



St Giles School News

February 2024

'Be the best you can be'

Specialist School for Physical and Sensory

www.st-gilesschool.co.uk

Dear Parents / Carers,

As always at this time of year, I find it hard to believe that we already find ourselves half way through the school year and very soon we will be in the final term of this academic year. Where does the time go!?

On the note of thank you - thank you to everyone who reads the comments from your class staff and responds back through the home school book. It is always lovely for staff to read such positive feedback as well as constructive criticism about how we can improve. Ultimately we are all in this together and just like you, want the best for all our / your children. Thank you also to you all those parents/carers who came to see me on the 28th February 2024. I will arrange more dates in summer term 2024. Again the importance of us working in partnership to co-educate the children cannot be overstated. This partnership can only be to the good of the children.

Following the above, from all of us at St. Giles' School we wanted to thank you for the continued support you provide us in our strive to give your children the very best everyday. We really could not do it without you all. Thank you also for all the positive feedback and support you give us verbally, in writing.

I hope that you all had a lovely half-term holiday and are already enjoying the busy rest of the term we have ahead (there are only three weeks and three school days left!). Finally have a great St. David's Day on 1st March 2024!

Mr. Hehir

Sam Nessling - Appointment of new permanent Assistant Head teacher

It is with great celebration that I can announce to the parent/carer body the appointment of our own Samantha Nessling to the position of permanent Assistant Head Teacher from January 2024. We wish her all the best in her future role and there will be opportunities to officially meet her in her new role in Spring and Summer term 2024.

Students who have unplanned absence

Can I ask for parents/carers to contact the school by telephone /email before 8.00am each morning for any unplanned student absence. The school student absence number is 0208 680 2141 / email : absence@st-giles.croydon.sch.uk

Please give:

A/Your name

B/Your child's name

C/Reason for absence and

D/If know planned date of return to school.

Note - if you can call the school back the day before you expect your child to return the school. Also for every day of student unplanned absence can you also contact the school before 8.00am.

Dates for the diary

School INSET - Thursday 28th March 2024 - This is a non-student day.

Parents/carers evening - Wednesday 19th June 2024 from 4pm to 6pm

We wish everyone a wonderful March 2024!

Kind regards,

Mr. Hehir

DATES FOR THE DIARY

March 2024

Thu 28th Mar: Inset day—school closed for pupils

Easter holidays: Fri 29th Mar - Fri 12th Apr

April 2024

Mon 15th Apr - Term starts

May 2024

Mon 6th May: Bank holiday (school closed)

Tue 7th May: Inset day (school closed for pupils)

Half Term: Mon 27th May - Fr 31st May

June 2024

Mon 3rd June—Term starts

Summer Holidays: Thu 25th July - Tues 3rd Sep

Term starts Wed 4th Sep

Croydon Healthy Homes

You can now access all the information on our domestic energy advice in one place: www.croydon.gov.uk/energyadvice

and the Croydon Healthy Homes paper referral form has been updated. Croydon Healthy Homes is a private sector only service for homeowners and private renters

Croydon Town Centre Regeneration Strategy

Get involved and have your say on the future of Croydon town centre!

Croydon Council is asking residents, community groups and businesses to get involved in a range of activities to learn and have fun while helping to shape plans for the future of the town centre.

You can let us know your thoughts through the 'Croydon Town Centre: Have your say' Survey. This survey was made by locals as part of a programme of [creative workshops](#) and [resources](#) to help the community get involved in creating a Croydon Town Centre Regeneration Strategy being made by Croydon Council. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeWPeossW1sdabJOiLw1zZJBu3Oi0QYB4Z0tXMBKXIGVR2_6g/viewform

[Use this digital version designed with & for young people!](#) For younger children to get involved, there is also the super fun [Family Activity Guide!](#)

Printed versions are available at [Turf Projects](#) in the Whitgift Centre and local libraries if you'd prefer a physical copy. You can email to request physical copies are dropped off and collected.

My name is Sam Nessling and I am the new permanent Assistant Head teacher at St Giles School.

I have been a teacher for 11 years, beginning my career in a mainstream school before being appointed as the Head of Middle and teacher of Green class at St Giles for 7 Years. When I returned from maternity leave, I was an Acting Assistant Head teacher for a year before being appointment permanently.

Working at St Giles is a teaching post like no other. I love the bespoke education we provide our young people as we support them to really be the best they can be. One of my favourite things to see is a pupil learners to communicate in their own way and being able to control elements of their surroundings, for example using switches, eye gaze or communication aids.

My main responsibilities as the Assistant Head are Assessment, Behaviour as a form of communication and Staff training.

Assessment enables us to see the steps pupils are making towards their goals. These could be targets set at the EHCP review or targets set by the class teacher lesson by lesson. It enables us to plan for what our pupils can currently do, and what we would like them to achieve.

I am very passionate about Behaviour as a form of communication and supporting pupils in being able to regulate their behaviours and manage their emotions effectively. I work alongside teachers to develop behaviour and regulation plans for our young people and review these regularly.

I love teaching and this includes supporting staff to reach their career goals and develop the next generation of teachers and teaching assistants. This enables us as a school to use best practise and develop a range of expertise which support us in providing a bespoke education for our pupils.

My dream would be to educate the world to make it a better, more inclusive place for our young people so that they can access the range of opportunities and experiences that their mainstream peers have. I love re-creating these experiences the best we can at St Giles through our many WOW days.

I really hope I get to meet many more of you at some of our Parent and Carer events over the next term or two!



Please see the monthly Newsletter from our Catering Company Aspens.

**GOOD
FOR YOU &
GOOD
FOR THE
PLANET**

NEW - Feed Your Family of 4 for £5

Discover our NEW VIDEO SERIES on affordable and delicious ways to feed your family of four with just £5!



Scan the QR codes below to view the recipe card & step by step video to start cooking up a delicious Chorizo Paella!



Plus, there's a scrumptious vegetarian option and endless possibilities to customise this recipe to your liking!

Aspens



CHORIZO PAELLA



**FEED YOUR
FAMILY
FOR £5**

Feed your family of four for £5 with this delicious Chorizo Paella recipe. You can make it yourself, just scan below to watch the method and get the recipe card.



SCAN ME



TO WATCH

SCAN ME



**FOR THE
RECIPE CARD**

Witness the magic of Nightwriter Nyx, an innovative creation by artist Gijs Van Bon, that creates glowing text on the ground using photoluminescent powder and special sand.

Featuring poetry by talented local young people from Croydon, expressing their voices and stories. This is a collaboration with Croydon's Poet Laureate, Shaniqua Benjamin, as part of Out of Silence.

Friday 8 and Saturday 9 March 5:30 – 8:30pm

Nightwriter Nyx will follow a moving trail, starting at 5:30pm from:

**THIS IS
CROYDON**
LONDON BOROUGH
OF CULTURE



MORE INFO



FOOD FESTIVAL
by Aspens

ONIONS FUN FACTS

- 1. UNDERGROUND TREASURES:** ONIONS GROW UNDERGROUND AS BULBS, JUST LIKE A HIDDEN TREASURE WAITING TO BE DISCOVERED.
- 2. LAYERS OF GOODNESS:** WHEN YOU CUT OPEN AN ONION, YOU'LL SEE LOTS OF LAYERS. EACH LAYER IS LIKE A PIECE OF FLAVOUR WAITING TO BE COOKED.
- 3. CRYING MYSTERY:** SOMETIMES, ONIONS MAKE US CRY WHEN WE CUT THEM. BUT THERE'S A TRICK! IF YOU CHILL THE ONION IN THE FRIDGE BEFORE CUTTING, IT MIGHT NOT MAKE YOU CRY.
- 4. GARDEN FRIENDS:** ONIONS CAN HELP PROTECT OTHER PLANTS IN THE GARDEN. THEIR STRONG SMELL CAN KEEP PESTS AWAY.
- 5. FUN FACT:** DID YOU KNOW THAT ONIONS CAN GROW IN DIFFERENT SHAPES AND SIZES? SOME CAN BE AS SMALL AS A MARBLE, WHILE OTHERS CAN BE AS BIG AS A TENNIS BALL!

Did you know? INTERNATIONAL FACT

The Egyptians thought that the onion's concentric layers symbolised eternal life and they were often placed in the tombs of pharaohs.

FOOD FESTIVAL
by Aspens

DRAW THE ONION

Connect the dots to create the onion character. Why not colour them in as well.

GOOD FOR YOU & GOOD FOR THE PLANET

GOOD FOR YOU

57 is the number...

... of different plants on the menu including fruits, vegetables, whole grains and plant proteins offering a wide range of nutritional benefits.

GOOD FOR YOU

Did you know?

We have reduced the average amount of salt in our main meals by 13% since our last menu cycle.