



Newsletter

Giles Junior School

“Achieving excellence through Leadership”

**Spring
Term
Friday 5th
March
2021**

Giles Junior School News

Hello,

We are hoping this newsletter finds you all well. We hope that the children (and you) are excited about the return to school for everyone.

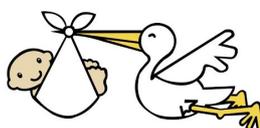
No doubt there will be some nerves and jitters when we have been away from the normal school routine but rest assured the children are going to settle in well. The routines established in the autumn term will remain and we hope to continue to reduce the risk of the virus spreading in our school community.

As previously noted staff have been using Lateral Flow Testing to identify any potential asymptomatic cases being picked up before attending school. You may have heard in the media that any households with primary aged children can collect a set of home test kits (7 in a box). The link here <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/> will allow you to find your nearest collection point where you can collect tests for anyone over 18 years of age in your household. We would recommend that as many families as possible collect these and begin testing to help break the trains of transmission and reduce the risk of staff contracting the virus which will spread infection to their household and interrupt the learning of a class bubble.

We are currently advertising for a new teacher to start in September 2021. Sadly, Mr Kent has decided to spread his wings for pastures new. As many of you will know Mr Kent is a home grown Giles student and we have loved seeing him grow. It goes without saying that we will miss him very much but know he will embrace the change in September. We hope very much to be able to celebrate by the end of July and give him the send off he deserves.

I will close with some good news! Miss Jose is expecting a bundle of Joy at the end of August. We hope everyone will join us in congratulating her. We will look forward to a Giles family visit next September when she is on maternity leave.

Miss Whitby
Headteacher



Before & After School Provision from 8th March

Following on from the information that was emailed out last week, please be reminded the provision will be **limited to 15 children** and will be run in After School Club using the entrance leading onto the playground. Please book and pay for your session in advance, through the Clubs section in the School Gateway. Late collection will need to be in an absolute emergency only and the school will need to be informed straight away, as this will have to be covered by any existing staff who are still in school.

This will be something we will review and if any changes are made to the provision we can offer, we will inform families immediately.

For further details on the sessions that are available please click on clubs in the School Gateway App.

We will be sending out a message to parents as soon as it is possible to book sessions for after the Easter break.

Smarty Schoolwear

If you need to order school uniform or PE kits, Smarty Schoolwear is open for online orders only, which can be delivered to your home or school. There is a charge for home delivery or it is free if you choose delivery to school.

Hopefully the shop will re open, for business as usual, on 12th April 2021!

PUPIL ABSENCE - Pupils not returning on 8th March 2021

We hope that we have been made aware of any positive cases in your household by communicating it through the email **COVID@gilesjm.herts.sch.uk**. This email will continue to be in operation for COVID related illnesses as it is monitored 7 days a week.

We have been made aware of some pupils who are not able to return on the 8th March due to specific circumstances.

We designed a survey for any parents who may feel concerned about the return or to make us aware of any children who have had a change in circumstances. Please make us aware before the 8th March so that we are not having to make multiple phone calls to find out. Filling in quick survey is an easy way for us to process information and follow up as needed. A link to a survey is here :

<https://forms.gle/CeMWVKBjpKFNaqye6>

The guidance does state that all absence other than those shielding or isolating due to being in contact with a positive case should be at school. That being said, we are always willing to hear families circumstances and will continue to support what you feel is best for your family and their health.

Parking

We continue to encourage parents to park responsibly and utilise parking options which are not blocking off private driveways or on double yellow lines.

There are places where parking is less crowded which is only 3-4 minutes walk away. During lockdown I timed this and would welcome you to watch this short video ([click here](#)) to see some more available parking which is only a short walk away.



There are no parents permitted to park on site unless they have a disabled badge. While Miss Whitby and Mrs Jones make an effort to monitor this situation we do need parents to support us in following this rule even if we are not out on the gate.

By finding safe places to park you are making sure our older children who walk by themselves are safer, in addition to teaching your own children the importance of following the rules of the road as they become older.

LATENESS

Again we are pleading for families support to reduce lateness to an emergency only.



Lateness impacts negatively on pupil outcomes and takes time and energy from the office staff. It also increases risks of spreading the virus to multiple staff and other pupils while they are travelling from one area to another in a group with other children not in their bubble.

This also extends to being picked up late from school.

Please be considerate of our working circumstances and make us aware of any time you may be late during an emergency.



Parent Consultations

At this time of year we would usually be having our parent consultations. Due to the nature of lockdown and the timing of children getting back to school we felt that more productive conversations could be had earlier on in the summer term. This will allow us to have a richer discussion as to how they have settled in and give us a 4-5 weeks of face to face schooling to report on. We will send out further information about how to access the system used previously. We can confirm that the dates of these evenings will be **Monday April 26th 4:30-6:30 or Wednesday April 28th 3:30-5:30**.

As usual, if you have had an SEN review, this is in place of a separate consultation.

PE days from 8th March 2021

Please can children come into school dressed in their PE kits on the following days:

3 Wales	Tuesday and Thursday
3 Italy	Tuesday and Thursday
3 Sweden	Tuesday and Thursday
4 Costa Rica	Wednesday and Friday
4 Australia	Monday and Wednesday
4 Zambia	Monday and Friday
5 Finland	Monday and Thursday
5 Turkey	Monday and Thursday
5 France	Wednesday and Friday
6 India	Wednesday (Year 6 have one longer session)
6 Peru	Monday (Year 6 have one longer session)
6 Germany	Tuesday (Year 6 have one longer session)

Student Achievement Update

In the last newsletter we mentioned about Sienna C, in Year 5, who has been raising money for the Stevenage charity 'Feed Up Warm Up'. She has run 52 miles and raised £2100 for this amazing charity. She decided to split the money in half to fund food packages and sleep pods for the homeless/those in need.

Well done Sienna, this is such an amazing achievement, we are all very proud of you!



School Timings from 8th March

Please arrive to school between **8.40am-9.00am**, please avoid arriving too early, registers will be taken in class promptly at 9.00am.

Pick up time for Year 3&4 is 2.50pm. For Year 5&6 it is 3.00pm. If your child has a sibling in both phases, the younger sibling will wait in class until 3.00pm to avoid families having to wait.

If all families can continue to follow the one way system around the school and please can all parents continue to wear face masks whilst on school grounds.

Communication

Please avoid conversations with teachers face to face and once you have dropped off or collected your child/children please leave the school grounds as quickly as possible.

As before, if you do need to speak to a member of the office team, please limit this to only one person to enter the reception area at a time and a face mask must be worn.

Where possible please call or email the school with any queries: **admin@gilesjm.herts.sch.uk** or **01438 353374**.

If you need to contact a class teacher for any help or advice, please email using the class email which is the class name that your child is in followed by @gilesjm.herts.sch.uk and they will respond as soon as they can, for example: wales@gilesjm.herts.sch.uk

Return of Chromebooks on 8th March

For families who have been loaned a device for remote learning, please bring these back and hand into your child's class teacher who will log this has been returned.