



St Giles School News October 2019

'Be the best you can be'

Specialist School for Physical and Sensory

www.st-gilesschool.co.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,
 What a busy start to the term we have had at St Giles!
 We have welcomed two new teachers to our staff. Shakyra Auguste is teaching music throughout the school and is also a teacher for Wonder class. Magdalena Szaryeka is class teacher in Gold class. Our classes have settled back into school and are working hard.
 This term's topic themes are "All about me" in Lower school, "Me, Myself and I" in Middle school and "Different places, Different People" in Upper School.
 During our first week back, some of our key stage four pupils enjoyed an accessible camping holiday at Woodlarks near Farnham.
 Back at school, our younger pupils have also been enjoying the great outdoors. We now have a pulley system outside for pupils to play with and are waiting to have a mud kitchen and mud box installed. We received the good news that St Giles has won an award from Surrey Wildlife Trust for having a nature area for local wildlife to visit. Many thanks to Joanne Tulloch for organising.
 Our pupils and staff enjoyed a Friday afternoon disco on Jeans for Genes day, raising £131.15. A Macmillan cake sale raised £120.95. A big thank you to staff, parents and pupils for their generous donations to these good causes.
 Our nursing team have sent out consent forms for the flu vaccine. If your child is unable to access the vaccine at school, there will be clinics available at Lennard Road on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays throughout November running from 3.30pm to 4.30pm. No appointment is necessary, they are drop in sessions.
 It was good to meet a group of parents and carers at a drop-in earlier this month and find out more about the issues that are important to you and your children. I look forward to meeting more of you at Parents Evening on Wednesday 9th October and welcoming grandparents who would like to visit for lunch that day at St Giles.



Yours sincerely,
 Kathy Lewis
 Headteacher

LOOKING AHEAD—Dates for the Diary

October 2019

- Wed 9th** Parents' Evening 4.30—7.00 pm
- Thu 17th** Carol Webster Coffee Morning
Primary Harvest Assembly 2.00
Secondary Assembly 0930
- Fri 18th** Wear it Pink day
Lower school assembly for parents
- Half Term (Mon 21st—Fri 25th)**
- Mon 28th** School begins (9.15am)

November 2019

- Fri 1st** Open Morning (10.15-11.45)
- Fri 8th** 'We Remember' Assembly
- Wed 13th** Croydon Housing Clinic for parents
- Fri 15th** Children in need fundraiser
- Mon 25th** Inset day (school closed to pupils)
- Fri 29th** Old Scholars

December 2019

- Fri 6th** John Fisher carol singing
- Mon 16th** Class Parties & Father Christmas
- Wed 18th** Christmas Lunch & Disco
- Fri 20th** Nativity Assembly

Christmas Holidays
Mon 23rd Dec — Fri 3rd Jan 2019

School Journey to Woodlarks 11th to 13th September 2019

This year we had another very successful school journey with Key Stage 4 students to Woodlarks Campsite in Farnham. This is a fantastic provision and a great opportunity for our students to experience the outdoors and nature on a very safe and accessible site. This campsite is designed to provide holidays and respite for children and adults with disabilities so the arrangements to meet access needs were brilliant.

We had to organise our own activities and plan and cook our own meals. Luckily for us one of our parent governors Paul Thirkettle is a trained chef and he agreed to volunteer to be our cook for the three days. Needless to say we did not go hungry.

The weather was very good and we were able to use our forest school skills which included bird watching, orienteering and building a fire. Thanks to James and his guitar we also had plenty of songs to sing around the camp fire when it was lit. Everyone had a great time but we couldn't do it without the staff, parents and governors who volunteer their own time to make school journeys happen. Many thanks to Fiona, Katie, Brenda, Donna, Lynne, James, Sarah, Darren and Paul.



Open Morning—Friday 1st November 2019

We hold two Open Mornings each year to allow visitors to look around the school and find out more about us. Our next Open Morning is on Friday 1st November from 10.15am-11.45am. This is a great chance to show friends and relatives the school and will also be an opportunity for prospective parents and professionals who work in other schools, colleges, nurseries and children's centres to visit the school.

Do come and join us

Parents' Evening

Parents' Evening will take place on Wednesday 9th October from 4.30-7pm. We look forward to seeing all parents, as this is an important opportunity for you to meet with your child's teacher and teaching assistants to discuss their progress. **Appointment letters have been sent home. Please contact Maree in the school office if you have not received it.**

Helen Oliver, our transition advisor, will be available to advise on college applications as well as Home from Home Care, who run specialist residential care homes for adults with learning disabilities and complex special needs. Therapies will also be available.

Harvest Festival

Our special Harvest Assemblies are on **Thursday 17th October**. Please do join us for our **Secondary Assembly at 9.30am** or our **Early Years & Primary Assembly at 2pm**.

Once again we are collecting for Purley Food Hub to help people in crisis who are without food. They may have become unemployed, been sick or had a sudden change in their domestic circumstances. A series of events coming together may have left them unable to buy food to meet their basic needs.

Please send in any dried or tinned goods such as small jars of coffee, baby wipes, tinned meat meals, tinned green vegetables, tinned tomatoes, tins of potatoes, tinned dessert fruit, long life fruit juice, unisex shampoo, and washing up liquid over the next two weeks ready for the assembly. Thank you.

Please do join us if you are able.

