



# St Giles' C of E (A) Infant School

*Newsletter*

11<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year to everyone! I hope everyone enjoyed the Christmas festivities with family and friends. On behalf of the staff, I would like to thank parents for your very generous gifts, cards and messages at the end of term – it was very kind of you all. Although this term is a little shorter than last term, it is still very busy so please do see the Dates for your Diary at the end of the newsletter for events coming up, including parents evenings for this term and our forthcoming trip to Guildford Cathedral for an Easter Pause Day (details to be given nearer the time).

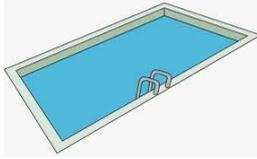
We have a 'Space' theme around the school at the moment! This week, the children witnessed an 'alien invasion' in Reception and Year 1 and we were able to quickly invite our expert scientist, Mr Phippen, to see if he could work out how it got there! We look forward to seeing some amazing writing and future learning from the children over the next few weeks.

In Year 2, the children watched 'The Man on the Moon', which was the John Lewis Christmas advert from 2015. The children have been exploring feelings and emotions through this form of media, which is supporting their writing.

All the class 'Topic Maps' will be on the website by next week, so you can see the learning that will be covered this term for each year group.

## **Year 2 Breakfast Boosters**

We have had a positive start to our Year 2 Maths and English groups this week and the children have arrived early in school ready to learn! Please could we remind you that the groups **start** at 8.20am – it is really important that the children are in by this time, so we can maximise learning time. Thank you for your support with this.



## Year 1 Swimming

Please can we ask that all swimming consent forms for Year 1 swimming are returned by Monday at the latest. We need to group the children according to swimming ability and this does take a little bit of time, so we do need the forms back in order to do this. Any parents who have kindly offered to help us with walking the children to and from Freeman's, will be contacted directly by Mrs Peachey next week, with a rota indicating which weeks you have been allocated to help with.

Please could I also just remind parents that the children will not be allowed in the swimming pool if they do not have a hat – this is a requirement of the Freeman's pool.



## Jigsaw Programme

Personal, Social, and Health Education is a statutory part of the curriculum. We are excited to be launching our new scheme of work for this important subject in the form of a programme called 'Jigsaw'. This lively, engaging and age appropriate way of teaching PSHE will be launched next week with the whole school and our first topic for this half term is 'Dreams and Goals'.

In the Dates for your Diary you will see a parent workshop on 'Jigsaw' which we will be running later this term, combined with a workshop on our 'Thrive' approach as the two are very linked. For more information on 'Jigsaw' which is being used successfully in a large number of Primary schools across the country please see the attached parent guide which has been sent with this week's newsletter



## St Giles' Stars

Well done to everyone who received a certificate this week for our first certificate assembly of 2019! What super stars you all are!

Owls – Leo P, Hunter and Diya

Squirrels – Oliver, Dylan and Kikee-Lea

Rabbits – Sofia, Annabelle and Aimee

Badgers – Mia-Rose, Sonny and Teddy



## Attendance

Please can I remind you that I am unable to authorise any leave of absence during term time. I am still receiving a high number of special leave requests. Absences of 5 school days or over may incur a penalty notice which will be issued by the local authority. Our attendance policy is available on our website. Your support with this is much appreciated – thank you.

Our Educational Welfare Officer, Mrs Tutt, was in school this week looking at individual pupil attendance and the whole school attendance picture.

## Morning drop off

We very much operate an 'open door' policy at St Giles' and will always respond to parent requests and any concerns. Could I please ask however, that if you wish to speak with your child's class teacher in some detail about something, that these conversations take place at the end of the day or through a mutually convenient appointment time. The morning is very busy and the teachers are statutorily required to take the register by 9am at the latest so they do need to be in with the children in the classrooms whilst they complete their 'Morning Challenges'. Thank you for your support with this.



## Absence from school

We fully understand that at this time of year, there are many 'winter bugs' doing the rounds and that from time to time children may be absent from school due to illness. If your child is just off for one or two days, please do not worry about completing work with them at home as they need time to recuperate and recover, so that they can return to school. If your child is off school for a significant period of time, the class teachers may talk to individual parents about perhaps completing some short learning related tasks at home.



Class Assemblies



You're Invited!

This term, we will be having our class/year group assemblies. We trialled this last year and the feedback was very positive from parents. Please see the Dates for your Diary as to when your child's class assembly will take place. Please note that Rabbits and Badger classes will be doing a **joint** assembly as a whole Year 2 cohort.

Have a lovely week end everyone!

Best Wishes,

Mrs Nicky Angus

Headteacher



### **Spring Term Diary Dates**

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February – HALF TERM

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March –Parents Evening (5-8pm)**

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March - Year 2 assembly (Rabbits **and** Badgers) at 9.15am

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March –Parents Evening (3.30-6pm)**

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March – Year 1 assembly (Squirrels) at 9.15am

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March – Easter Pause Day trip to Guildford Cathedral (Owls and Rabbits) – details to follow nearer the time

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March – Easter Pause Day trip to Guildford Cathedral (Squirrels and Badgers) – details to follow nearer the time

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March – Reception class assembly (Owls) at 9.15am

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March – Jigsaw/Thrive workshop for parents (9am and 6pm)

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – End of term service at St Giles' Church at 9.30am

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April – End of term at 1.45pm

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April – Start of summer term**