



Newsletter

Giles Junior School

“Achieving excellence through Leadership”

**Autumn
Term
Friday 9th
September
2022**

Giles Junior School News

Hello! WOW WOW WOW! What a brilliant start to the new we have had!

The positive attitudes and smiles which have been evident throughout school has been a pleasure to see. I struggle to remember the new Year 6's as Year 3's now, as I see them so grown up and confident in their last year of primary school. It has been a genuine pleasure to see the growth of each and every child made across just one year and what progress has been made, whether that is academic or personal. We are so proud and happy to see everyone again.

Of course, the new Year 3s are settling in, and I have LOVED getting to know them. I try and learn a few names every day and slowly but surely, they know who I am and I am able to greet them as they do to me. We know any transition is hard but have felt the pride and resilience of our new students more than ever this year. We are so excited to get back to the “normal” routine and help readdress any gaps which might have emerged as a result of COVID and these pupils missing a lot of Nursery and Year 1.

It has also been great getting to know new Year 3 parents and putting names to faces. Myself, Mrs Jones (Deputy Head), Mr Bailey (UKS2 Lead), Mrs Ford (LKS2 lead) accompanied by Mr Brown, our Site Manager have a routine at the gate where we can greet students and stop for a chat when we get the opportunity.

We are looking forward to letting you know more about learning at Giles as we get into the new term. We will be taking photos and using Twitter to help showcase all the things which are happening in school. Feel free to follow us @gilesjunior.

We hope families have enjoyed the start of term and that they have been able to find out what their children have been getting up to. I appreciate that getting information out of your children can be hard at times. We are looking forward to future opportunities where families can come into school to find out first hand what busy lives your children are leading at school every day.

Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Whitby (Headteacher)

Parent Reading Workshops

We have sent out a letter this week explaining about some parent reading workshops we have coming up (please see dates on the next page). This will be an opportunity for us to share with you why supporting your child with reading is so important as well as ideas for listening to your child read.

You will also have the opportunity to visit your child in their classroom to share a book with them.

Reading Fundraiser - Friday 7th October

On Friday 7th October we are inviting children to come to school dressed in their pyjamas/onesies and bring in their favourite bedtime story.

If you are able to, we are asking for donations via the School Gateway, as we are raising money to replenish book corners.

Thank you for your support.



Diary Dates - Autumn Term

Date	Time	Event
Mon 12th September	3.10-4.10pm	Stevenage FC for Years 3&4 starts today (for children that have signed up for the club)
Mon 12th September	3.10-4.10pm	Tag Rugby Club to start after school today
Tue 13th September	3.10-4.10pm	Giles Junior Football Training starts today (selected children only)
Wed 14th September	10.00am	2nd Swimming session this term for Year 6
Wed 14th September	3.10-4.10pm	Netball Club to start after school today
Wed 14th September	3.10-4.10pm	Cheerleading Club to start after school today
Thur 15th September	3.10-4.10pm	Basketball Club to start after school today
Fri 16th September	3.10-4.10pm	Stevenage FC for Years 5&6 starts today (for children that have signed up for the club)
Tue 27th September	2.00-3.00pm	Parent Reading Workshop for Years 3&4 (2.15-2.45pm Reading talk in the hall with Mrs Jones & Mrs Ford) (2.45pm-3.00pm Share a book with your child in their classroom)
Wed 28th September	2.00-3.00pm	Parent Reading Workshop for Years 5&6 (2.15-2.45pm Reading talk in the hall with Mrs Jones & Mrs Ford) (2.45pm-3.00pm Share a book with your child in their classroom)
Friday 7th October	All Day	Reading Fundraiser (Bedtime Stories) - Wear your Pyjamas to School (Donations to be made via the school gateway)
Mon 10th October	All Day	Nasal Flu Immunisation for the whole school
Tue 11th October	All Day	Joshua Seigal Poet Visit & Book Sale
Fri 14th October	All Day	Churchbury Photographic in for Individual Photo Day
24th October - 28th October		Half Term - School Closed
Mon 31st October		Inset Day - School Closed
Tue 1st November		All children back to school after half term

Homework

Now that the children have had a chance to settle into their new classes, we thought we would clarify our expectations with regards to homework. Each week we expect the children to:

- read daily to an adult (and for this to be recorded in the child's reading record)
- practise times tables using Times Table Rockstars a minimum of 15 minutes 3 x each week
- practise spellings using Spelling Shed a minimum of 15 minutes 3 x each week

Children should have log in details for Times Table Rockstars and Spelling Shed in their reading records. Please speak to your child's class teacher if they do not have these or are having trouble logging in. If a child isn't completing the home learning, the class teacher will discuss this with you to see what we can offer to help and will agree a suitable way for the child to complete this.

Year 6 homework

As well as the homework stated above, year 6 will be given additional weekly reading comprehension and arithmetic homework. This will be explained to the children and more information communicated to parents by the year 6 teachers in a couple of weeks.

Summer Reading Challenge

If your child completed the Summer Reading Challenge, please can they bring in their certificate to show their teacher by Friday 9th September. All children who have completed it and shown their certificate will be rewarded with a chocolate bar (or equivalent for those with allergies!). Well done to all the children that took part.

Farewell

Bill & Mary Hadall said a sad farewell at the end of last term, after thirty years at Giles Junior School. They served as members of the Governing Body/teaching staff. We wish them a happy retirement and can't thank them enough for their support and dedication. In their honour we have named the Year 5 and 6 block after them and will always have the "Hadall Building" to remember them by.



We are also wishing farewell to Anne Gibson (only as her role in After School Club). She has been offered a promotion and will be leaving on 30th September to take on that new challenge. We are fortunate she will continue her role as a Midday Supervisor and still be able to keep her expertise at Giles Junior School in that respect.

Student Achievement

If you would like to share any of your child's outside school achievements and have them included in our school newsletter, please email the office on : admin@gilesjm.herts.sch.uk

We look forward to hearing about and sharing these achievements with the rest of the school.

GILES JUNIOR SCHOOL



Vacancy: Midday Supervisory Assistant Required

- **Hours:** 12.00pm – 1.30pm, Monday – Friday, term time only
- **Deadline for application:** Midday Thursday 15th September 2022
- **Interviews:** Thursday 22nd September 2022
- **Start date:** As soon as possible
- **Salary:** HB.1 (£9.50 per hour)

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



Emergency Services Day 2022!

Saturday 10th September 2022

Stevenage Town Centre

9.30am till 4.30pm



St John Ambulance



Clubs for the Autumn Term 2022

Confirmation emails have gone out to everyone this week confirming if you have a place in an afterschool extra curricular club, which are all starting next week. If you no longer wish to take up this place please can you let the office know ASAP so that space can be given to another child that is waiting to join.

Unfortunately Rock Steady will not be going ahead this term as planned, as they have been unable to replace the Band Leader who moved on at the end of the summer. Rock Steady have informed any parents directly that have signed up for this club, with this information. As soon as we have a start date for this popular club we shall let you know.



HITCHIN NETBALL CLUB

We are looking for current **Year 5** players to join our netball club
All abilities welcome.

When: Tuesdays at 6.15 - 7.15pm - term time only
Where: The Priory School, Bedford Road, Hitchin SG5 2UR

Physical benefits:

- ☐ Improves hand-eye co-ordination
- ☐ Builds muscle strength and stamina
- ☐ Strengthens the cardiovascular system
- ☐ Enhances flexibility and nimbleness
- ☐ Improves upper body strength by working key arm muscles
- ☐ Develops depth perception
- ☐ Increases reaction time

Mental & Social benefits:

- ☐ Opportunity to meet new friends
- ☐ Boost confidence, especially body image
- ☐ Mix and socialise in a controlled environment
- ☐ Expand social and verbal skills
- ☐ Learn teamwork skills

If you are interested and would like your child to become involved in netball, please visit [Hitchin Netball Club](http://HitchinNetballClub.com) website for further information.

The club is keen to support all players, so if the fees will cause difficulties, please get in touch.

Office Hours

Just to let you know there will be a slight change in the opening hours of the school office so we run in line with other schools.

We will now be open from 8am - 4pm everyday.

If you need to contact the office outside these times, then please email us on : admin@gilesjm.herts.sch.uk

Reminders

Medication - All medication and paperwork should be in school now for any pupils that require medication throughout the day, this includes asthma inhalers.

Parent Post Box - Please can we encourage parents to use our post box in Reception for any correspondence that needs to come into the office (this is emptied daily).

Application for leave of absence - Time off that is requested during term time will not be authorised, unless it is for exceptional circumstances. If you need to request time off, please complete a leave of absence form and hand into the school office (these can be found in the reception area).

Change of Details - If you need to inform us of any change of personal details please complete a change of details form which can be found in the front reception and pop it in the post box.

School Gateway - We are a cashless school so all payments need to be made through the School Gateway. If you have not downloaded the app please do so ASAP.

Important Information for Year 6 - Moving on 2023

We have this week sent out information to Year 6 parents and the full "Moving On 2023" leaflet with all the information about open events taking place at secondary schools over the next few months.

Further information about moving to secondary or upper school in September 2023 will be available at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

Important Dates

The timetable below gives you an idea of what will happen over the next few months.

First week of September 2022	Admissions information is available online for parents to read or download
Thursday 1 September 2022	Online application system opens and the "Moving On" leaflet is distributed via children's current school
July, September and October 2022	Secondary schools hold their open events
Monday 31 October 2022	Closing date for applications (online and paper)

This is the information available at the current time. Please check the school's own websites and www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/schooldirectory for any updates.

Breakfast Club and Smiles@Giles After School Club

Here at Giles Junior School we run a Breakfast Club and After School Club. The After School Club can also take Infant siblings but the Breakfast Club unfortunately can not.

All bookings are processed through the School Gateway for our Breakfast and Smiles@Giles After School Club. For further information about these please have a look on the school website under the "Our School" tab then click on Breakfast Club or After School Club.

Swimming Year 6

The Year 6 children that require swimming lessons started their 2nd term of lessons this week. These will run until the end of the Autumn Term when the children will be assessed and receive a certificate for the level they have achieved.

After the Christmas holidays we will be looking at starting Year 5 swimming lessons (for those that need it). Details will be sent out about this at the end of the Autumn Term.

