletter

## Giles Junior School

**"Achieving excellence through Leadership"**

**Spring  
Term  
Friday 3rd  
March  
2023**

### Giles Junior School News

As I write this I can see book characters whizzing past my window. We have been enjoying immersing ourselves in books and taking pleasure in thinking about our favourite authors and sharing lots of good reads with each other.

There is also much excitement as the new adventure trail takes shape. The builders are doing a fantastic job and this will be completed by Monday if all goes to plan. We will be teaching the children to use this equipment safely.



We have the sad news to share that Mr Flood will be taking his well earned retirement and will be leaving school at the end of term. He will certainly be missed but he assured us he will return to support with trips in the future. Mrs O'Neill will be taking on the Teaching Assistant role at the start of the summer term. She is already getting to know the children. Mrs Donavon will also be leaving at the end of term and we wish her well for her future endeavours.

We are running a competition to update our 7 Habits canvases which are displayed in the hall. It has been wonderful to see the creativity and interpretation of what each Habit means to the children, from the entries I have received so far. The Lighthouse Team will be reviewing the entries and choosing the best design to be painted and displayed. We will look forward to sharing the designs with you soon.

**Late arrivals** - This a reminder that our safeguarding procedure is to lock the gates at 9:00am which means the site is then secure. Mr Brown begins with the silver gate near year 3 and then goes to lock the wooden gate and green gate. Please be mindful if speaking with teachers at the door and keep an eye on the time so you don't end up being locked in! Should you find the gates have been locked please access a classroom and ask to be escorted out of the front entrance.

Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Whitby (Headteacher)

### Request from the PE Dept

If anyone is able to donate any sports trophies they may have around. Ideally for Football, Golf, Netball and Rugby.

We are also taking donations of football boots from size 4 - 7 and trainers from size 4 - 7. Please pass to a member of the PE Team or the School Office.

Thank you for all your help and support!

### Lost Property

Every afternoon from 3:00pm - 3:20pm, the tubs of lost property will now be placed outside the school office for you to look through and claim any missing items. (It will no longer be near the bike sheds). This will be weather dependent.

### Lone Walkers After Clubs

We can now allow lone walkers to leave as lone walkers after clubs, now that it is lighter for longer.

If your child is signed up as a lone walker, then they can be let go after a club. If you do not want them to be let go as a lone walker after a club please inform the office ASAP.

## Diary Dates - Spring Term 2023

**Please keep an eye on these dates in each newsletter, as we add new events to the list throughout the term.**

Date	Time	Event
Wed 8th March	10.00am - 10.30am	Year 5 Turkey & France Swimming Session (Coach leaves Giles at 9.30am)
Thur 9th March	All Day	Solid Steel Music Workshop for all year groups
Fri 10th March	2.40pm - 3.10pm	Open Afternoon for parents
Tue 14th March	AM	Year 4 RE Workshop
Wed 15th March	10.00am - 10.30am	Year 5 Turkey & France Swimming Session (Coach leaves Giles at 9.30am)
Mon 20th March	3:45-6:00pm	Parent Consultations (face to face)
Mon 20th March	9.10am	Year 4 Merit Assembly
Mon 20th March	2.30pm - 3.00pm	Rock Steady Concert
Wed 22nd March	4:00pm - 6.00pm	Parent Consultations (online)
Wed 22nd March	9.10am	Year 3 Merit Assembly
Wed 22nd March	10.00am - 10.30am	Year 5 Turkey & France Swimming Session (Coach leaves Giles at 9.30am)
Thur 23rd March	9.10am	Year 5 Merits
Fri 24th March	9.10am	Year 6 Merit Assembly
Wed 29th March	10.00am - 10.30am	Year 5 Turkey & France Swimming Session (Coach leaves Giles at 9.30am)
Fri 31st March	2.00pm early finish	Last day of term
Mon 3rd April - Fri 14th April		Easter Holidays
Mon 17th April	8.50am	First day of the Summer Term

### Celtic Harmony Trip Report

Year 3 went on a visit to Celtic Harmony on 20th February to take part in a Stone Age Day. The children partook in hands-on activities where they were immersed in the sights and sounds of ancient Britain. This trip helped us bring early history to life and we are excited to continue the learning in the classroom.



## GILES JUNIOR SCHOOL



### Vacancy – After School Club Assistant

- Monday to Friday from 3.00pm – 4.45pm (Term time only)
- Salary:** H1.3 FTE £20,812 - £10.79 per hr
- Deadline:** Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March
- Interview:** Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March
- Start date:** ASAP



If you are interested or know anyone that would be interested, please see Mrs Alexandrou in the school office asap!

### Wellbeing Cafes in Hertfordshire for young people aged 10-18 years



## WELLBEING CAFE

New support for your mental health and wellbeing in Hertfordshire.

Opportunity to win £25 Amazon voucher, give your views on the quick survey attached!

We are looking to name 2 new Wellbeing cafes in Watford and Stevenage and for your input on the layout of the venue!

These spaces are for Children and Young People aged 10-18yrs to go and get support for their mental health and wellbeing.

Either drop-in or via appointment – Mon-Thurs, Sat & Sun.



**To access the survey this can be found via link here:**

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/V0Q1SR/>

**or by QR Code.**



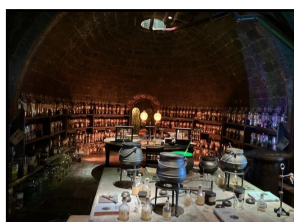
### Year 5 Trip to Harry Potter Studios

This week, Year 5 embarked on a trip to The Harry Potter studios in Leavesdon, as part of their Science curriculum.

Our young Scientists had a spellbinding time at Warner Brothers Making of Harry Potter where they learned about all of the Science, Technology and Engineering and Maths (STEM) behind the magic that is Harry Potter.

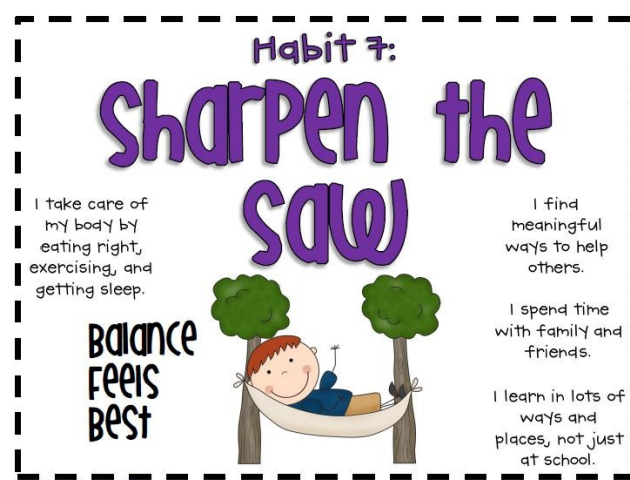
On the tour, the children were able to see the real sets that were used for filming and able to take in the details and the work that went into making the films.

Thank you to all the parents of the year group as well as the adults, who came in to support us on the trip.



### Senior Mental Health Lead Introduction

Hi, it's Miss Robinson here and I want to introduce myself as the new Senior Mental Health Lead at Giles. I will be popping up in the school newsletter from now on to sign post you to wellbeing websites, mental health organisations or just to give you inspiration to boost your emotional wellbeing. Also, at times, I will be collaborating with the student Lighthouse team to offer ideas to help relieve stress. Remember: the best project you'll ever work on, is you! So let's work together to sharpen your saw.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qzR62JJCMBQ>

All it takes is 10 mindful minutes  
Andy Puddicombe

### Free Support For Hertfordshire Families

**The Hertfordshire Family Centre Service have lots of fun activities for families this spring!** As the cost of living continues to rise, it helps that all of their sessions are free and also drop-in. Run by professional, qualified staff in Early Years, their groups offer a wide range of activities for you and your children to enjoy and play together. They are an opportunity for you to meet other local families and get advice and support from the Family Centre team. As well as lots for under 5's to enjoy! Their regular groups include:

- Baby Group (pre-walkers)
- Active Rhyme Time (6-18 months)
- Physical Fun (18 months +)

These groups run at different venues across Hertfordshire and you can drop into any of them, there is no need to book. For the latest What's On guide please see their website [www.hertsfamilycentres.org](http://www.hertsfamilycentres.org).

**BREAD & BUTTER CLUB PRESENTS**

**WHAT WILL YOUR STEVENAGE LOOK LIKE?**

**FREE ENTRY**

**SATURDAY, 11 MARCH**  
11AM - 1PM / 2 - 3PM  
AT STEVENAGE MUSEUM

COME AND JOIN US FOR A DROP IN WORKSHOP - THINKING ABOUT WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN YOUR TOWN - WE WILL CREATE A MODEL OF YOUR VISION OF A FUTURE UTOPIAN STEVENAGE. EVERYONE'S CREATIONS WILL COME TOGETHER TO BUILD AN EVER-GROWING 3D MODEL OF YOUR TOWN USING ARTS AND CRAFTS.

**AGES 6 - 12 YRS OLD** **IG: BREAD.AND.BUTTER.CLUB**

### Open Afternoon - Friday 10th March 2023

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March, we will be inviting parents and carers into school for 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. This is a useful opportunity prior to parent consultations at the end of term.

Doors will be open **FROM 2:40pm on 10<sup>th</sup> March** (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).

Please enter through the silver gates by Year 3 and make your way around to your child's class where a member of staff from that class will sign you in. Please note the wooden Infant gate will not be open therefore, there will be no access from York Road. When leaving please exit through this direction if leaving before all gates are unlocked at 3:00pm.

Details about booking parents evening will be coming out next week.

### Year 6 Parent/Carer Survey

The Stevenage MHST would like to develop a meaningful workshop for parents/guardians on the topic of Year 6 transition to secondary school. They will be looking to facilitate online and face to face workshops in April and to gather understanding and feedback to inform the workshop content.

We are therefore **asking parents/guardians of Year 6 pupils to complete a short survey**. The deadline for responses is 15<sup>th</sup> March.

Thank you to all Year 6 parents/guardians in advance!



### Meal Price Increase

We have been advised that HCL are having to increase the cost of a pupil meal from £2.78 to **£3.15 from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.**

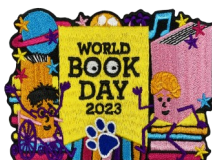
### World Book Day - Reading Bingo Fundraiser

Thank you to all parents and carers for your support and effort in dressing the children up for World Book Day on 2nd March. It has been wonderful to talk to the children about their favourite authors and characters.

Just a reminder that World Book Day is also an opportunity for our school to raise funds for new books for class libraries. Please can you discuss your child's reading bingo activities from yesterday and if you would like to donate, the funds can be paid into the school gateway up until the 10th March.

All children were given a £1 book token which can be used at participating retailers.

Click the link for more information :  
<https://www.worldbookday.com/>





# A peek into ... Year 3

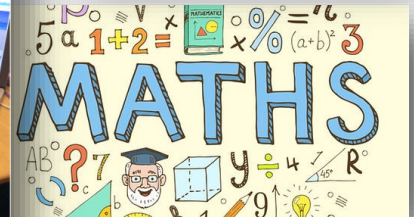
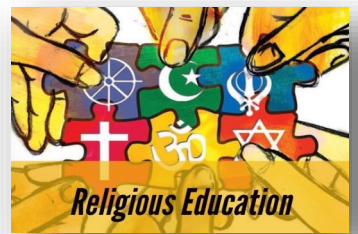
Dear diary,  
Last year I had a ballet Exam and I had some difficulty. I struggled really. But I felt fine and confident. Then I started to go down hill. I got a chance of the solo dance. Finally I was chosen to perform. When a volcano about to erupt I felt very nervous because I left four points on the solo dance. And I felt nervous because I wouldn't be able to join the ballet. But I did I was motivated and not giving up. If I do I could do the next one. If I do the next one I could become the next AMAZING! Which means when I do the next Exam I want to improve. Dear diary do you think I could improve? I will write again, love Jess.

First Attempt in Learning

In PSHE, we have been looking at overcoming challenges to achieve our goals. We wrote a diary entry retelling a memorable challenge that we overcame.

Maybe I can create my own game in the future!

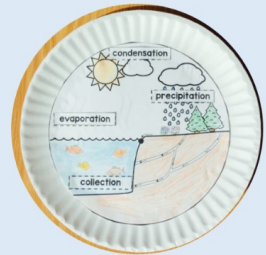
In computing, we explored with Scratch coding. We created algorithms to make our sprite move, draw and make sounds.



# A peek into ... Year 4



In Science, we have finished our topic of States of Matter which ended with us looking at how water changes within the stages of the water cycle.



In English, the story of Perfectly Norman has encouraged us to accept the ways that we are unique and has inspired us to write creatively.



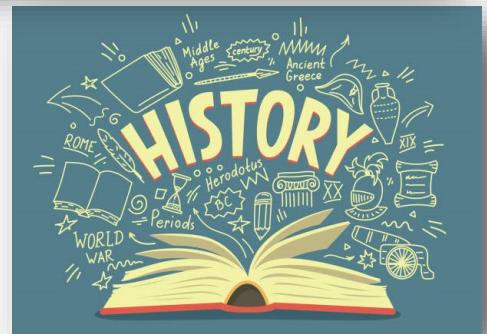
In computing, we have been looking at how to use coding to create our own games. Some children have been extremely creative in designing their own characters too.

# A peek into ... Year 5

Year 5 explored the science behind the magic of the Harry Potter films at the Warner Bros Studio Tour. They were introduced to the technical wizardry behind CGI and the science that enables spectacular practical special effects.

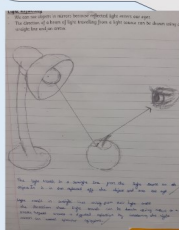


"I loved that they could use forced perspective to make it look like some people were tiny just because of where they were sitting! Seeing the lady's head float because of green screen was so interesting."



# A peek into ... Year 6

In India class, we have been experimenting with light and shadows as part of our Light topic in Science.



Peru have enjoyed reading Kensuke's Kingdom in their English lessons. They will be writing what happens next in their independent writing piece!



In Germany, we have also been exploring light. We have manipulated light with mirrors and looked at how light travels.

