



# December NEWSLETTER

## St Giles Junior School

St Giles Junior School  
Hayes Lane, Exhall, Warwickshire, CV7 9NS  
Tel : 02476 313375  
Email : [admin2571@welearn365.com](mailto:admin2571@welearn365.com)

### **Dear Carers/ Parents,**

To quote Benjamin, a child in Year 5, 'It's been a monstrosity of a year, Mr Mann,' and who can dispute that?

It still feels that Christmas Day is a long way away, so please take care of yourselves, it's been a marathon term, and we hope everyone will be well to enjoy 'time at home'.

You should be very proud of the way your children have handled this most unusual of terms. They are tired, and would normally be feeling a little more Christmassy by now, with rehearsals, performances and carol services at the church all done to mark the end of the term, but not this year.

Every day the classes get a visit from me, and every day students are settled and working hard, ably supported by our staff. It is reassuring to see that with your support, students know why they are here, and value their learning.

I would like to thank you all, carers, parents, students staff and friends of St Giles Junior School, for your continued support and to wish you and your loved ones a restful Christmas and a New Year of health and happiness.

**See you on Tuesday 5 January 2021.**

### **Letting us know about any positive cases over Christmas**

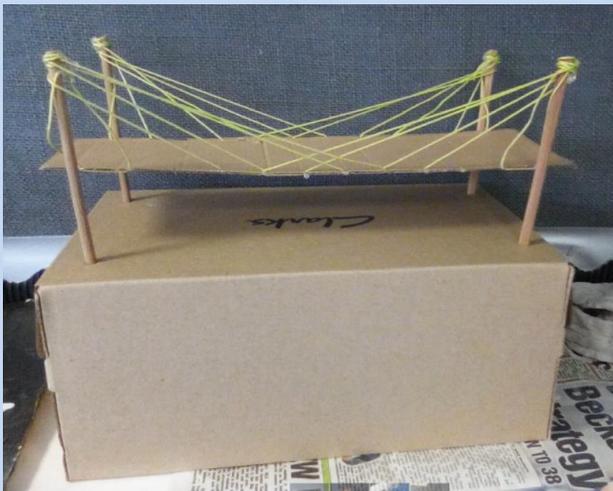
If your child tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms less than 48 hours since being in school, please let us know, you can call or text on tel: **07707 062250** or email [admin2571@welearn365.com](mailto:admin2571@welearn365.com) - **up to 2 days after the last day of term**. We will then assist in identifying close contacts and advise self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.

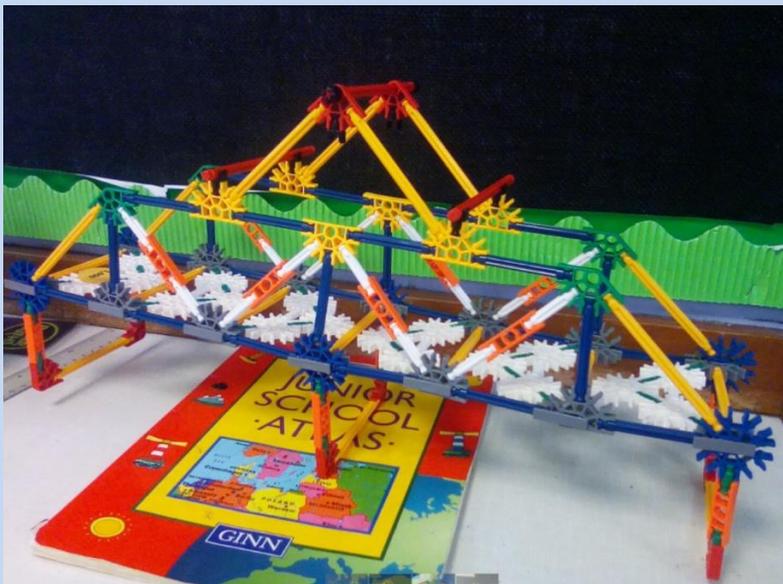
If your child develops symptoms over 48 hours after last being in school, the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

## Bridge Winners

Miss Shepherd was very impressed with the 'Design a Bridge' Competition. The quality of the work was outstanding and students have gone above and beyond to create the best work they can, and further their learning.

DT skills can sometimes be forgotten amongst the desire to improve Maths and English, but the expertise shown in all entries was a revelation, with lots of different resources and materials used to make their bridges, including glue guns, Lego, cardboard and straws.





Thank you to Miss Shepherd for leading on this worthwhile design competition, judging the entries and for taking the time to do a corridor display to show the quality of work.

#### **Winners**

**Y3 Kaarez**

**Y4 James**

**Y5 Amelie**

**Y6 Armaandeep**

**Overall Winner Leah**





The County's Health and Wellbeing strategy has been refreshed. It highlights the improvements in health and wellbeing that have been achieved since 2014 but recognises that more needs to be done to prevent ill-health and reduce inequalities, build resilience in communities and integrate services. It now needs your contribution.

"Taking part in consultation around the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy is a fantastic opportunity to make a difference to the health and wellbeing of everyone in Warwickshire. It's important that we hear from everyone and understand different experiences to know that our priorities are right. If you know someone who may be negatively affected, help them to get in touch.

"We want everyone across the county to lead healthy and independent lives, we want to listen to our communities and by taking action people can have healthier futures and we can reduce inequalities in care.

"I would like to urge the community to take part in the survey so that our five-year plan is as effective as possible in improving the lives of residents in Warwickshire."

To take part, visit [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/ask](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/ask) and search for Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

### **COVID-19 Winter Grant Scheme Update**

If any parents are having difficulty accessing the Winter Grant vouchers, eg shops not accepting the voucher, please call PayPoint on tel: **0330 400 0002**.

If the store assistant has any questions, they should call the PayPoint Contact Centre on tel: **0800 310 0000**.

## Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children

The total raised by the school for Christmas Jumper Day 2020 is £107. We are so grateful for your support. We know this money will make a huge difference to children in the UK and around the world. Thanks also to Educaterers for their adjusting their normal menu to provide us with delicious Christmas Deli bags!





Warwickshire Road Safety Education Team are supporting Warwickshire Fire and Rescue's Park It Right! campaign. This campaign encourages drivers to park safely and legally, ensuring Fire Engines and other emergency response vehicles can pass.

**Follow these five easy steps to help you park it right:**

1. **Park close to the kerb** – a little distance makes a big difference

2. **Mirrors in** – moving your mirrors in can create even more space for a fire engine to get through.

3. **Park straight** – it might be easier for you to get out, but if our engines can't get by, someone else may suffer the consequences.

4. **Straighten your wheels** – every little helps.

5. **Junctions and bends** – a fire engine needs more space than you might think. Parking on a junction or a bend may stop us getting to where we need to

### The 5 Steps to Park It Right

- 1. Park close to the curb!** A little distance makes a big difference.
- 2. Mirrors in!** Moving your mirrors in can create even more space for a Fire Engine to get through.
- 3. Park Straight!** It might be easier for you to get out in the morning but if we can't get by someone may not have another morning!
- 4. Straighten your wheels!** Every little helps.
- 5. Junctions & Bends!** A Fire Engine needs more space to turn than a car. Parking on a junction or bend may stop a Fire Engine getting to where it is needed.

Double the distance if both sides of the street follow the 5 steps to Park It Right!

## Year 6 Work!

It was wartime cooking in Year 6 this week – creating Carrot Cluster Cookies!



Apart from a minor hiccup with understanding the recipe – ‘cream the butter and sugar’ is not another ingredient Year 6, but the process of mixing butter and sugar together to create a soft and creamy state for use in baking - the cookies were delicious!

## A COVID-Safe Christmas in Warwickshire

Between 23-27 December you can form a Christmas bubble with up to two other households but try to save your hugs and kisses for next year.

Read more: [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/coronavirus)



## Hits of Christmas

This year, we were forced, due to Covid restrictions, to be even more creative to bring some festive cheers.

Classes were further hampered by not being able to sing, but did this stop us ... NO! Staff, ably supported by student actors and dancers, have brought you a selection of Christmas Hits with their own unforgettable interpretations. We hoped you enjoyed their efforts on the links we have sent to you!

## Attention & Distraction

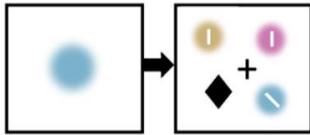
**Researcher:** Ruman Hayre  
([rumandeep.hayre@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:rumandeep.hayre@nottingham.ac.uk))  
Ethical approval: S1133

### What is it about?

This research explores how children **aged 5-11 years** control their attention and ignore eye-catching distractions.

### What are the tasks?

Children will be asked to use clues to find hidden targets (Find Dory), spot animals (Big Animal Race) and make decisions about colours (Bubble Sort).



## Metacognition & Maths

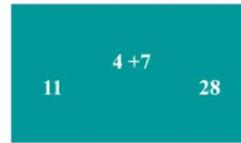
**Researcher:** Naima Nigar  
([naima.nigar1@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:naima.nigar1@nottingham.ac.uk))  
Ethical approval: S1255

### What is it about?

This research with children **aged 8-15 years** explores the role of monitoring for mistakes in learning and doing maths.

### What are the tasks?

Children will be asked to play a sorting game with minion characters. They will also be asked to do some times table questions and solve some simple sums.



## Play games and help science at the same time!

Researchers at the University of Nottingham are running some fun and interesting online research games for children aged 5-15 years which will help to understand how attention and maths skills develop.

These research games can all be completed from home. In return for their time, children will receive an Amazon voucher and a certificate.

For more information on how to get involved, see the university webpage: <https://tinyurl.com/AttentionMathsGames>

or email us any queries (Ruman: [rumandeep.hayre@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:rumandeep.hayre@nottingham.ac.uk); Naima: [naima.nigar1@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:naima.nigar1@nottingham.ac.uk)).

After over 30 years of service Mrs Oakes has retired from her role as Cleaner at St Giles Junior School, what an amazing achievement to have this length of service. She has been a valuable member of the school team through so many changes over the years, and the school won't be the same without her. She will be missed.

We all wish her an enjoyable and relaxing retirement.



# Christingle at St Giles

This year, we are taking our Christingle Service online, so as many people can join us as possible! We will be live streaming the service on our **Facebook** page from church on **Christmas Eve at 3pm**.

But don't worry, we have 150 'Christingle Kits' ready to be collected prior to the service which will contain everything you need apart from an orange. You can come and collect your kit on **Wednesday 23rd of December** from the church, **between 10am and 1pm!**



[www.facebook.com/stgileschurchexhall](https://www.facebook.com/stgileschurchexhall)

<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	10.30 am	<b>Service of Holy Communion</b> <i>Book a place &amp; Livestream via Facebook</i> <b>Zoom Holy Communion</b>
	4.30 pm	
<b>Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	from 2 pm	<b>Outdoor Christmas Tree Festival</b> available in churchyard until early Jan
<b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	10.30 am	<b>Service of Holy Communion</b> <i>Livestream &amp; booking for 20</i>
	4 – 6 pm	<b>Quiet Christmas Remembering</b> An opportunity to remember loved ones. Rolling prayer with music and reading of names. No need to book, just drop in for 15 – 20 mins.
<b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	10.30 am	<b>Happy Hearts &amp; Minds Family Worship</b> <i>Livestream from Main Hall</i> <i>Booking only for up to 8 families</i>
	5.30 pm	<b>CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE</b> <i>Livestream only from St Giles via Facebook</i>
<b>Weds 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec</b>	10 – 1 pm	<b>Christingle Kit Collection</b> (outdoor from St Giles) Collect your kit ready for our virtual Christingle Service
<b>Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> Dec</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b>	3 – 4 pm	<b>Virtual Christingle</b> <i>Livestream from St Giles via Facebook</i>
	11.00 pm	<b>Midnight Communion</b> <i>Livestream from St Giles via Facebook</i> <i>Limited to 20 places, booking only</i>
<b>Fri 25<sup>th</sup> Dec</b> <b>Christmas Day</b>	10.30 am	<b>Service of Holy Communion</b> <i>Livestream from St Giles via Facebook</i> <i>Limited to 20 places, booking only</i>