



# St Giles School News September 2021

**'Be the best you can be'**

Specialist School for Physical and Sensory

[www.st-gilesschool.co.uk](http://www.st-gilesschool.co.uk)

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a good start to the new academic year. At the end of this half term we will be holding "Strive for Five" activities. Fiona Bell, Upper School

Department Leader, has written an article in this newsletter telling you all about it. We are hoping that the money raised will help us to transform the new outdoor area into a rich and exciting play and learning environment.

It has been wonderful to see our new nursery pupils joining us for their induction sessions at St Giles and I am looking forward to the Nursery Parents Meeting tomorrow. We are hoping later in October to offer our Early Years and Key Stage one parents a Makaton taster session with support from Tara Dale, who will be leading Makaton in the school and Beverley Hayllar, a Governors and a Makaton trainer.

Charlotte Conway, Clinical Lead School Nursing, has asked me to remind you about being mindful that many of our learners are extremely vulnerable. We ask that you do not send your child into school if they are unwell to reduce the risk of spreading infections.

Finally, we are looking forward to meeting with you at Parent's Evening in the week starting 11<sup>th</sup> October. An invitation will be going out later this week. The letter will let you how the meetings will be organised. With the exception of Christy and Wonder classes, we will be offering you the choice of coming to the school, using Zoom or having a telephone conversation.

In the meantime, do let us know if there is anything that we can help you with.

Wishing you and all your family all the best,

Kathy Lewis  
Headteacher



## **LOOKING AHEAD—Dates for the Diary**

### **October 2021**

Wed 13th Parents Evening

Weeks beginning 11th and 18th "Strive for Five"

Wed 20th Makaton Taster Session

Thurs 21st Harvest Assemblies

Fri 22nd Inset Day— No school for Pupils

**Half Term Mon 25th - Fri 29th**

### **November**

Thurs 11th 'We Remember' assembly

Fri 12th Children in Need

### **December**

Wed 1st Christmas tree up

Mon 6th Primary show week

Week beginning 13th Christmas lunch and disco  
Class parties and Father Christmas

Nativity assembly and Christmas singalong

**Mon 20th December - Monday 3rd January- Christmas Holidays**



We are looking forward to welcoming the SeeAbility Eye Care Team to St Giles later this month for the first time. They are a team of clinicians who have received additional training to deliver sight tests and dispense glasses to children with learning disabilities. If you would like further information about this service, please contact Joni Campbell in the School Office.

## MAKATON

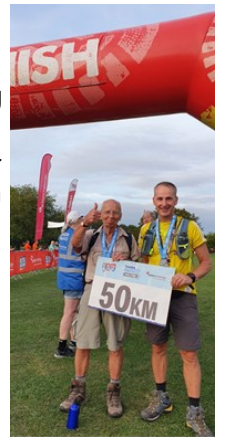
Wednesday 20th October  
12:00-1:30pm

Our new taster course in Makaton will support parents to develop effective communication strategies following the speech, sign and symbol programme. We will discuss what Makaton is, how it supports communication development and share key signs and symbols to use in daily life with your children.

This course is primarily aimed at Nursery and Reception children but please contact Tara Dale if you feel this is something that would be appropriate for your child and you are interested in attending. A light lunch and refreshments will be provided.

Our amazing Governor Ken recently completed a 50 kilometre walk with his son to raise money for St Giles. The money he has raised will be used to support the development of the outdoor spaces at St Giles following the Nursery modular build. To support Ken in this fundraising for our school we will all be taking part in a "Strive for Five" week commencing the 11<sup>th</sup> October. Staff and learners will be taking part in challenges during the week. There will be "Jive for Five" which will involve the whole school moving to music for 5 minutes each morning. Throughout the week there will also be an opportunity for everyone to "Move for Five" on our track to see how many laps they can do in an allotted time. Our swim team will see how many widths they can complete in the week! Ken will kindly get the ball rolling by sponsoring each learner £5.00 when completing the challenges. We hope that families and friends can support by also sponsoring their child.

Staff will also be asked to take part in personal challenges to add to the fundraising fun.



Ken at the end of his gruelling 50K walk



Sports courses are finally going to start up again from W/C Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September until Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December Inc., (with a break for half term 25/10 – 30/10), 11 weeks.

An example is:

Saturdays – Waddon Leisure Centre – 9-10.30am – High Support Multi- Sports – 8-25 years

For young people with more profound or complex disabilities and additional. A fully inclusive opportunity to try a wide variety of sports, along with fun games and aerobic activities.

There are many more courses to choose from on our website at varied locations.

Please see the website for all of our activities and times.

You can book online using this link and registering if this is your first

time. <https://secure1.zipporah.co.uk/ZIPI.Croydon/> - Click sports courses from drop down menu and selecting the relevant session .

## Parents' Evening

Parents' Evening will take place on Wednesday 13th October .

We look forward to seeing all parents, virtually or in person as this is an important opportunity for you to meet with your child's teacher and teaching assistants to discuss their progress. Times to be confirmed.