



FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

St Giles Junior School

St Giles Junior School
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We hope that you had a restful half term break, and after Monday's announcement we are delighted that all schools will open fully from Monday 8 March. It represents a step back towards normality. Our young people can be reunited with their friends, be with their teachers and be able to learn in a school setting again. They have been through a tough time. We will be doing everything we can in school to support your children in returning to face-to-face learning, with their mental health and wellbeing at the heart of what we do. Our core value statement 'Together Everyone Achieves More' have never seemed more important than now.

The Prime Ministers announcement has set out his government's plan for the return of all pupils to schools as part of the roadmap for leaving lockdown, with **all primary school pupils returning on Monday 8 March**. Primary school staff will continue to take two rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) tests each week at home to identify positive cases quickly and break the chains of transmission.

For those students who borrowed our IT equipment during the closure, can this be brought back into school on Monday 8 March (please don't forget the charging cables!). The devices will then need to be cleaned and quarantined before being used to support students with their learning in school. Take care everyone.



If any families have younger siblings who need a Year 3 place in September and have not applied through Admissions you need to do so as a priority. It will be classified as a late application but will still be processed. Please make St Giles aware of any late requests to Admissions so we are able to plan accordingly.

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/applying-junior-school-place>

Are you a parent with a child under 6?

Research needs you! We are carrying out research into memory and sleep in parents. You would be required to complete a memory game on your phone and answer some questions about your daily activities.

You would be entered into 3 prize draws if you complete the study. For further information please contact:

SleepStudy@York.ac.uk;

07548359133

Website:

<https://sites.google.com/york.ac.uk/the-omg-sleep-study/home>

Social Media:

<https://twitter.com/OmgSleep>;

<https://www.facebook.com/sleep.study.334>

Free School Meal Support

If you think you may be eligible for the benefits of free school meals because your circumstances have changed, you may wish to apply now. Doing so will mean our school does not miss out on additional funding.

Families can apply for free school meals at any time online through the Parent Portal.

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

Friends of St Giles

Due to the restrictions around Covid, our PTA have understandably struggled to meet and then support the school; a virtual Christmas fair would be tricky to do!

We always welcome any help carers/parents and careers can give us. There are hopefully lots of events planned for the future, both large and small, and their success relies on the assistance of volunteers! If you would like to be involved in anyway, please do not hesitate in contacting us.



Calling all Parent Carers!

From the 27th Jan 2021 the way in which we provide support to you is changing.

This will include:

- Parent Carer Assessment is now known as the Parent Carer Support Pathway.
- A Wellbeing Conversation with a practitioner will identify the support that you may need.
- The conversation will consider your: Wellbeing needs, Health and Safety issues and important commitments affected by your caring role.
- Support will be tailored especially for you and your family's needs.
- Signposting, one-off financial payments, or a social care assessment will be considered when tailoring your support.

Whatever the outcome the new Parent Carer Support Pathway is not time limited and can be accessed as often as is needed.

To find out more please visit the Warwickshire County Council website and search for Parent Carer Support Pathway. Alternatively, you can email childrenwithdisabilitiesteam@warwickshire.gov.uk or call the Children with Disabilities Team at Warwickshire County Council on 01926 413737 option 4 to find out more today.



Sainsbury's Donation

It's always positive to hear when businesses support our local Exhall community, so it was good to receive a call from Sainsbury's asking if they could help us.

Two Year 6 pupils visited Sainsbury's to receive a £50 voucher on behalf of St Giles. We are keen to try and fill in 'events' that the children might have missed out on during lockdown. So with the voucher we've bought enough ingredients for each class to make pancakes and for some Easter cake creating. Thank you Sainsbury's.



Be Aware

We have been informed that a new gas main is going to be installed in Hayes Lane. Details of timings and disruption are a little sketchy at the moment, but please be aware that there is a likelihood of traffic lights and pavements being dug up – we will update you once we have more information.



As we've reach the mid-year point, we thought now was a fitting time to put out an appeal to you to complete the OFSTED Parent View.

Those of you who completed this last year, please do complete it again as it registers your view under the different academic years. I cannot tell you how incredibly important this is to us as a school, and it will support us on areas you feel that we need to work on.

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login?destination=/give-your-views>

Plant Donations

Many of you may be unaware that Mrs Randle and Miss Smith, with the aid of some of the children, have been busy making the school plant friendly. With plants and composts from the Bedworth Community Gardens and donations from the Exhall community, we will have the Quad looking ready from some spring sunshine soon. We would like to send a massive thank you for their generosity.

As the weather is now finally improving and there's a chance to get out in the garden, if you have any plant/ shrubs that you no longer need, please drop them into school and we will gladly make use of them.



Learn from home with our HS2 Education

With many parents supporting children who are learning at home during the current time, HS2 has developed a range of interesting curriculum-linked projects to work on at home. These include shorter activities ideal for families supporting younger children with learning at home and pre-planned lessons that secondary school teachers could set students as part of their curriculum learning.

The [online resources](#) were created as a result of us being unable to visit schools to deliver our regular programme of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) workshops because of Covid-19 restrictions and also due to schools being less able to take students 'off-curriculum' for career themed activities due to the disruption caused by the pandemic.

For more information and to download guides and worksheets please [click here](#) to access the educational content web page.

Local Business Support

If you work at, or know of a local business that could donate any items/ money to our school, we would be more than happy to receive and to promote with a mention in the newsletter and our website – Thank you.

Learning Celebration



Leon has worked on his lantern to celebrate Chinese New Year!



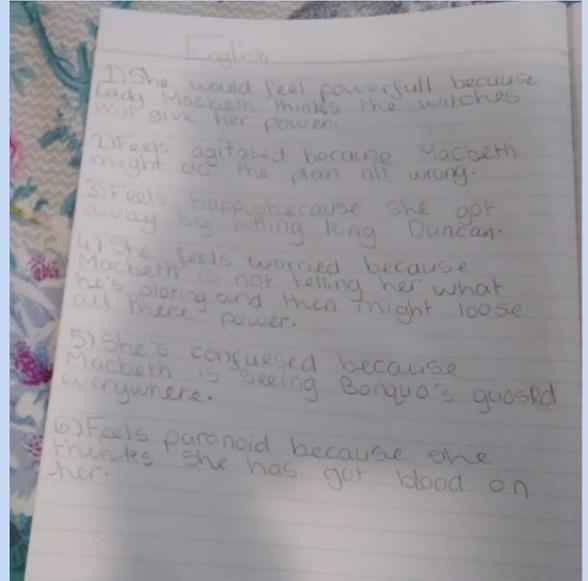
... And **Amreeta** has been in the kitchen celebrating Pancake Tuesday! Lemon or Syrup, Amreeta?



James has been busy on building his Hillfort as part of the Y4/5 topic. Those house look safe up there, James!

Learning Celebration

Sukhmani has worked out a range of feelings for Lady Macbeth, and supported her answers with reasons as well – great work.



- 1) ¿Tienes algún animal? → Sí, tengo un perro.
→ No, no tengo.
- 2) ¿Cuántos años tiene? → Tiene nueve años
- 3) ¿Cómo se llama? → Se llama Bolicho.

Los animales. Vocabulario:

Un perro		Un gato	
Un hámster		Un ratón	
Un conejo		Un pájaro	
Una serpiente		Una cobaya	
Una tortuga		Un pez	
Un insecto palo		Una lagartija	

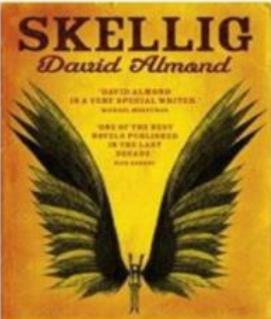
TASK 1 – Write your answers about the pets that you have at home...

- ¿Tienes algún animal?
- ¿Cuántos años tiene?
- ¿Cómo se llama

Vyharan has been showing off his knowledge of pets ... in Spanish. Muy Bueno!

Aneeqa has shown great predicting skills during her lesson on the amazing book - Skellig

Predictions



I can see...

Gigantic wings on a black figure.

I wonder...

If the black figure is some sort of creature/demon?

I can infer...

That the figure is important because it is the only thing on the front cover.

I know...

The book is written by David Almond

I predict...

That the figure is the main protagonist

I would like to ask...

Why does the figure have giant wings?

An Opportunity for Any Aspiring Bakers!



My name is Charis and I'm a Casting Researcher at Love Productions; the company behind The Great British Bake Off, The Great British Sewing Bee and The Great Pottery Throw Down.

We are delighted to say, that we have recently opened applications for the 7th series of **Junior Bake Off**; a Channel 4 programme that celebrates the culinary talent and ambition of the younger generation in Britain.

With this in mind, we are contacting schools in hope that they can help us spread the word regarding this exciting opportunity.

We are looking for young budding bakers between **9 -15 years old**. Filming would take place from July 2021, but our **applications close on Sunday 28th March 2021**.

Interested bakers can apply online at - WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK.

Please do feel free to contact us on **0207 067 4833**, should you have any questions regarding the above.

Best wishes,
The Junior Bake Off Team

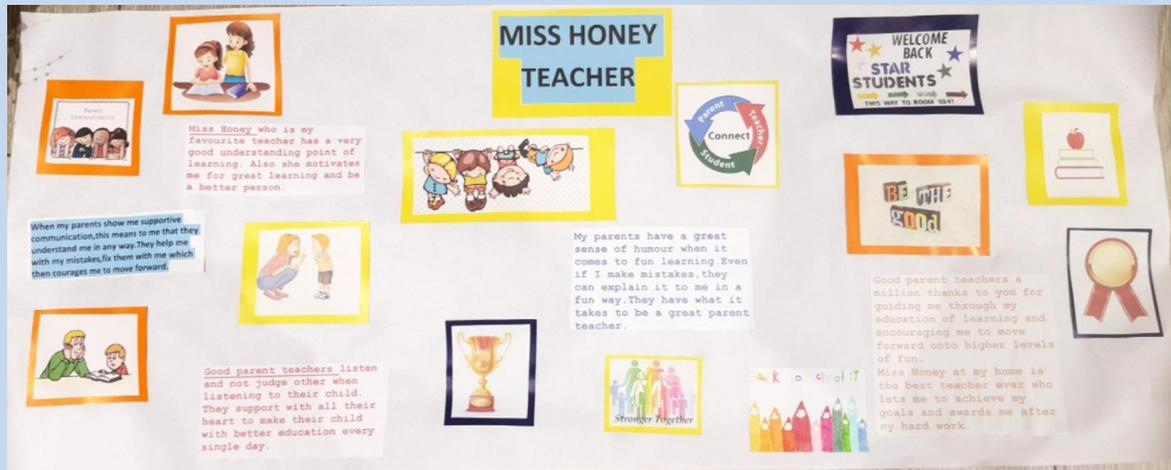
enquiries: applyforjuniorbakeoff@loveproductions.co.uk

Home Learning Competition Winner

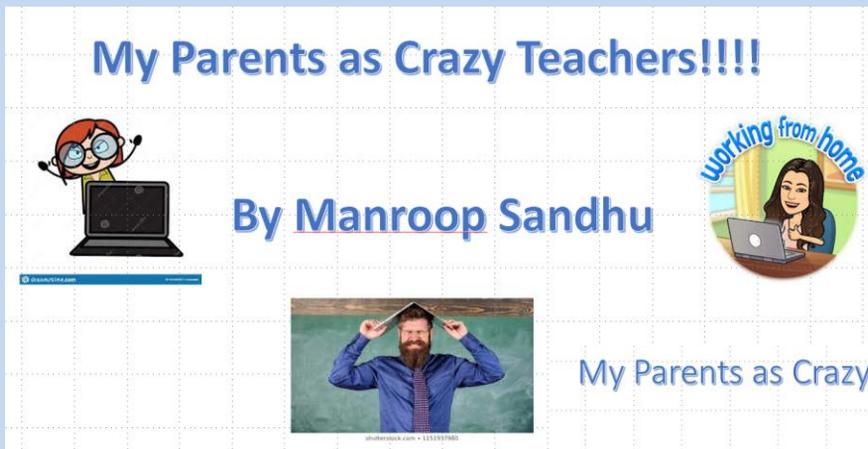
As you remember, in last month's Newsletter, a competition was set to tell us in the most thoughtful and creative way how the adults in your home are doing as your teachers.



Congratulations goes to –
Maja in Class E

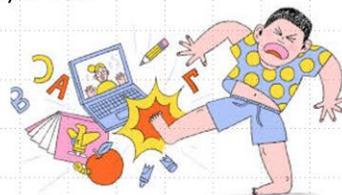


... and Manroop, in Class G



My Parents as Crazy Teachers!!!!

Great we are in National Lockdown again!!!
Kids on laptops, parents going crazy to home school them.
But what if your parents, were real life teachers!!
Here's my story!!!



This is the story of my lockdown nightmare!!!

"Hi I am Manroop and this is my story of my parents being crazy teachers, lets begin the nightmare"!!

"First off I have the most CRAZIEST person in my house my MUM!!!!

"All I hear Food Science this and Design Technology that all day!!!

"This is how she teaches; (my mum) "Right class, we are doing food science, open your text books to page 15 and start to write some notes on food poisoning"



- (Manroop) "She is so boring and crazy, no wonder the kids don't listen to her and do their work".

- "Its always Zoom this and Teams that"

"I am surprised, they havn't banned her from using Zoom and Teams, because she is that crazy!!.. "I bet the kids get really annoyed, listening to her voice, I mean I would".



"The Dad"

- "Next up isn't as crazy as my mum but is totally bizarre, it is my dad!!"

"All I hear is BTEC this and Pearson that"

(Dad) "I have got to I.V. this and moderate that". "Now that's a Pass, Merit, or Distinction, oh I've now updated my tracker".

(Manroop) "Right meeting time now, oh no he's on mute!! Thank god dad!! "Maybe its time for a beer and watch some footy"!!



"Well this is my blog, as my parents being crazy teachers, I hope you enjoyed it, bye"!!



Well done, you each will receive a £10 Amazon voucher to spend on a favourite book!

8 Reasons to Feel Reassured

1. We are returning to what we know. Schools are places of routine and structure - even if these routines have had to change, the predictability of the school day will be hugely reassuring for many.
2. Teachers are trained to respond to what's in front of them. There is no such thing as 'normal' when it comes to learning. All learners are individual and teachers respond to where the young person is, not where anyone says they should be.
3. 'Learning' in our school is a verb, not a noun. This means that we can't lose learning like a set of keys. Some learning just hasn't taken place yet. Young people will take the lead from us, so if we don't talk of 'catching up', they won't feel they need to.
4. Equally, learning is a process, not a manufactured good. We can't buy 'learning' and we can't give 'learning'. Learners have to be ready to learn and this relies on relationships and wellbeing.
5. Teachers Understand. Some children will be naturally worried about returning to school, but when staff build trust first and foremost, learning will naturally follow.
6. Essential eagerness comes into play with children. In New Zealand, during the Christchurch earthquakes, young people missed huge amounts of school, however results did not suffer. Young people knew what they needed to do to succeed.
7. It's back to school, not back to learning. As adults, we can look back and see that school was one place where we learned, but not the only place. Some children will have learned huge amounts during this time, just in unexpected ways.
8. We don't know what we don't know. We can only speculate what the impact of the pandemic will be on young people. Yes, unfortunately for some it will have taken a great toll, but for others they will have built their character in ways we didn't know possible – resilience, creativity, self-sufficiency are all words we have heard a lot from parents and young people in the last year.

So feel confident that your child will be welcomed back with a welcome smile and an understanding of where they are on their learning journey.