



OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

St Giles Junior School

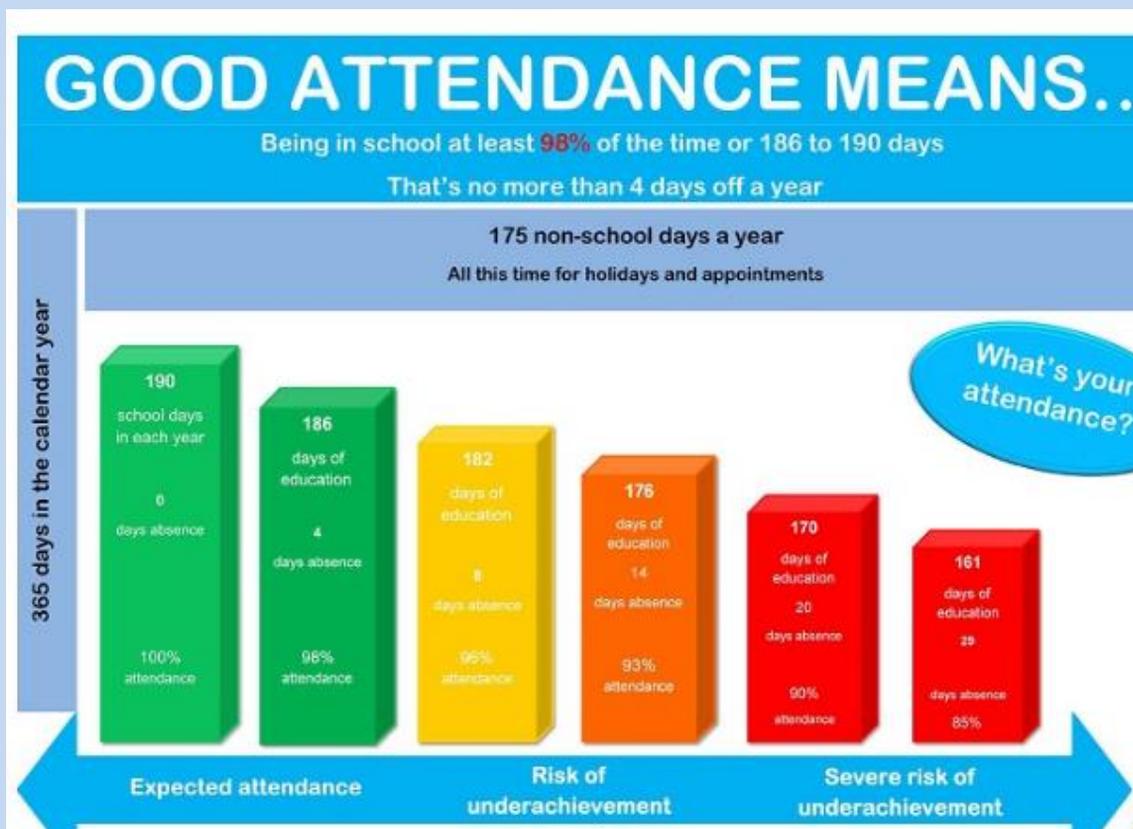
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ATTENDANCE was raised as an area to improve by OFSTED, and we all value the importance being in school has on academic and personal success.

The expected attendance for the school this year is 96% or higher, and we say a big thank you to all those students who are on track to achieve this target by the end of the year.

Our weekly competition to see which class has the class mascot, St Jowls, in their classroom has been hard fought, with points awarded to each class for highest 90% of attenders each week **and for those that arrive on time.**

A – 96.5% B – 96.6% C – 96.4% D - 97.6%
E - 95.5% F – 94.1% G - 95.3%





Parking

The poor parking habits that some carers and parents display daily are causing the school problems with ensuring the safety of your children and with the relationship with our neighbours.

The actions of a few are causing difficulties for many and appear to lack common sense. The issue will only become worse once the new houses are finished and their curbs have been lowered, so if we can get into good habits now, further issues might be reduced. Can we all have a think about following these simple guidelines.

- Walk, or cycle to school if possible.
- If you have to drop off your child in a car, leave a little earlier and avoid the rush.
- If you stop outside the school gates, and this is not a recommended place, please make sure that your child is ready. If they are not, park up safely somewhere else and walk them in.
- Do not park on zig-zag lines or Keep Clear markings.
- Do not park on footpaths.
- DO NOT STOP or PARK UP outside anyone's drive. Apart from blocking their access, it just clogs up the road outside school. Please find a suitable space further away.
- DO NOT use anyone's drive to turn around in.

If we could all follow these guidelines everyone will be happier and safer, and the school office will have more time help you, or your child, rather than trying to pacify our neighbours on the phone.

Thank you

Carers/Parents OFSTED Meeting

Thank you to those carers and parents who attended our OFSTED information meeting. As promised, here is a brief update to share what was discussed with those who could not make the meeting.

Whilst the overall findings of the OFSTED report were a disappointment, there was an acceptance that the school was aware of the challenges it was facing and had already taken steps to address these. Having a consistent staff was mentioned by OFSTED, and by carers and parents at the meeting, as everyone appreciates the benefits this brings. Retaining staff is a key issue, unlike a primary school with Reception and KS1 classes, there are limited opportunities to develop and keep staff by offering a variety of teaching experiences. Also, being a small school there are very few managerial posts on offer, so teachers often leave to gain these chances elsewhere.

For the students and parents, it is recognised that a stable team of staff encourages relationships and understanding which can be maintained and grown, and when staff leave this interrupts this vital part of school life. Training for those staff who lead on curriculum areas was highlighted and discussed. Once again the impact of their work is only now becoming evident, and through the year this will grow and drive further improvements.

The curriculum extends beyond Maths and English, and we have already looked at the knowledge and skills that needs to be taught and enjoyed in subjects such as History, PE, Art, Music and many more. Within all areas, leaders and teachers will be paying particular attention to ensure that there is challenge and demand for high quality work from your children, including time for them to respond to marking and feedback.

Strategies to improve attendance and punctuality were talked about, but the feeling was that carers/parents have a duty to ensure that their child arrives, and on time. If there are any issues, please tell us so we can work together to make improvements.

Governors have already spoken to students, and the students themselves talked about the frustration and high level of distraction and disruption to their learning caused by students arriving even a few minutes late – your children do not like it when others arrive late.

A point was raised about the impact on some students when teachers demand more from them. No teacher will push your child beyond their levels, but they will be stretched. Your child now might come home feeling a little annoyed that in subjects they thought they were good, they now feel a little unsure. Being challenged is key to improved learning – please come in if your child isn't happy and we will discuss the best ways we can both support your child.

All staff and governors were very disappointed with the OFSTED feedback on how some students felt about the behaviour around school. We have taken all comments very seriously, and will endeavour to have a happy, safe and supportive school. You need to have the confidence that your child feels safe and that all behave well. Surveys, including those that were completed by OFSTED during the inspection, however, point towards an environment very different to the one some students reported. We are making changes so that all students can easily report their concerns and feel the positive atmosphere we know we can achieve. Joined up support was raised by parents at the meeting, as without this, the impact of any consequences from school are less effective. Actions by the school so far include –

- Relooking at the behaviour policy.
- Reorganising lunchtimes.
- Whole school assemblies with a behaviour focus.
- Support for those students who do not want to disclose issues to a member of staff – as going home and telling parents without informing school can impact on effectively managing the poor behaviour of the few.
- Supporting those students who find behaving all the time more difficult. Children's behaviour is often a way to communicate, so offering outlets for them to be listened to and helped should reduce incidents.

Some parents said that they would like a bigger focus on the impact behaviour can have, and we will build this into the school PSHE plan for the year. Carers and parents were keen to point out the successes that were not mentioned in the report, which were good to hear. The strengths noted by OFSTED including those regarding keeping your children safe, give us strong foundations to build on.

Home School Charter



Finally, it was mentioned that a successful school doesn't happen in isolation. The majority of a child's life is spent with their carer/parent, and the three elements of home, child and school working together is key for the greatest impact.

With this in mind, the governors are keen to develop a Home School Charter that outlines the expectations of staff, child and carer/parent in developing a successful learning child who will go on to be a successful member of the community. If you do have any ideas on what you would like to see in such a charter, you are free to send them in, or email the office on admin2571@welearn365.com and we will pass them on.

I hope this gives you an idea of how the school is responding, and do hope that you will contact us if you would like to make further comments on how we are supporting the school to improve and be more successful.

Mr Mann

Aldi Vouchers

AMAZING - we've covered our poster - thank you so much!

Please carry on bringing the stickers in as we will try to fill another one before the offer closes.

Thank you for the support you've given.



Harvest Donations

Once again you have supported our Harvest Donation Campaign so well. We had a whole trolley full of various goodies that will be used to support the Bedworth Foodbank.

With 1 IN 5 of the UK population living below the poverty line it is so good to hear that the foodbank have support our community by distributing 3,069Kgs of food to 322 people between April and June, of which 135 were children.



Sporting Achievement Wall

Mr Burch, who is our PE Leader is keen to hear of any sporting activities your children do outside of school so these can be promoted in school and support other students. If your child is part of club, has run for charity or enjoys some martial arts, for example he would like to know, if they could be prepared to write a few lines about what they do, it would help promote the healthy ethos we all want to encourage.



Ex-Students

We often wonder what happens when our students leave St Giles to go into secondary school. We are always looking for ways to prepare Y6 for the challenges ahead, and despite our advice, some do find stepping up into Y7 a bit of an eye opener.

It was so good to hear that Chloe, who left last year, decided to get in touch to tell us how she has found this first half term. In between her comments of the 'hundreds' pieces of homework to be done, and the demands of even finding lots of different classrooms and dealing with a variety of teachers, she clearly is enjoying herself. Having new friends and having the chance to show off different skills were mentioned, she tells us she feels she is working well and ready to build on the learning she experienced at St Giles.

Her new teachers have confirmed that she is doing well, and is a credit to her family and school.

We would like to hear from any other ex-students, partly because we're nosy, but hearing about their secondary school experiences, and beyond, can help us to adapt the provision St Giles offers, to make the move to secondary school as smooth as possible.



OFFICE NEWS

Hot School Meals - Reminder that meals cost £2.25 per day. If you feel you are eligible for Free School Meals please apply.

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/education-learning/apply-free-school-meals>

Arriving on Time – We still have a number of students arriving after 8.55am. This has an impact on registers and dinners, but more importantly, it upsets the other students' learning. Regular late comers are now being contacted directly by the office each week, and details of persistent lateness will be sent to Warwickshire's Attendance Officers.

Library Visits

Y6, 5 and 4 had a successful trip to see the author Lauren James at Bedworth Library, she has inspired a few student writers. Thanks to Mrs So for organising the event and for the adults who helped supervise the classes walking there.

Parents Events Calendar - Autumn Term 2019/20

Week b/g	Event
November 4 th	Monday 4 th : Students' return back to school at 8:45am Wednesday 6 th : School Photographs (full uniform needed) Thursday 7 th : Special menu at lunch time
November 11 th	Friday 15 th : Class E class assembly at 9:10am Friday 15 th : Children in Need - The BIG MOVE (afternoon)
November 18 th	Friday 22 nd : Class D class assembly at 9:10am
November 25 th	Tuesday 26 th : Year 3 Space Centre trip Fri 29 th - Class C class assembly at 9:10am
December 2 nd	Thursday 5 th : Y6 health questionnaire by school nursing team Friday 6 th : puppet assembly 10:10am Friday 6 th : Christmas Fair (3:00pm-5:30pm)
December 9 th	
December 16 th	Monday 16 th : Year 3 Christmas Performance - doors open at 5:30pm for prompt 6pm start. Tuesday 17 th : Year 3 Christmas Performance - 9:30am start. Wednesday 18 th : Christmas Dinner for Students Wednesday 18 th : Christmas Jumper day (£1 donation welcome for Save the Children charity) Friday 20 th : Student attend Christmas service at St. Giles Church (am) Friday 20 th : Children break up for Christmas holidays at 3:15pm
	<i>Christmas Holiday</i>
January 6 th	Monday 6 th : children return to school - 8:45am start