



GIFFARDS PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents/Carers

Volume 13 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 are 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.

We would also like to congratulate Mrs Parker on the birth of her son Rory.

Clubs

A reminder that all clubs will start next week, you can find a copy of the club timetable on the school website. May we remind all parents/carers to check finishing times and to ensure they are on time for collection.

Messages

May we remind parents that if you have a message/query for the class teacher regarding your child, please tell the office and they will forward your message on. The class teacher will then contact you.

We are a 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, music lessons etc. securely and safely. Just a reminder that we do not 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/over the phone as well as via the online payment system. Please contact the office if you would like a copy of your online payment (SCOPAY) details and instructions on how to setup your account or if you have lost your log in details.

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.

If you have any concerns about your child then please pop in to our

Inclusion Team Drop in

Don't forget we have added another day and time each week to allow more people access to this popular Drop In, please feel free to come along

Every Wednesday 8:30-9:30am

Every Thursday 2.30-3:00pm

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**.

End of School Day

A reminder that if someone else is collecting your child please do let us know. If your child is in EYFS, Year 1 or 2 please do tell the person who is collecting them your password as we cannot allow a child to leave with someone who does not know the password. If your child is in KS2 and they cannot see who should be collecting them at the end of the day, please can you remind them to stay with their teacher until they can see the person they are expecting rather than just wander off.



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.

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.



Uniform

We have been advised that Uniform Wise have unfortunately sold all their stock of our school ties. However we do hold some stock at the school office if you would like to purchase a tie.

Uniform Wise also moved premises during the summer holidays their new address is:
28-30 High Street
Stanford le Hope
SS17 0HQ

Breakfast Club

Remember children can just turn up to Breakfast Club any morning from 7.30am for just £2.50 a session. Please however note that we cannot admit anyone after 8.20am.

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.

Secondary School Applications

Year 6 parents will have already received information regarding applying for your child's place at Secondary School for 2020

Applications are now open and can be made online at: thurrock.gov.uk/admissions. Applications close on 31st October 2020, 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.

Twitter

We would like to remind you that Giffards has a Twitter account. We regularly post pictures and updates of the children's day showing you what they have been doing.

The school also regularly posts safeguarding updates on it's twitter feed for you to take a look at and familiarise yourself with the information provided.



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



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.

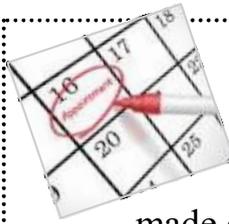
If your child is absent for more than 5 days then you will need to provide medical evidence in order for the absence to be authorised. Evidence can be in the form of a doctor's appointment card or you can bring in a prescription box/bottle for us to take a photocopy of.

We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

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.

If a dinner has not been ordered by 9.30am then you will need to provide a packed lunch for your child for that day.



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.

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.

End of School Day

A reminder that if someone else is collecting your child please do let us know. If your child is in EYFS, Year 1 or 2 please do tell the person who is collecting them your password as we cannot allow a child to leave with someone who does not know the password. If your child is in KS2 and they cannot see who should be collecting them at the end of the day, please can you remind them to stay with their teacher until they can see the person they are expecting rather than just wander off.

After School Pickup

To help with the safe collection of the KS2 pupils at the end of the day please stand back and leave the area clear around the small playground gate, thank you

Contact Details

Please remember to inform the school office of any changes to your contact details, including new mobile telephone numbers.

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.

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:

My Clothing

<https://myclothing.com/#/uniform>

Uniformwise 01268 551888

<https://www.uniformwise.co.uk/shop>



Diary Dates

- 11th Sept - 6.30pm Parents meeting in KS2 hall re Residential Trip
- 19th Sept -2pm EYFS Parent Share meeting in KS1 hall
- 20th Sept - School Photo's
- 25th Sept- 9.15am EYFS Phonics meeting for parents in KS1 hall
- 2nd Oct - EYFS Trip to Thorndon Park
- 3rd Oct - Yr3 Trip to Thorndon Park
- 4th Oct - EYFS Parents in class (The Gruffalo)
- 7th Oct - Yr 6 Residential Trip & Activity Week
- 8th Oct - Flu Immunisations
- 25th Oct - Inset Day
- 28th Oct—1st Nov. HALF TERM**
- 4th Nov - Back to School

Year 6 SATs 2020

11th-14th May 2019

Please do help by ensuring your child is not taken out of school