



## Dear Parents/Carers

Volume 12 No 1

### Welcome

Welcome back to a new and exciting school year. We hope that you all had an enjoyable and relaxing break over the summer and are all now refreshed and the children ready for a term of new learning. A very special welcome goes out to all new staff and children who have joined us this year, including our new Foundation Stage children who have already settled brilliantly into school life. All of the children look really smart in their new ties and uniform .

One new member of staff who we are sure you will see around the premises a lot is Mr Furzer, our new caretaker. Please feel free to say hi when you see him , he is looking forward to meeting everyone.

### **If you have any concerns about your child then please pop in to our Inclusion Team Drop in**

Every Wednesday 8:30-9:30am  
enter via the **KS2** office  
area



#### **Who can I see?**



Mrs Holdsworth can help you with any **BEHAVIOURAL** concerns that you may have

Mrs Teager can help you with any worries concerning **ADDITIONAL NEEDS**.

### **Macmillan Coffee Morning**

The Fundraising Team will be holding a coffee morning on Friday 28th September from 9-10:45am in the KS1 dining hall to raise money for the Macmillan charity and the school.



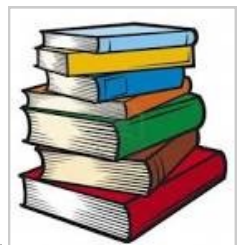
### **Griffin Foundation Trust**

A very big thank you to Ash Froment from Griffin Foundation Trust who recently came into school to present a cheque to us as they kindly, once again, donated some money to us. This time it was to fund a defibrillator, which we are obviously hoping we never have to use, however, it could save a life one day and so we felt it was vital to get one.



### **Have you got an hour or so of spare time a week?**

If you have any spare time on a regular basis and would like to come in and listen to children read please do contact the office . The teachers and children really appreciate all offers of help and volunteers always comment on how rewarding it is for them too.





## Water Bottles

Please can we remind you that your child needs a water bottle in school **every day**. Children can purchase water bottles from school for 50p or they can bring their own in. The children have access to water machines to refill their bottles with cold or chilled water, whichever they prefer, throughout the day.

Please do not send your children in with flavoured or fizzy water or squash.

## Online Payment System

A reminder that we cannot accept payments over the counter. We do encourage parents to use our online payment system. Not only is it the most secure way to pay for everything and available 24/7 but paying online will also constitute as permission where relevant so you will not have to complete a slip as well.

All parents should have already received a unique log in and password to set up an account, but if you need this to be re-issued then please contact the office.

## PE Kit Wanted

If you have any old PE kit or trainers that you no longer need we would be very grateful for them for spare kit.

We also need carrier bags for the children to use for muddy trainers. Thank you.

## The Fundraising Team



The Fundraising Team is a group of Giffards' parents who help support the school by coming in to help with school activities and also organise fundraising events. We are very grateful for all their support and appreciate their hard work.

If anyone would like to get involved with the team then please let the office know or try to pop in to the coffee morning on 28th September and chat with the team members there.

## Office Opening Times

Just a reminder that the office is open between the hours of 8:30am - 4pm each day during term time and it is situated in the KS2 building. If you need to pop in or call please do so within these hours and we will be happy to help you.

## Reception 2019

We now have a number of dates for parent tours for parents looking at Primary Schools for a place next year.

If you know anyone who has a child due to start school in September 2019, then please can you let them know so they can contact the school to book in for a tour.

## Secondary School Applications

Year 6 parents will have already received information regarding applying for your child's place at Secondary School for 2019

Applications are now open and can be made online at: [thurrock.gov.uk/admissions](http://thurrock.gov.uk/admissions). Applications close on Wednesday 31st October 2018, if you have not submitted your application by then your child will be allocated a place at a school with space available, after all on-time applications have been dealt with.

You can contact the local Secondary Schools for open evenings/days to look round.

If you need any information regarding the application process please feel free to contact the office.

## School Equipment

As part of their learning responsibility children need to remember to bring to school their homework and any sports kit for clubs, the office is extremely busy and will be unable to call home for these items to be brought in.

If you do need to bring something up for your child please be aware that we will try and get it to them, however, we cannot guarantee that this will happen.





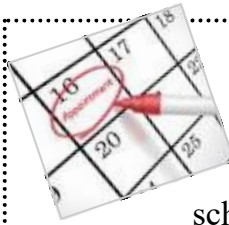
## Sickness

As a reminder, any pupil that is off with sickness or diarrhoea should be kept away from school for **48 hrs** from the last episode. This is to prevent the rapid spread of sickness around the school.

If your child is absent from school due to illness, please can you ensure you notify the school **before 9am** if possible. Messages can be left on our answerphone 24 hrs a day.

If your child is absent for more than 5 days then you will need to provide medical evidence in order for the absence to be authorised. Evidence can be in the form of a doctor's appointment card or you can bring in a prescription box/bottle for us to take a photocopy of.

We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.



## Appointments

Please can we ask parents that, where possible, any health appointments are made out of school hours to avoid children missing school unnecessarily. Where this is unavoidable, please can you bring in an appointment card/letter in order for us to authorise the absence. Children are expected to be in school, where possible, both **before** and **after** the appointment.

## Messages



As a school we regularly send reminder messages to parents via email. Please can you check that you are receiving messages and they are not going into your junk mail, you may need to change your settings to receive them if they are.

**Please also be aware that from now on this newsletter as well as all letters that do not have a permission slip on them will only be sent via email so if you don't have an email address registered with us then please can you bring one in as soon as possible so that we can update our records, otherwise you won't be able to receive our communications.**

The school website is updated regularly with letters and relevant dates so please do look there if you think you may be missing any information.

[www.giffardsprimary.thurrock.sch.uk](http://www.giffardsprimary.thurrock.sch.uk)



## School Run Clubs

All clubs will be starting from Monday 17th September. We have made some changes to our School Run Sports clubs, all details, permissions and joining details are now online, you can access this through our school website.

All other club letters for now, will still be sent out with the children.

Please ensure you collect your child promptly at the end of each club session.



**NOTE:** The back gate behind KS1 closes at 4.30pm at the latest

## INSET days

Please note that the school has allocated INSET days either side of the May/June half term break for 2019 to help parents book a cheaper holiday as we appreciate cost is a factor when booking term-time holidays.

INSET days -

4th September 2018, 3rd and 4th January and 24th May and 3rd June 2019.

## Leave of Absence

Please can we request that any Leave of Absence application forms are sent into the school *at least* two weeks in advance to allow time for the applications to be processed.

Please also remember that as a school we **do not** approve any holidays in term time and we do refer holidays taken to the Education Welfare Service for Penalty Notices.

## Attendance

At the end of each School Year the Class with the Best Attendance will receive an award and a treat.

### **Did You Know:**

Taking your child out of school during term time could be detrimental to your child's educational progress. A pupil who takes 10 days absence a year will actually be spending more time at home than at school in that year and will only attain 94.7% attendance. 10 days absence means a child misses 50 hours of education.

The current law does not give any entitlement to parents to take their child out of school during term time.

The Education Welfare Service can issue a Penalty Notice for £120 (or £60 if paid within 21 days) to each parent for each child taken out of school without school authorisation.



## Diary Dates

- 10th Sept—am Yr 4 Parents meeting in KS2 hall  
11th Sept—Echo in to take FS photo  
12th Sept—6.30pm Parents meeting in KS2 hall re Residential Trip  
13th Sept—Yr 2 Parent meeting am, Yr 1 Parent meeting pm—both in KS1 hall  
14th Sept—am Yr 3 parent meeting in KS2 hall  
17th Sept—am—Yr 5 parent meeting in KS2 hall  
17th Sept—Yr 3 to Thorndon Park  
18th Sept—pm—Yr 6 parent meeting in KS2 hall  
19th Sept—pm—EYFS Parent Share meeting in KS1 hall  
21st Sept—Jeans for Genes non-uniform day  
26th Sept— am EYFS Reading meeting for parents in KS1 hall  
28th Sept—am MacMillan Coffee Morning  
3rd Oct—EYFS to Thorndon Park  
5th Oct—pm EYFS Parents in class re Gruffalo story  
8th - 12th Oct—Yr 6 IoW Residential Week + Activity Week  
19th Oct—finish for half term  
29th Oct—return to school  
29th Oct—Yr 4 Saxon Workshop in school  
12th Nov—KS1 Parent's Evening 3.30pm-4.30pm  
13th Nov—KS1 Parent's Evening 3.30pm-7.30pm  
14th Nov—KS2 Parent's Evening 3.30pm-4.30pm

## Useful Contact Numbers

Please contact outside clubs directly on the following numbers:

Youth Creation	07788 278280 (Jodie)	<b>All Years</b>
	07974 008293 (Shannon)	
Yoga for Kids	07811 152513 (Valeria)	<b>All Years</b>
Phoenix Karate	01268 681927	<b>All Years</b>
Evans Dance	07393 395161 (Miss Evans)	<b>FS/Yrs1,2&amp; 3</b>

### School Uniform:

Little Sprogs Company 07803 002325 or  
[www.littlesprogscompany.co.uk](http://www.littlesprogscompany.co.uk)



Tescos -  
<https://www.tesco.com/direct/ues>

Make sure when checking for Giffards you enter the Local Authority as Thurrock and not Essex.

## Year 6 SATs 2019

### **13th-16th May 2019**

**Please do help by ensuring your**

## Relief MDAs

We are looking for people to add to our reserve Midday Assistant list for lunchtime duties.

If you are interested or would like more information then please contact the office.

## Twitter

Giffards has a Twitter account.

If you wish to follow us our username is 'GiffardsPrimary'

