



St Giles School News

March 2023

'Be the best you can be'

Specialist School for Physical and Sensory

www.st-gilesschool.co.uk

Dear parents and carers,

It has been a busy half term with some exciting school events taking place. Christy and Hawking classes enjoyed a Solo Woodworking Workshop with their parents. The Middle School Spring Show earlier this week was a wonderful success. It was lovely to see so many parents there. We are looking forward tomorrow to hosting parents from Kahlo, Dalzell K and Dalzell S for a Victorian afternoon.

Within school we have been impressed by our learners' contributions at the School Council Pupil Voice meetings which were held for Lower, Middle and Upper School. They discussed playtimes and have given us some excellent ideas to think about and action. Some representatives from Pupil Voice also met with Croydon representatives to take part in the SEND Youth Voice consultation. They discussed and shared their views on the therapies that they receive at school. Further sessions are planned for next term.

Our School band, the Fire-boys, has been joined by a second band called the Bus Terminals. We enjoyed their first concert earlier this half term and look forward to seeing both bands perform at our Summer Fair on Saturday June 10th - a date for your diaries! Leading up to the Summer Fair, we plan to hold an International Week and hope that families will be able to share some of their favourite recipes.

I enjoyed meeting parents at the Lower School coffee morning earlier this month and Hazel, our Family Support Worker, and Halle, our student social worker on placement at St Giles, hosted a parents' Wills and Trusts session. A session is planned next term on Sleep and we are also having discussions about setting up a Parents' Voice group to offer parents the chance to socialise and discuss common themes for them. Do get in contact with Hazel and Halle if you would be interested in this.

The school is very pleased to have been accepted on to the Inclusive and Nurturing Schools programme which will help us to further support our learners' social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing. Our work with the programme will start after the Easter holidays. Hazel and Sarah Gray, our Pupil Care Manager, attended a course funded by the Erasmus programme in Sweden on pupil and staff wellbeing earlier this month and have come back with some excellent ideas which they are sharing with staff and Governors.

Alice Taylor, TA in Christy class, also attended an IT course funded by the Erasmus programme. She has come back with many exciting ideas for video projects and has already been working with pupils on a film making project. We look forward to extending this work to other learners.

The Governors and Local Authority have been working hard together to complete arrangements for an interim Headteacher next term, after I have left. They will soon be able to confirm full details with you. We have been working with them to support this process and I am happy to say that next term Fiona Bell and Samantha Nessling will be supporting Caroline, our Deputy Head, and the interim Headteacher, as acting Assistant Headteachers. Fiona and Samantha know this school well and will provide strong leadership and support.

Fiona Bovingdon, our English subject leader, will be inviting parents of our learners working on phonics to a coffee morning on Thursday 20th April to find out more about the Read,Write Inc scheme we are using.

Finally, as always we thank you for your support this term and wish you a happy Easter holiday break.
Yours sincerely,

Kathy



LOOKING AHEAD—Dates for the Diary

APRIL 2023

Easter Holidays Mon 3rd April—Fri 14th April

Term starts: Mon 17th April

May 2023

Bank holiday: Mon 1st May (school closed)

Bank holiday: Mon 8th May (school closed)

Inset day: Fri 26th May (school closed for pupils)

Half term: Mon 29th May—Fri 2nd June

Term starts: Monday 5th June

Term ends: Friday 21st July

Summer holidays: Mon 23rd Jul - Fri 1st Sep

St Giles' School. Reading

We want your child to love reading – and to want to read for themselves. This is why we ensure they develop a love of books as well as simply learning to read. Learning to read is the most important lesson your child will learn at St Giles' School. Reading takes many forms throughout our different curriculum pathways. When students show a readiness for formal literacy lessons we use a phonics scheme, Read Write Inc throughout the school. It is our reading toolkit and we will adapt it and make it appropriate for your child.

We start by teaching phonics; this means that they learn how to 'read' the sounds in words and how those sounds can be written down. This is essential for reading, but it also helps students learn to spell well. We teach your children simple ways of remembering these sounds and letters. Ask them to show you what these are. The students also practise reading (and spelling) what we call 'tricky words', such as 'once,' 'have,' 'said' and 'where', before they meet them in books.

Your children practise their reading with books that match the phonics and the 'tricky words' they know. They start thinking that they *can* read and this does wonders for their confidence. The teachers read to the children, too, so the children get to know all sorts of stories, poetry and information books. They learn many more words this way and it also helps develop their knowledge of the world and their writing. Reading and writing can look very different across the school and we celebrate every achievement. Some of our students may write with alternative pencils rather than using a pencil or pen.

Our lessons may look very different but at the heart is a method that is successful teaching early reading.

Below are some video links which explain more about how we teach reading:

What is Read Write Inc Phonics: <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/TprLn2MR/TjVZck9S>

Understanding phonics : <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/53bBr3Xy/EzZrr7dq>

How to say the sounds: <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/WH8lwf6n/bpl47Blr>

Listening to your child read: <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/gKaUxyqU/STtyHPT3>

Why Read to your child: <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/c0fDGzPd/Ziljq70j>

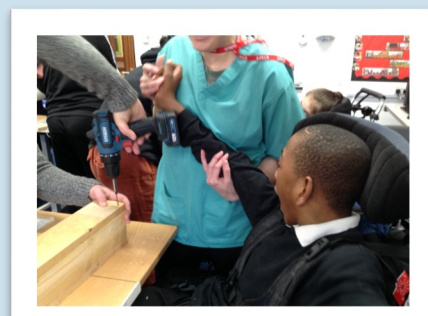
'Young Women Rise'

The Worshipful, The Civic Mayor, Cllr Alisa Flemming, is working with 'Croydon Supplementary Education Project' and Mel Hollett to organise an exciting day of empowering talks and workshops for young women called 'Young Women Rise' scheduled for Thursday 30 March 2023 (12-7pm) and is being held in the Braithwaite Hall, Croydon Town Hall. There will also be an 'Open Mic'; Fashion show and stands.

Madam Civic Mayor would like to invite young people aged 11 and above to attend the event. This is an excellent opportunity to listen to inspiring key speakers

CROYDON
www.croydon.gov.uk

To reserve places please RSVP's directly to Mel Hollett –
melanie@youngwomenrise.co.uk (07399 290 914) .



On Tuesday 14th March **Solowood** from Croydon were brought in to work with Christy Class and Hawking Class with their parents. Solowood are a company that recycle old pieces of wood to stop it from going into landfill. Both Christy and Hawking class made planters from the wood. To do this they used the pre-cut wood which they sandpapered, drilled, screwed and hammered to make 16 planters.

The students all loved doing this and I think the parents all enjoyed working with their children also.

World Book Day at St Giles

World Book Day was celebrated in style throughout the school. During our book week, some classes composed or dramatized stories. There were book characters brought to life and we enjoyed finding out who everyone dressed up as. Every class shared their favourite books and listened to stories.



Dalzell Cake Sale

Dalzell had a cake sale on 9th March as part of their learning around money - to have a 'real' experience.

Kahlo, Hawking, Christy and Pink were invited to come and buy cakes. The learners in Dalzell S and K made cakes in their lesson - decorated with icing and sprinkles and put prices on them themselves.

It was a brilliant experience for all learners, who learnt to exchange a coin for a desired item.



George at Asda has announced the launch of its adapted clothing range, designed to aid self-dressing for young people and children with disabilities

Comfortable and stylish, the 24-piece collection has been made to suit particular needs – and features discreet and practical modifications.

The collection follows the success of the brand's Easy on Easy Wear school uniform range last September.

Asda has created adaptive clothing range, including:

- Clothes with feeding tube holes
- Sensory-kind clothing (soft threads, no bulky seams, hidden popper fastening and all labels removed)

And all at affordable prices and includes school uniform!

Browse their adaptable clothing collection, here :

<https://direct.asda.com/george/collections/easy-on-easy-wear/D28M110G1,default.sc.html>

Boomerang Youth Club

Thursdays 7pm to 9.30pm

An evening provision of social and informal education for young people with disabilities, learning difficulties and additional needs. Provided and funded by Croydon 0 to 25 SEND Service.

Applicable age ranges: 17 to 24 years, 11 to 16 years

85 Waddon Way, Croydon, CR0 4HY

Tel: 07701 398 442 or 07990 790 183

Lstevens12.306@lgflmail.org; Paul.funnell@croydon.gov.uk

Carers Support Centre: Creative dance class for carers

Fridays 10:30am to 11:30am (Term time only)

The Carers Support Centre's creative dance class for carers.

The weekly class incorporates a mixture of taught dance inspired by Bollywood, Swing, Belly dancing and other styles.

Applicable age ranges: Parents and Carers

The Carers Information Service, 24 George Street, Croydon, CR0 1PB

Tel: 020 8663 5674

enquiries@carersinfo.org.uk

www.carersinfo.org.uk/



Cheeky George's

Mondays (ages 2 to 7) and Saturdays (ages 8 to 11)

Are you looking for something fun and inclusive to do with your child with additional needs? Cheeky George's runs activity classes for you to take part in with your child.

Applicable age ranges: 11 to 16 years, 5 to 10 years, 0 to 4 years

Lower Addiscombe Road, Croydon, CR0 6RX

Tel: 07494 046204

ginny@cheekygeorges.co.uk

cheekygeorges.co.uk



Palace for Life

Football activity for young people with a disability. You do not need to be good at football.

Sessions at Waddon leisure centre on Tuesday 11:30am-12:30pm

Sessions at Thornton Heath Leisure Centre.

Tel: 0208 768 6047 or 07808323039

Email: MichaelHarrington@palaceforlife.org



GO WILD WITH US UK

Thursday 6th April

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/594963119707>

Friday 14th April

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/594975296127>

Easter is coming!