



St Giles School News

January 2024

'Be the best you can be'

Specialist School for Physical and Sensory

www.st-gilesschool.co.uk

I know Christmas and the new year will be a distant memory, but I am taking this opportunity to wish you all the best for 2024 and I hope that you all had a good break.

It might be cold and windy out, but it's been full steam ahead, here in school. The children are well and truly in the swing of this new Spring Term and continue to show excellent attitudes to learning. The children have settled back into school and from the smiles and laughter I see around the site, are happy to be back.

I wish to thank all parents/carers again for welcoming me to the school during my first term. I am again going to make myself available to meet parents/carers if they wish me to meet me about any matter. The dates this term I am going to make myself available are:

Friday 2nd February 2024 from 9.00am to 3.00pm

And

Wednesday 28th February 2023 from 9.00am to 3.00pm

Please contact the school office to arrange a 30 minute meeting, the time you wish to meet and the format of the meeting (e.g. face to face in school, over TEAMS or by phone).

New staff and new positions

I would like to welcome Mrs. Colclasure, our new Music teacher to St. Giles' School. Mrs. Colclasure is working with all classes from Monday to Wednesday each week. I am sure that all students, staff and parents/carers will make Mrs. Colclasure welcome to our school.

Mrs. Bell has been appointed Deputy Headteacher at St. Giles' School from January 2024. Mrs. Nessling has been appointed permanent Assistant Head at St. Giles' School from January 2024. We wish both members of staff all the best in their new roles.

Home school communication book reminder

This is reminder to all parents/carers that this is the first point of contact between home and school. I wish to encourage all parents/carers to read this communication book each evening to review what has happened during the school day with your child. Please add feedback to this or questions that you may have, and this will allow your class teacher/class staff to respond. Thank you in advance for this.

Attendance reminder

Excellent school attendance continues to be a priority for our school community. We ask that if your child/children are going to be absent from school

that you continue to inform us before 8.00am by ringing the school office or preferably emailing our dedicated absence address:

absence@st-giles.croydon.sch.uk

Thank you to all those children who have wonderful attendance and to those parents/carers who contact the school about absences in advance.

This will avoid unauthorised absences if possible.

I wish all parents/carers and their families a happy 2024 and I wish everyone a purposeful rest of January 2024!

S. Hehir

My name is Fiona Bell and I am the new Deputy Head teacher at St Giles School.

I have been a teacher at St Giles for twelve glorious years. I have been honoured to play a part in the young people's lives of our school and have forged positive relationships with our families over this time.

Prior to becoming the new Deputy Head, I was an Acting Assistant Head Teacher for a year and the Head of Upper School and PE lead for 10 years.

My main responsibilities as the Deputy Head are Safeguarding and the Curriculum.

Safeguarding is an essential aspect of any school setting, as it helps to protect and support the school community. This is my priority every day at St Giles.

My other major responsibility is Curriculum. OFSTED recognised "that there is an ambitious curriculum in place that meets the very particular needs of pupils who attend the school." I am very excited to continue to lead the St Giles Curriculum on its journey.

My philosophy here at St Giles is simple and that is to give our students a range of opportunities similar to their main-stream peers, which is why my favourite event of the year is the Leavers Prom.

One of my most proud moments at St Giles was coaching our Boccia team who represented London at the national schools Boccia tournament.

Over the next term I hope to set time aside to have parent / carer pop ins so you can put a name to a face.



Croydon disability register and access card

Leisure and activity discounts for all children and young people on our disability register.

We have partnered with Nimbus Disability to offer a discount card to all children and young people on our disability register. The card is free and is part of a national access card scheme, giving benefits and discounts to facilities and activities across the country.

About the access card

The access card is widely accepted as proof of a disabled person's needs, and provides access to concessions such as free companion passes and tickets.

The card has symbols which confirm a person's needs, to inform providers quickly and discreetly about the support that may be required. Visit www.accesscard.org.uk/find-a-credible-provider/ to see all the organisations which offer benefits to access card holders. Many organisations not listed still provide benefits, so keep your card with you just in case.

All children and young people in Croydon with moderate or severe disabilities should join the register.

To qualify, a child or young person will need to meet all the following criteria:

- be diagnosed with a permanent and substantial disability
 - live in the borough
 - be aged 18 years or younger
- The access card is available across the UK for £15, but is provided free to Croydon residents as a benefit of joining the disability register.

CROYDON
www.croydon.gov.uk

Parental Engagement Survey

Your feedback is valuable and incredibly informative. Please take a moment of your time to complete this parent survey about engagement. The survey can be found by entering the link below in the web browser either on your phone, computer or tablet.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc8rO_zqe4weuX1uxh4rHA1I2MdH2jtJCVVzMoUEX_Cy5WFEyQ/viewform?usp=pp_url

The deadline for responses is **Monday 5th February 2024.**

Thank you for your continued support.

Nicole Todd (Head of Lower Department)

Drop off and pick up from front of school

Can I ask for the support of all parents/carers about the prompt dropping of and picking up of their children at the front of school. We have limited spaces at the front of school and to ensure that our young people enter and exit the site swiftly, could we ask parents/carers to try to limit their time in school. This will allow other vehicles and other parents/carers to access this area.

If you need to speak to a member of staff please book this in advance with the member of staff.

I thank you for your support in this matter.

Kind regards,

Stephen

DATES FOR THE DIARY

February 2024

Half term : Mon 12th Feb—Fri 16th Feb

Term starts: Mon 19th Feb

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

Mon 3rd June—Term starts

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