



# St Giles' School

Newsletter

6<sup>th</sup> September, 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a new academic year! On behalf of all the staff, I would like to personally thank parents for their kind messages, cards and gifts that we received at the end of term – it was very generous of you all.

### **INSET training – what did we get up to?**

Yesterday, it was lovely for the staff team to spend time together at the start of a new year. We managed to fit a lot of training in, including safeguarding, policies and procedures and data management with the team from 'Pupil Asset'!

### **Teaching arrangements for Mrs Angus this year**

This year I am pleased to be teaching RE in Year 2 (Monday afternoon) and in Year 1 (Tuesday afternoon) each week. I will also be teaching Year 2 on a Wednesday morning whilst Miss Mutch has her statutory planning, preparation and assessment time.

Miss Mutch and I will be starting our Breakfast Booster groups the week beginning Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September for identified Year 2 children. Parents will get a letter next week inviting their child to join either Maths with Miss Mutch on a Monday or Writing with me on a Wednesday morning from 8.20am-8.45am.

### **Staffing update**

We welcome Ms Gencyigit to St Giles', teaching in Squirrel class. We hope she will be very happy here with us. Over the summer holiday, one of our staff members, Mrs Fitzpatrick, secured a position at another local school, so we wish her well in her new post and thank her for her dedication and commitment to the children of St Giles' over the past 7 years. For the time being, Mrs Cunningham will be supporting Ms Gencyigit in Year 1.

### **Building update ... a busy summer!**

Over the summer holiday there have been a number of projects to improve and upgrade the school and facilities.

- All the gutters and drainpipes have been replaced.
- The flat roof at the back of school has been renewed.
- All the woodwork has been repainted or replaced where necessary and some new windows installed.

- The old Year 2 classroom has been converted into a shared Club Room and Thrive Room. Red Banana will be running breakfast and after school club from the room and during the day the Thrive Room will be the base for Mrs Pirt in her role as Home School Link Worker.



- With the creation of the Club Room the Cookery Room is now fully functional as a Cookery Room!



- A new website has been developed and will go 'live' soon .....we will let you know when once we have a final date!
- Lastly but by no means least from an admin point of view, we have had new computer servers installed and upgraded to Windows 10!

There will always be a few niggles following the amount of work and changes that have taken place so please bear with us! One of the problems already encountered is the front door is sticking! Please remember to push and then pull the door open gently! Thank you.

#### **What are we using our 'spare' classroom for?**

As you will be aware, we have reduced our PAN (Pupil Admission Numbers) from this September, so we now have three classes of EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2.

Miss Mutch's classroom from last year is now home to Red Banana for Breakfast Club and After School Club.

We have also set up the room as our new Thrive/Nurture space and if you have a chance to have a look in, you will see the amazing work Mrs Pirt has done over the summer holiday. She has been incredibly creative – thank you, Mrs Pirt! The room will be a multi-purpose room, enabling Mrs Pirt to meet with parents and carry out her Thrive work with individual children and small groups.

As you will have seen last term, Mrs Pirt is our new Home School Link Worker and she will also be continuing with her Thrive practitioner role. We hope this new role will be instrumental in supporting children, parents and families with the challenges and demands that life can throw at all of us!

If you would like to make an appointment to see Mrs Pirt, please do so via the office. We have allocated 11.30am-12pm and 3-3.30pm for parents to be able to see Mrs Pirt but of course if you have an urgent matter, she will do her best to see you at other times.

As most of you are aware, Thrive is our emotional well-being support programme and is offered to any child should they need it. Life can also be challenging for children and any child can be thrown emotionally 'off track' at any point in their lives. The Thrive programme is a bespoke intervention programme, tailored to meet the specific emotional needs of each child.

If your child was receiving Thrive last year, or if your child is going to be receiving Thrive this term, you will receive an updated Thrive action plan over the next couple of weeks. If you feel your child would benefit from Thrive emotional support, then your first port of call is to discuss this with the class teacher who will then liaise with Mrs Pirt.

Finally, you will have hopefully seen that we have a brand new fenced area by this classroom, which has been built by Mr Baker (husband to Mrs Baker!) over the holidays – thank you! This will mean that children using the Thrive/Nurture room, as well as Red Banana children, will have a safe outside area in which to play.



The Government recommend yearly attendance for any pupil is 95% or above for the academic year.

Attendance is a big focus on our School Development Plan this year. We will be launching our 'Attendance Heroes' reward scheme next week with the children with lots of special stickers and certificates to be awarded over the coming weeks and terms! Please, please, please can we make every effort to ensure that the children are in school every day and it would be fantastic to report to parents and governors that I have had a reduction in the number of special leave requests this academic year. Attendance and punctuality do matter and we saw last year that persistent absence and lateness can impact on children's attainment and progress.

I am unable to authorise any leave of absence during term time unless the request meets our exceptional circumstances criteria (please see our Attendance Policy on our website). Absences of 5 school days or over may incur a penalty notice which will be issued by the local authority. Please ensure that if your child is absent from school, that you phone the office first thing each day by 9.15am to report the absence – thank you. Please could we also remind you that the doors close for the beginning of school at 8.55am, with the registers being taken by 9am. Any child that comes in after this time will have a late mark on the register.

### **Punctuality**

Please ensure your child is on time – we go straight into learning once the children have been registered and this usually involves a teacher led input, which will then lead into the activities for English or Maths. If your child misses this part of the morning it is very difficult for them to be able to understand what the lesson is about and the teachers are not able to repeat their input, as they will need to be working with individuals and small groups of children. We still have a number of children who are missing a key part of their learning each week due to lateness to school.

### **Alternative pick up arrangements**

Please ensure that staff know who will be picking up your child at the end of the day. There are communication books available in each classroom for you to write in if somebody else will be collecting your child at home-time. Please can you ensure that if there are unforeseen changes to the pick up arrangements, that we are informed before the end of school so there is no confusion at the end of the day – this is for safeguarding reasons, and if we do not know about any changes, we will not be able to release the child until we have confirmation from the parent.

### **Forthcoming INSET Days for Academic Year 2019/2020**

- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019
- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020
- Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020

Best wishes,

Mrs Nicky Angus  
Headteacher

**Autumn Term 2019** (new dates in red)



Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September – New Reception children start school part time

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September – Reception children in full time

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September – Skipping workshop for all children – details to follow

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2019 - "Superheroes & Princesses Picnic & Games Afternoon" - PTA Family Event – details to follow

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October – Harvest Service

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2019 - "Bringing Reading to Life" - PTA after school event – details to follow**

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November – HALF TERM

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November – INSET Day

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November – Parents' Evening (5-8pm)**

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November – Parents' Evening (3.30-6pm)**

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December - "Where is our Elf on a Shelf?" PTA after school event – details to follow

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December – “Carols by Glow-Light” PTA event – details to follow

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 1.45pm – Christmas Nativity! (younger siblings welcome)

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am and 1.45pm – Christmas Nativity! (adults only please)

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Service at St Giles' church at 9.30am

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Disco – details to follow

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December – End of term at 1.45pm