



GIFFARDS PRIMARY

JULY NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and Carers, I'd like to start by saying a huge well done to all the children for their fantastic behaviour and positive attitudes during transition week. The children were excited to meet their new teachers and have enjoyed practising being in their new year group. Thank you also to all the wonderful staff for ensuring this year has been a great one, despite the many COVID disruptions we experienced.

As the term draws to a close we are saying a fond farewell to some staff as their lives take them in different directions. Mrs Slaughter will be retiring at the end of this term after 17 years at the school. She's looking forward to spending more time with her husband. Mr Horsburgh is taking up a promoted post in Somerset, where he is moving to, to be closer to family. Miss Bright is off to pastures new and moving to Spain, to teach in an international school, Miss Szczygiel is moving school to be closer to where she lives and Mrs Latham is moving to another school locally.

Mr Feather will also be retiring after 21 years at the school. Mr Feather started as deputy head in the junior school in 2001 and saw the infant and junior schools amalgamate in 2005. This is a significant amount of time in which he has supported many staff and pupils at the school and seen the school grow from strength to strength. He has been a large part of this school and we are grateful for all his hard work, dedication and commitment over the years. We wish him a long and enjoyable retirement.

Whilst we are always sad to say goodbye to such wonderful members of staff we are privileged to have known and worked with such great colleagues. Thanks go to all these staff for their hard work and commitment over the years, you will be missed.

Congratulations to Miss Hammerton who will be getting married during the holiday's and will be returning as Mrs Tatnell, Good Luck on your special day.

We also have some wonderful staff returning and new staff joining us. We welcome back Mrs Choudhury and Mrs Lawrence. Mrs Choudhury will be working in Year 3 and Mrs Lawrence will be working across different classes.—welcome back! Miss Walker, our music teacher, has decided to take a break from teaching and in September our new Music teacher will be Mrs Linard. We also have a new teacher in Year 6, Mrs Robbins and joining the EYFS team is Mrs Owen. These staff are all experienced and we look forward to them adding to our dedicated team. Mrs Bowen and Miss Stefanie Ellis will be joining our LSA team.

We wish everyone a wonderful summer holiday and look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday 5th September

Fond Farewell Year 6

We say a fond farewell to all our Year 6 pupils who leave us to start the next stage of their school journey in senior school. They will take with them lots of happy memories. We wish them great success and happiness. It has been a delight having each and every one of the children as members of our school family. We are delighted we have been able to give the children some lovely celebrations, to mark the end of their primary education. They have all worked so hard and it has been a privilege to see how they have grown and developed over their time here. As well as academic success it was a joy to see them perform at 'Giffards Got Talent' and for them to share their dancing, singing, sporting and skills as comedians etc with us. We will remember you all, What superstars you all are!



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Against All Odds !

On the occasions I have been asked to write the words for the end of school year Newsletter, it always seems that I am writing about the success of our school against all the odds. For the school year 2021/22 it really was no different.

There was the on-going impact of COVID, issues with the economy/fuel/energy/supply chains & the implications of a terrible war in our region all impacting on the day to day running at the school and also the lives of our children, staff & their families.

Throughout all of this our school has tried to maintain a haven for normality, creating the safe, happy & stable environment for our children to develop, learn & play. This was confirmed by the GOOD rating & words provided after our recent Ofsted inspection. There were so many positive statements I haven't got room to share them all however one of the comments was that "The pupils at Giffards Primary School are walking, talking examples of the school's values, particularly being caring and respectful, building warm, supportive relationships with staff. Pupils are keen to achieve well."

This comment, along with many others, show the pride our children take in being part of the 'Giffards' family, led by the excellent work & support by all who work at Giffards Primary.

The further comment "Pupils access to effective remote learning has helped many to keep up with their education" showed specifically how all involved with the school pulled to together to develop, integrate & facilitate a teaching & learning solution that went a long way to reducing the impact of the enforced COVID isolation.

At the recent Full Governing Body Meeting the Head Teacher reported excellent test results across the school & subjects, showing good progress & positive attainment.

Against all the odds our School & all involved, again succeeded where others struggled.

Accordingly on behalf of the Governing Body I wanted to put on record our thanks to everyone who is part of the 'Giffards' family for all their efforts during the last academic year.

I would like to wish everyone (pupils and their families & staff) who are moving on to pastures new, all the very best with the next stage of your lives, you will always be remembered as a part of Giffards Primary.

Have a happy, peaceful, restful summer & return in September fired up for another round of challenges.

Many Thanks,

Dave Stubbings

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National Golf Tournament

On Saturday 25th June Ellis in Year 6 and his team (4 players) played in the Junior National Knockout Competition at Chelmsford Golf Club.

Ellis and his team won and they are now through to the next round.



Well Done!

Borough Olympics

Congratulations to everyone that participated this year. The children did amazingly well and brought home the Track Events Trophy.

PSA

A big thank you to our fantastic PSA for all of the events they have organised over the last year and the support they have given to the school. It is really appreciated. Thank you to the parents and cares who have supported the events too.

Griffin Foundation Trust

Another big thank you, this time to the Griffin Foundation Trust who made a generous donation to help fund our lovely new reading area upstairs in KS2.

School Dinners Increase

Because of the current financial climate and due to the rapid increases in the inflationary cost of food, fuel, materials, transport and the national living wage, during the last twelve months, Thurrock Council are reluctantly increasing a school dinner by 10p of all meals provided by Thurrock Catering Services.

The increase will take effect from September 2022 the start of the new academic year. **A school dinner will increase from £2.30 to £2.40.**

We would also like to remind you that dinners are to be paid for in advance or on the day to prevent arrears building up



Freephone 0800 652 1256

[f /thurrockfostering](https://www.facebook.com/thurrockfostering)

#MakeADifference

Thurrock Fostering are looking for new or experienced Foster Carers and you do not have to live in Thurrock to be a Foster Carer for us.

If you have been thinking about fostering for a while, or are an existing Foster Carer looking for new challenges and experiences, join one of our upcoming information sessions to find out more.

Our virtual and in-person information sessions are an opportunity to view a short presentation, find out about our competitive fostering allowances and benefits, as well as having your questions answered by the Thurrock Fostering team and our current Foster Carers. Please email fostering.adoption@thurrock.gov.uk to confirm which information session you would like to join, and the team will send you some additional information.

For more information on the great benefits of becoming a Thurrock Foster Carer, to make an enquiry, or for more upcoming information events please visit thurrock.gov.uk/fostering



- **Saturday 6 August 2022**
10am to 11:30am
Virtual information session
Presentation starts at 10:05am
- **Thursday 25 August 2022**
6pm to 8pm
Virtual information session
Presentation starts at 6:05pm
- **Saturday 3 September 2022**
In-person information stands at the Orsett Show (ticket required) and Basildon Pride Festival (free entry)
- **Tuesday 6 September 2022**
10am to midday
Virtual information session
Presentation starts at 10:05am

 thurrock.gov.uk



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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'

School Uniform

Uniform Wise, Urban Uniform and My Clothing and are all suppliers of our uniform.

Please see contact details below for all suppliers.

School Uniform:

My Clothing

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

Uniformwise 01375 644744

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

Urban Uniform 01375 767997

<http://www.urbanuniform19@gmail.com>

Diary Dates

We will be adding dates as the weeks go on so please do keep an eye out on our website and this newsletter.

- 22nd July - Last Day of Term
- 1st & 2nd September - Non Pupil Days
- 5th September - Children Return to School
- 13th September - Year 6 PGL Parent Meeting
- 7th October - Individual School Photos
- 10th-14th October - Year 6 Activity Week/Residential
- 17th November - Flu immunisations
- 24th - 28th October - Half Term
- 31st October - Non Pupil Day
- 21st & 23rd November - Years 3-6 Parents Evening
- 22nd & 24th November - Reception & Years 1&2 Parents Evening
- 16th December - Last Day of Term
- 3rd January - Children Return to School

8th-12th May 2023 SATs week

Contact Details

If anyone changes their contact details or has moved recently please do let us know as soon as possible! It is really important we are always made aware of changes in case of emergency.



Parent Groupcalls

May we remind parents/carers to check their emails regularly as the school will be sending out regular updates and information via email.



Online Payment System

A reminder that we cannot accept cash in the school. We do ask parents to use our online payment system but can also accept payments directly via credit/debit card.

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

[Pay Online](#)

Breakfast Club

Remember children can just turn up to Breakfast Club any morning from 7.30am for just £3.00 a session. Please however note that we cannot admit anyone after 8.20am.

Menu

Our new menu will start on Week 2 of the school dinner menu. You can see the menu on the school website. We would like to remind you that you should pay either in advance or on the day for dinners and all arrears should be paid by the end of each week.