



# GIFFARDS PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



## Dear Parents/Carers

Volume 5 No 5  
January 2019

### Happy New Year and Welcome Back!

It seems a very long time ago now, but we hope you all had a very enjoyable Christmas and a restful break.. We welcome all of the new children that have started here since we returned to school

As always, the staff worked hard over the break preparing for another action packed term with lots of exciting activities and we are pleased to see that the children have settled back into school and it has been impressive how quickly they have focused back on to their learning. We look forward to finding out about all that will be achieved this term.

### Cashless School

As most people are aware we provide an online payment system which is available 24 hours a day / 7 days a week so parents/carers can pay for dinners, trips, swimming etc securely and safely. We are giving you advance warning that from the start of the summer term, when we return from Easter holidays, for security reasons we will be moving to a whole school cashless payment system. From 23rd April 2019 we will be unable to take any cash for payment of dinners, trips, swimming or music lessons however we are offering for parents the chance to pay via credit card at the counter from now.

Children will still be able to buy water bottles and buy their tuck and lunchtime drinks with cash. For non-uniform days we will be able to accept cash as this is passed directly onto the relevant charity. In preparation for this if you are not using or have lost your log-in for our online payment system please do contact us and we will issue you another.

### If it snows.....



In the event of snow being forecast I can confirm that the school will be open if at all possible, whatever the weather. However, if it is felt that the conditions are unsafe for the children or we need more time for staff to get to school and a decision to close or open later in the day is made, the school website will be updated and a Groupcall text will be sent to all first named contacts. We will endeavour to make a decision by 7.15am at the latest. As the mobile phone service providers sometimes experience difficulties when high volumes of texts are being sent we would ask you to check the website if you are unsure if the school will be open and you have not received a text, as this will be updated immediately once the decision to close or open later is made. Announcements will be made on both Essex FM (102.6 FM and 96.3 FM) and Radio Essex (103.5 FM and 95.3 FM), although it can sometimes be difficult for us to get through to the radio stations so, again, please check the website if necessary. Notices will be put up on all of the gates as soon as we can do so. The school answerphone will also be updated if the school is to close or open late however if the phone is ringing this cannot be done, so we will endeavour to update this as soon as possible.

When it is icy/snowy, may we remind you that the back and side gates will remain locked to allow the caretaker time to clear the main pathways at the front of the school thoroughly.

We do ask that your children come to school with warm clothes, sensible shoes and wellingtons and outer clothing, especially during this period of particularly cold weather. Children will need wellingtons or boots if they are to be allowed out in the snow during the day.

## Donation

A big thank you to Abigail and Connor Venables and their family who kindly donated some money to the school just before Christmas. We will put this towards the cost of the new playground equipment that we will be getting. It is very much appreciated and very kind of you.

## First Aid

As we all know children can be clumsy at times and bump into things, fall over etc. If for any reason you do not wish our school staff to administer basic first aid as necessary to your child please do let us know. Obviously if there is ever any injury more serious we would contact you immediately to let you know.

## Fund Raising Team

A huge thank you to our amazing Fund Raising Team who are currently in the process of helping the school raise money for the playground improvements the School Council have suggested and are helping us plan. There were many different Christmas fundraising activities, thank you to everyone for their hard work and to all of the parents for their support. The amount raised was an amazing £1392!

Xmas wrap over £590

Xmas cards £266

Xmas discos £536

Total raised £1392

If you'd like to be part of the friendly fund raising team or able to spare a few hours occasionally and or help out at events, we'd love to hear from you. Please leave your name and contact number at reception and someone from the Fund Raising Team will be in touch.

## Yr 4 Reading Gladiators



Last month, the Year 4 Reading Gladiators took part in a challenge against other schools in South East Essex. They had to write a poem which recapped a book they had read - Wed Wabbit by Lissa Evans. The entry was submitted online and judges at 'Just Imagine' thought that their entry particularly stood out. The children were awarded a runner up prize: delicious hot chocolate, marshmallows and cookies to enjoy together.

Well done Reading Gladiators!



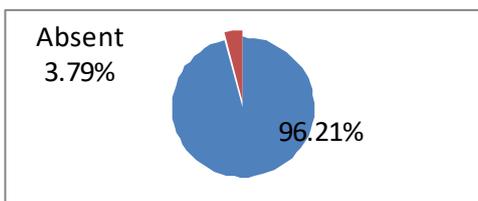
## KS2 Playground

As requested by some parents on the Parents Evening questionnaires we are asking that when parents are waiting to collect their children in the KS2 small playground that they stand around the edge when at all possible. When the children come out it can be difficult to see the adult that is collecting them as there are so many grouped together by the gate.

## Attendance

Here is a breakdown of the school's attendance so far this year

4EC—97.36%
2CC— 97.26%
5DR— 96.79%
1VP—96.69%
5EC—96.69%
4LR—96.38%
1KM—96.25%
3AS—96.18%
3KM—96.18%
3CB—96.11%
6SW—96.11%
2BW—95.89%
6CW—95.89%
RJV—95.18%
RTT—93.98%



This equates to **96.21%** attendance for the whole school, which is just above the Thurrock target as well as the new school target of 96%.

**Congratulations to 4EC for being the best attendees this year so far. Keep up the good work!**

Green = classes above target

Red = classes below target



## Diary Dates

- 5th Feb—Safer Internet Day
- 15th Feb—Break up for half term
- 25th Feb—Children return to school
- 27th Feb—Yr 1 to Museum of Childhood
- 1st Mar—Confirmation of place offered in Secondary School letters sent out by Admissions directly to Yr 6 families
- 5th Mar—Yr 5 Walk Online Roadshow
- 7th Mar—Yr 6 We'll Meet Again
- 14th Mar—Gable Hall staff and pupils to speak to Year 6 children
- 15th Mar—Red Nose Day
- 25th-29th Mar—Book Fair
- 25th Mar—Parents Evening KS2 3.30pm-4.30pm
- 26th Mar—Parents Evening KS2 3.30pm-7.30pm
- 27th Mar—Parents Evening KS1 3.30pm-4.30pm
- 28th Mar—Parents Evening KS1 3.30pm-7.30pm
- 4th April—Year 6 VE Tea Dance
- 5th April—Break up for Easter
- 23rd April-children return to school
- 29th April -Yr 4 to Thameside Nature Reserve
- 23rd May—finish for half term
- 24th May—INSET Day
- 3rd June—INSET Day
- 4th June—children back to school
- 5th June—Yr 6 to Harry Potter
- 1st—5th July—Transition week for majority of Year 6 pupils

## Useful Contact Numbers

Please contact outside clubs directly on the following numbers:

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

### School Uniform:

Tescos -

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

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

Uniformwise 01268 551888

[www.uniformwise.co.uk](http://www.uniformwise.co.uk)



## Year 6 SATs 2019

### 13th-16th May 2019

Please do help by ensuring your child is not taken out of school in the run up to the SATS

## Lateness and Dinners

If your child is going to be late for school for any reason and you wish them to have a school dinner then could you please ensure that the main office is notified of the reason for your child's lateness and their dinner choice by no later than **9.30am**. This is because the school kitchen only cook the correct amount of dinners that have been ordered.

## Twitter

Giffards has a Twitter account.

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

