



March NEWSLETTER

St Giles Junior School

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

Dear families,

Spring is certainly in the air, with warmer weather, blossom can be seen on trees, especially on my favourite cherry trees on the school drive, and lighter morning and evenings are greeting us each day. Things feel like they are going in the right direction, finally.

We are now at the end of our second term back, I am both pleased and proud to report that your children have returned to school happy and excited to be back in the classroom learning with their friends. All the staff are really happy to have all children back in school - we have missed them all lots!

We have already seen some great learning, and this has been supported by assessments. Your child's teacher will now review what needs to be taught next term. I would like to reassure all of our families that the staff will continue to do all they can to meet your child's learning needs, helping them all to succeed. I know Year 6 students are keen to know where they are with their learning before they move into Year 7.

Thank you for your ongoing support, patience and feedback regarding the COVID safety measures we have in place at the moment. We are acting inline with Government guidance, and will continue to review measures if/when changes are indicated by the Government's roadmap.

It certainly has been a strange year, but with perseverance, we will return to normality when we can. As always, please do get in touch with the school if you have any questions or feedback to give. In the meantime, have a happy Easter break and we will see you all back on Monday 19th April!

Mr Mann

Sainsbury Donation

A huge **Thank You** to Penny at our Sainsbury's Local Store who has been in touch once again.

She has arranged for the school to be given a variety of resources including games and books.

We are all extremely grateful to be thought of.



Free School Meal Support

If you think you may be eligible for Free School Meals, but have not applied before because of the universal offer at infant school, or if your personal 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 FSM at any time online through the Parent Portal.

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

Parent Support

We always welcome any help parents and careers can give to us. There will hopefully be lots of events taking place in 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 to contact the office and your details will be passed on.



What Did You Do Today?

We want to share what some of the students have been doing in their spare time.

Isabelle and Finlay had noticed an increasing amount of litter in the local area so they brought some litter pickers and together they did a litter pick round Hawkesbury Village. They collected three bin bags full of rubbish over two hours. They are now going to try to do a weekly pick and get with the local council to try to arrange a community litter pick when restrictions are lifted.



Finlay found litter picking fun but also frustrating. “It was good to get out of the house and get some fresh air, but seeing all the rubbish thrown on the floor when there’s a bin so close by was really infuriating”. “Animals and insects get trapped and hurt as well”.

Whilst spending more time out walking with her mum, Isabelle realised how much rubbish there was everywhere. “I was really disappointed about how much litter there was. I just wish everyone would take their rubbish home, we would have a happier world then”.



Mia in 4/5E, spent her time at home designing a possible mascot for the school – perhaps this is something that we could all look into when we change the name of the school in September.

What mascot could you design?



Jacob 4/5E has been honing his presentation skills by reading a Bible passage on Zoom in front of around 100 people. Amazing! He was very proud of himself – and so he should be – perhaps a future broadcaster?



If you would like to share your own children's outside achievements, please let the office know and we will try and share here, or in our Celebrations Assembly.

EASTER 2021



COVENTRY ROCKS™

THINGS TO DO IN COVENTRY

THE ULTIMATE WHAT'S ON GUIDE FOR FAMILIES TO FIND THINGS TO DO IN THE LOCAL AREA

www.coventryrocks.co.uk

FIND YOUR FUN AT THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON!



HUNDREDS OF IDEAS FOR FAMILIES

Coventry Rocks is a website made especially for families to find things to do in the local area. Local events, places to visit, day trip ideas, children's classes, kids parties, holiday clubs, and outdoor spaces – it's a one stop shop for things to do in the local area!

Visit the website and see for yourself!

Coventry Rocks

The organisation provides regular 'what's on' round-ups of events and activities in the Coventry area for families plus relevant news and offers.

They also have articles from local parents who have written about their favourite things to do with the kids in Coventry, and reviewed some of Coventry's well known (and less well known!) activities.

World Book Day 2021

Character Competition Winners

Miss Shepherd

Name: Dexter

Character: Roly Poly Bird



Name: AJ

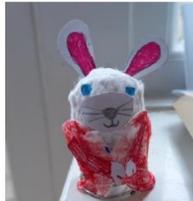
Character: Granny from George's Marvellous Medicine



Miss Smith

Name: Layla-Mae

Character: Eggward Tulane



Edward Tulane

Name: Blake

Character: Mr. Twit



Miss Southam

Name: Niamh

Character: The Scarecrow's Wedding



Name: Natalia

Character: Beauty and the Beast



Mr Burch

Name: Freya

Character: Little Miss Sunshine



Name: Hermione

Character: Supertato



Mrs. Minhas

Name: Amelie

Character: Winnie the Pooh



Name: Luke

Character: Harry Potter



Mrs. So

Name: Simr

Character: Harry Potter



Name: Mya

Character: Elsa



Miss. Spencer

Name: Kristian

Character: Shrek



Name: Amy

Character: Dumbo



Overall Winners

Lower Keystage – Blake

Upper Keystage – Amelie

Thank you Mrs So for taking the time to organise this event.

**THE SMALLEST ACT OF KINDNESS
IS WORTH MORE THAN THE GREATEST INTENTION**



It's always nice to hear a good news story, and here is one from our school.

Georgios likes cooking and often talks to the kitchen staff about the preparation that goes into lunchtime menus. When pizza was on the menu, Georgios had a chat to them about the way he makes pizzas – he is an excellent pizza cook, and the kitchen staff loved to hear about the recipe and ingredients he uses.

The next morning, Georgios got up very early and made a pizza just for our kitchen staff – and it was delicious!!

They were so touched by his generosity – they treated him to an Easter egg!!!

Plant Donations

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 off and we will gladly make use of them, as the Quad and the front of the school always need living up.



Lateness

We have contacted a few families to emphasise the importance of being in school on time as there have been incidents of some pupils routinely arriving just after their start time, or later in the morning, and also come children being collected at late as well.

Children who arrive late are greatly disadvantaged because they miss starting the day with their peers and the beginning of lessons. This means that they are often unsettled and confused about tasks. Their teacher may not always be able to re explain work, and at the end of the day no one likes the feeling of being picked up late.

The issue is rarely the child's fault and so we are appealing to these few families to perhaps look at the drop off and collection routines to see improvements can be made.

Some things that help:

- Help your child get everything ready the night before (e.g. PE kit, school uniform).
- Allow plenty of time to get to school.
- Make arrangements with neighbours, family or friends if you have problems getting your child to school.
- Establish a good bedtime routine
- Make sure your child gets enough rest and is not distracted by too much time on the computer or watching TV.
- Set an alarm clock!

Please ask for help from someone in school you feel you can talk to.

Toys in School

Can we remind parents that children shouldn't be bringing toys into school. We are having increasing incidents of children bringing out toys at lunchtime and wanting them in the classroom.

Thank You



Telephone Support for Parents

Warwickshire Educational Psychology Service (EPS) is offering direct access telephone consultation to parents and carers during the Covid-19 pandemic.

This service is available for 4 afternoons each week (Monday to Thursday) for parents and carers who live in Warwickshire and who feel they may benefit from consultation with an Educational Psychologist to support them with concerns that they may have at this time.

Concerns might include:

- How to talk with a child/young person about COVID-19 and any worries associated with it
- How to help children/young people to engage with learning whilst at home
- How to support behaviour that can be challenging or difficult to manage
- How best to look after your own and/or your child's mental and emotional well-being on a daily basis

If you would like to arrange a telephone consultation with an Educational Psychologist, please phone 01926 742921 or email eps@warwickshire.gov.uk.

You will be asked to provide the following information:

- Your name
- The telephone number you would like to be contacted on and an email address
- A brief description of the area in which you would like support
- You or your child's school if relevant (if your child is not already known to the Educational Psychology Service, we will not take their name or record details of the conversation)

You will be offered the next available telephone timeslot that an educational psychologist has available and they will then phone you back at that time.

Staying Safe Online – Tik Tok and Omegle

All parents and carers should be aware that allowing children to access sites such as Tik Tok (age 13+) can be deemed as putting them at risk. Sites such as Tik Tok have a significant number of online users who are not using the platform as intended. They can be seen as a way for adults try to contact other users by engaging them in online conversations.

Children using Tik Tok have been encouraged to access another site – Omegle. This is a chatroom used by thousands of users. Parents need to know that Omegle is an anonymous video chat client intended for adults. There's a website with the same name, though they don't seem to be connected. Users are asked several times to verify that they are at least 18, but all that's required is entering a birth date.

Find out more

Before doing anything, take a deep breath and try to remain calm. There's lots of information and advice on this site to help you keep your child safe and access support. [Further support if you are concerned about your child.](#)

Talking to your child

Having a calm and open conversation is one way for you and your child to explore what is happening in an honest and supportive way. There's advice on this site on how to help your child and how to start the conversation.

Take action

Discuss your concerns with someone you trust, for example a friend, partner or your child's school. You can also talk to a professional at the NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 5000. Talking about it will help you decide the best action to take to ensure your child is safe.

More support can be found here

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>



New Name from September

This is just confirming the communication already sent out to you regarding the change of the school name.

As we explained, we have encountered a few challenges over the years in relation to the name of the school, varying from expectations that we are a Church school, to confusion about where we are located. These have often come from the wider community of Bedworth. Clearly the current name has either confused or given the wrong impression about us. We now wish to address this issue by choosing a name which confirms the school's location in Exhall, to further support its presence as a central part of our community. We feel that this will become even more important as more families will be moving into the area, as new housing developments are underway.

With an echo to the name of the first school in the area, Exhall First School in School Lane, our choice of Exhall Junior School, would promote both Exhall Cedars and ourselves, reinforcing that we serve the same community. It will also secure the journey for students from Nursery through to Year Six.

Can we stress, a modest change of name under our badge is all we feel is needed, an example is below. As we mentioned before, we are looking to build on our history, not change it, so the colour of the uniform will remain the same, and there will be a gradual phasing out of the St Giles name, so current uniforms can still be worn without fear of challenge.

As anyone who has struggled to think of a name for their new child knows, titles are important to get right and it helps if everyone supports us. It's our belief that renaming our school to Exhall Junior School is a supportive change that can bring many benefits to us, and the community.

