



St Giles School News

March 2024

'Be the best you can be'

Specialist School for Physical and Sensory

www.st-gilesschool.co.uk

Dear Parent and Carers

Hopefully the daffodils are smiling in your gardens as we head into Spring - where has the year gone!? Over the last half term I have had the pleasure along with my Senior Leadership Team (SLT) of visiting all classrooms and watching wonderful learning opportunities. This has ranged from seeing fantastic phonics lessons, RE lessons on Christening, lessons on the weather, and lessons about how to stay healthy in PSHE etc. It has been a delight to see students learning to their full potential and the innovative and creative ways our curriculum is being delivered to all.

Thank you to all those parents/carers who attended WOW events during the week beginning Monday 18th March 2024. It was a pleasure to see so many parents/carers attend and see their children learning in their classrooms. Well done to all staff and Heads of Department in particular for organising these events!

There have been many other events in spring half term 2 (it has really only been four weeks!) from World book day to Red Nose day to celebrating Saints days such as St. David's day to St. Patricks! A reminder that the end of Spring term for students is Wednesday 27th March 2024. School re-opens for students on Monday 15th April 2024.

I wish all students and their families a restful and enjoyable Easter. To those families who are also observing Ramadan I wish to say 'Eid Mubarak' in advance for Eid-ul Fitr when it arrives!

Students who have unplanned absence

Can I ask for parents/carers to call/ email the school before 8.00am each morning for any unplanned student absence. The school student absence number / email is 0208 641 2141 / Absence@st-giles.croydon.sch.uk.

Please give:

1. Your name
2. Your child's name
3. Reason for absence and
4. 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

Have a wonderful last week of Spring term 2024!

Stephen



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

Spring Celebration Day

This week we have enjoyed the Spring Wow events in our departments. Parents and carers came in to join students in a class based activity as chose through class votes in our school council meeting this term. Each class either made chocolate corn flake cakes, decorated Spring wreaths or planted seeds and bulbs with their friends, families and adults in class. We then headed outside to enjoy three different activities including a sensory bunny hunt (Lower and Middle Department) or some call and response activities (Upper school). Students also engaged with various activities at the sensory station on the track including switch toys, sensory exploration bags and bubbles machines/giant wands. They also had the opportunity to dress up and pose for a Spring photo in our photo booth. A big thanks to those who purchased items on the enterprise stall during the coffee morning part for parents including chocolate slabs, Easter bags, seed packets, key rings and coasters. The money raised will go toward purchasing resources for events and enterprise activities in the future.

Thank you to all those who were able to join in the celebrations for our Spring Wow Event! The students had a wonderful time.



Hello St Giles community, my name is Ewa Wilhelm, I am the teacher in Keller class, Science leader and new permanent Head of the Upper Department.

I started my career in education in 2008 as a teaching assistant. Very early on, I discovered that my heart is in special education. Years of working as a Teaching Assistant enabled me to learn from experienced amazing teachers and other professionals. It also taught me how to work as team player, in various settings with children from different backgrounds.

After I graduated in 2018, I was fortunate to begin my journey as a teacher at St Giles School in Keller class and now Upper head of the department.

During my time at St Giles, working with fantastic teams, great professionals and most importantly, extraordinary young people, I feel that I gained the new skills and knowledge to enable me to fulfil my role of facilitating the growth and development of my students.

During my time working as a teacher and now Head of Department, I have been able to continuously develop in my roles and gain experience in co-ordinating teams, contributing to the organisation of school events, class staff development, working closely with students' families and professionals, creating inclusive learning environments and curriculum development.

As a teacher, I prepare and deliver a personalised, sensory-based curriculum and monitor progress to ensure the highest level of progress for students.

I am very passionate about my job and it brings me lots of joy and fulfilment, however, the best part of it is working with students of St Giles school who are unique individuals and never fail to surprise me and my colleagues with their resilience, achievements, remarkable attitude and creativity.

It is the most rewarding thing to be able to be part of our learners' journey to be the best they can be and also to have the opportunity to learn from them and to be inspired by them.

As a person whose English is a second language, I understand well the frustrations of not being understood and it is my great passion to use my roles to ensure that our learners are being heard and valued.

One of the most crucial parts of my job as Keller class teacher and Upper department lead is to work closely with parents and my colleagues to prepare our students for their next important step in their education and to help them to have a successful and smooth transition to their next settings.

In my opinion, one of the best events of the school year is the Prom, which is an amazing opportunity to celebrate our learners and their achievements over the years at St Giles. It is always sad to see our learners leave but this feeling is always overshadowed with pride and joy seeing young adults move to their next chapter.

Best wishes,
Ewa



The Carers Information Service provides information, advice and support to carers in Croydon who are looking after someone who needs their help to due to illness, disability or older age. The Advice Desk at the Carers Support Centre is currently open 10am – 1pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays for carers to drop-in and get advice from an advice worker. You can also contact us by calling 020 8649 9339 option 1 and leave a message if we are unable to answer at the time of your call, or emailing us on

enquiries@carersinfo.org.uk and one of our advice workers will get back to you as soon as they are available.

Carers Café - come and visit us

We are open from 10:30am to 12:30pm on Monday's, Wednesday's and Friday's. Come and enjoy a drink and a chat with other carer.

Find us at the Carers Support Centre, 24 George Street, CR0 1PB

[k](#) and one of our advice workers will get back to you as soon as they are available.

contact *For families with disabled children*

Upcoming Workshops:

Our online workshops are FREE for parents and carers– please do let your families know!

Wellbeing: Thursday 21st March 19.00 - 21.00 via Zoom.

What causes you stress and how do you cope with it at present? Parenting can seem full of challenges and stressful times. Supporting the needs of a child with a rare condition can lead to a sense of isolation and affect your wellbeing in many different ways.

This online workshop will give you an opportunity to:

- understand clearly what stress is and how it affects you
- identify those factors which cause you stress and establish how you cope with these at present
- learn about coping mechanisms and each other's coping styles

To find out more and to secure your place please book via [Eventbrite](#)

How to Handle Meetings: Thursday, 11 Apr 2024 19:00 - 21:00 via Zoom

This online workshop will help you to to handle meetings to discuss your child's specialist needs and get the right support for them.

You'll learn about preparing for meetings, develop your skills for online and in-person meetings and learn how to feel more confident to help you reach the best outcomes for your child.

Siblings workshop for parent carers: Tuesday 16 April 10.00 -12.00 via Zoom

This online workshop offers a non-judgemental, confidential space to explore common issues parent carers face with managing the different needs of their children and hear strategies that could help.

Cerebra Sleep Study Project

The study is looking at how sleep difficulties and daytime behaviours interact in children with rare genetic syndromes.

The Cerebra Sleep Project is looking for children with Cornelia De Lange, Smith Magenis, Fragile X and

Tuberous Sclerosis syndrome. The study is looking at how sleep difficulties and daytime behaviours interact

in children with rare genetic syndromes – and it can all be done from home!

Qr code for more information.



World Book Day at St Giles

World Book Day was celebrated in style throughout the school. During our book week, some classes composed or dramatized stories. There were book characters brought to life and we enjoyed finding out who everyone dressed up in pyjamas. Every class shared their favourite books and listened to stories.



Do you receive Universal Credit? Are you receiving the child disability addition for families with a disabled child?

You'll receive a child disability addition for each dependent child in your family who gets either:
DLA.

PIP.

The disabled child addition is paid at one of two rates. You'll receive the higher rate of £456.89 per month for a child who either:

Is registered blind.

Gets the care component of DLA or Child Disability Payment at the highest rate.

Gets the daily living component of PIP or Adult Disability Payment at the enhanced rate.

All other children on one of the disability benefits mentioned above will qualify for the lower rate of the addition. This will be £146.31 per month.

If your child receives a new disability benefit award, or has an existing award increased to the highest rate of the DLA care component or of the PIP enhanced daily living component, make sure you tell Universal Credit as quickly as you can.

[Contact.org.uk/uc](https://www.contact.org.uk/uc) for more information

Are you getting the right amount of Universal Credit as a parent carer?



Carer element

Paid if you're eligible for Carer's Allowance (or if you meet the criteria for it but your earnings are too high). You don't actually have to have claimed Carer's Allowance.

Child element

Paid for each dependent child in your family. You won't normally get this for a third or subsequent child born on or after 6 April 2017.

Disabled child addition

Paid (at one of 2 rates) for each dependent child who gets DLA or PIP. If you're eligible but don't receive this addition, add a note to your journal. It should be backdated in full.

Childcare element

Covers up to 85% of your registered childcare costs if you work (any number of hours), up to a certain amount.

For example: Sometimes I get anxious and stressed by.....
You can help me by giving me some time
or contacting the emergency person on the back of this card.

Please fill in to explain to people
why you are showing them this card.

To find out more, go to autism.org.uk

- struggle with change, new situations and talking to new people
- get very anxious in social situations
- feel overwhelmed by lights, noise and too much information
- need extra time to process information, like questions or instructions
- have meltdowns or go into shut down if it is all too much

Autistic people sometimes:



Thank you

.....
.....
.....
.....

My name is:

Hello,

The National Autistic Society is the UK's leading charity for autistic people. Founded in 1962 we are here to transform lives, change attitudes and help create a society that works for autistic people.

One in 100 people are autistic. You are not alone.

Fold here

Autism Alert Card



Instructions

- 1 Fold and stick both sides together
- 2 Cut out and fold your card
- 3 Fill in the spaces
- 4 Carry it in your purse or wallet

Emergency contact details

Name:

Number:

Email:

Please contact this person

I am autistic

Please see inside for important
information.



Cut here

Thank you for ordering your Autism Alert Card.

Many members of the public don't understand autism and how things they take for granted might cause difficulties for people on the spectrum. This card is a great way for you to let them know you are autistic and that you may need some extra time or help in certain situations.

Join us at **Croydon BME Forum** 56 a Mitcham Road **CROYDON** CR0 3RG for a delightful morning filled with Chats, laughter, and great company.

Date: Every Third (3rd) Thursday (Next session Thursday 15th February)

Time: 11:00 - 12:30

Location: Croydon BME Forum 56a Mitcham Road **CROYDON** CR0 3RG.

This in-person event is the perfect opportunity to meet new people, catch up with friends. Our social Coffee mornings are the place to be if you are simply looking for a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Winter Engagement with Core 20 plus 5 Lisa Broderick as speaker is the topic.

So, mark your calendars and get ready for a fun-filled morning of socializing.

BOOK TICKETS HERE

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/social-coffee-mornings-tickets-828293607477>



JOIN US FOR OUR *Coffee* 'Social' Mornings (2024)

Start your day with a nice cup of tea/coffee & GOOD COMPANY!

Let's talk, share stories and laughter. In these sessions we will look at cancer awareness, physical and mental health.



Join us every 3rd Thursday of the Month @ 11am

Location:
Croydon BME Forum, 56A Mitcham Road, Croydon CR0 3RG

Register via Eventbrite
For more info contact lorraine@bmeforum.org
Looking forward to sharing this relaxing morning with you.

Dates:
15th Feb 2024
21st Mar 2024
18th Apr 2024
16th May 2024
20th Jun 2024
18th Jul 2024
15th Aug 2024
19th Sep 2024
17th Oct 2024
21st Nov 2024
19th Dec 2024



Scan QR Code to visit our website



@cbmeforum CroydonBMEForum @croydonbmeforum



CROYDON BME FORUM



CORE20 PLUS 5



RM Partners
West London Cancer Alliance

Hosted by The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust

GO WILD WITH US UK[©]

Kids Wild Adventure Club ages 6 -11
Friday 5th and Wednesday 10th April 2024
10.30am - 3.30pm

For ages 6 - 11.

Our kids club offers time for them to really get involved in nature and all the fun activities we can possibly squeeze into 5 hours!

You can book here:

<https://tinyurl.com/SpringTribe24>



GO WILD WITH US UK[©]

Kids Wild Adventure Club

Free-flow Forest School Inspired Fun,
Seasonal Crafts, Campfires, Tools. Games. Adventure!

Ages 6 - 11 Friday 5th and Wednesday 10th April
Ages 9 - 13 Thursday 4th April

Highly skilled, qualified staff
Nurturing in Nature since 2008

Find us at
Heartwood.
Frylands Wood
Scout Centre

gowildcroydone@gmail.com
www.gowildwithusuk.wixsite.com
<http://tinyurl.com/HeartwoodSpring24>

A place in nature for everyone

