



APRIL NEWSLETTER

St Giles Junior School

St Giles Junior School
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Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back! We hope that you had a restful Easter break, despite this unusual situation. We are sure there were many indoor or garden Easter egg hunts, lots of baking and much chocolate consumed!

You will be aware that there has been quite a lot of speculation in the media recently about the re-opening of schools, including how and when this will be achieved. We appreciate that everybody would like to get back to 'normal' (whatever our new 'normal' is going to look like in the future!), however, there has not yet been any guidance or possible return date released. The message from the Department of Education is clear: "Schools will only re-open when the scientific advice indicates it is the right time to do so." We will of course keep you updated as information becomes available.

Although we are still able to see a few children in school, we are really missing all of you being here! Remember that if you need any help or support please call or email us.

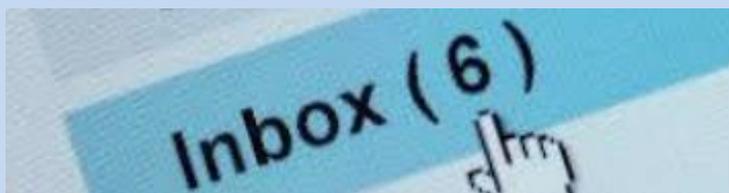
School News

Further to previous communications, we can confirm that until we hear otherwise from the Local Authority or Department for Education St Giles Junior School is due to remain open for the children of key workers.

Whilst we remain open, you should only send your child into school if there are no other options available to you while you are at work. The school will continue to be open Monday to Friday, between 8.45 am and 3.15 pm. There will be no provision for before or after school care. It is important to underline that schools remain a safe place for children. However, the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in the community.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Regular Communication



Remember to check your emails, we will try to keep to this schedule

Every Tuesday - home learning for the week ahead.

Every week - school nursing team health & well being newsletter / welfare support.

Every Sunday - message goes out on the app.

Every other week - targeted communication to those eligible to book a place at school during the closure asking for dates places need to be booked for the next two week block.

Free School Meal - updates as we receive information from the Local Authority.

The admin email box is also checked every day, so please continue to use if you have questions or queries.

Singup

For those of you whose children love to sing, you may be interested in the following website where you can find various songs for children (and parents!) to learn and sing along to!

<https://www.singup.org/singupathome>



Staff Goodbyes

With all the effort going into ensuring the school closed safely, we have missed the opportunity to formally let you know of some staff departures.

Miss Wheeler and Mr Davis have left our Midday Supervisors team, Miss Wheeler has gone to work full time at a local stables, and Mr Davis is now the caretaker at St Michael's. I am sure you will want to join with me to wish both members of staff the very best for the future.

We also said goodbye to Miss Walton as she has left our school for pastures new, she will now be working for the Department for Education. It was not the goodbye that we had envisaged, or indeed planned, but I am determined that our gratitude for her work will be recognised at a later date when we can, once again, enjoy being together. In the meantime, we all wish them every success and hope they will pop in from time to time in the future to see us.

What to do if I am worried or I don't feel safe!



At school you could speak to a teacher, trusted member of staff or use the worry box if you had any worries – big or small.

We would like to remind you that this can still happen while you are learning at home.

Here are the ways you can contact trusted adults at school if you have a concern or worry – big or small.

Seesaw – send a message to your teacher about your concern or worry.

Text or call – the school now has a mobile phone dedicated to picking up worries or issues you may be experiencing. The number to text or call is: 07707062250

Email – you can email the school office on; admin2571@welearn365.com

Messages, texts and calls will be picked up between 8:30am and 3:30pm – Monday to Friday

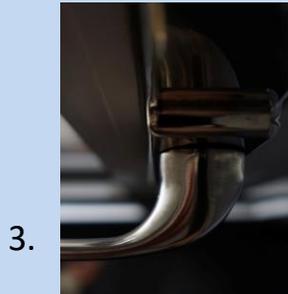
If you have a concern/worry right now, and you can't wait for school to get back to you, then please call **CHILDLINE** on: 0800 1111

There is always a way you can contact us so please don't worry; we are here to help!

If you have concerns about a friend, who you know cannot access Seesaw to tell us themselves, then please let us know the concerns you have!

Fun Photo Competition No1

How well do you know your school? Can you guess where these photos were taken? Email your answers to admin2571@welearn365.com with the subject line **Fun Photo Competition No1**, there will be a small prize for the one who gets them right. Remember it is the **where**, not the **what**!



Home Learning

And so our strange, lockdown life continues, as does our package of distance learning resources. You will have seen in the news that new learning resources have been created by a virtual, online hub—Oak National Academy and BBC 'Bitesize'. Just remember that teaching your own children is difficult, ask any teacher who is a parent – you're doing a good job!



Home is very important right now for working, learning and spending time together. But you don't have to turn it into a school. Don't put pressure on yourself to create the perfect curriculum or fill every hour with schooling. Be mindful of what you see on social media and remember that every family is different.

Talk to your children about how they'd like their day to be structured and how that might work with your own responsibilities. Encourage your children to talk about their interests and passions and think of ways to incorporate these with learning. Reassure your child their school and teachers are there for them.

If you're struggling or finding things challenging for any reason, reach out for support and help – just call or send us an email.

And Finally ...

A huge THANK YOU to the parents, carers and governors what have sent cards, biscuits and goodies into the school for the staff.

We particularly liked the card opposite from Freya, which actually does sum up the staff at St Giles. They have worked tirelessly opening the school, working from home setting up all the online learning, not forgetting the office staff who have kept everyone informed. What a TEAM we all make!

