



St Giles School News

May 2024

'Be the best you can be'

Specialist School for Physical and Sensory

www.st-gilesschool.co.uk

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope that everyone had a lovely half term break, that you are all rested and ready for the last half term of 2024! The year is moving very fast indeed!

It was a very busy summer half term 1 with the enterprise 'Cool café' ran by our Upper Department, zoolab and the visit of our Mayor, Jason Perry, another 'meet the Head teacher day', lots of fantastic learning and of course planning for our very own upcoming Summer Fayre on Saturday 15th June 2024 from 12pm to 3pm. Everyone is very enthusiastic and looking forward to our wonderful Summer Fayre.

A reminder that the second parents/carers evening of the year will be taking place on Wednesday 19th June 2024 from 4pm to 6pm. Information will be sent out shortly on how to book times to meet your class teacher but also NHS staff and other specialist teachers (e.g. Music teachers, PE teachers, Swimming teachers, etc.).

I wish to draw all parents/carers attention to our school car park and thank everyone for their patience. We have a small car park (as I am sure that everyone knows) and that we have lots of school transport dropping our students off in the morning and picking them up after school. If there are any issues about 'drop off' or 'pick-up' please direct questions to the school office where my team will get back in contact with you. At all times I ask for your patience and support in this matter and bring any issues direct to the school office first in the appropriate manner. Once again thank you for your support in this manner.

A big thank you goes to my wonderful staff for all their work this half term, supporting the learning of our young people. We had to say a fond farewell to Elizabeth Dixon our administrator. We wish her all the best in her new ventures.

Students who have unplanned absence

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

Please give:

Your name

Your child's name

Reason for absence and

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.

As always, thank you for your continued support in all that we do and here is to another great term at St.Giles' School, whatever it may bring. Please do not hesitate to come and speak to us should you have any questions, concerns, ideas of how we could improve further or indeed to just have a chat!

On this note we have a parents/carers meeting day with the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher on the 25th June 2024 from 10.00am to 3.00pm. If you wish to have a 30 minute individual meeting with myself and/or Mrs. Fiona Bell we both will be available on this day. Please contact the school office if you wish to meet and let us know if this is face to face, over the phone or via TEAMS and the time. I would like to thank parents/carers who have taken this opportunity up over the last two terms and it is a great way for us to meet and build positive working relationships.

Dates for the diary

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

Meet the Head teacher/Deputy Head teacher day - Tuesday 25th June 2024 from 10am to 2.30pm. Please contact the school office to arrange individual 30 minute meetings.

Thanks for everything! Have a wonderful June 2024!

Mr Hehir

My name is Nicole Todd and I teach in Sky Blue class and I also have the privilege of being Head of Lower Department at St Giles. My teaching career began in 2011 when I completed my QTS (qualified teacher status) in a mainstream school in Upper Norwood. I then spent 4 years teaching in a Reception class. I enjoyed the creativity of teaching and learning in the Early Years and I built up my knowledge of the framework and the curriculum. The Early Years has been my passion for a long time, I enjoy the play based approach to teaching and learning and the importance of following the lead of the child. During my teaching career, I had the opportunity to support many children with SEND and additional learning needs. I found this part of my job extremely rewarding but I always felt like I could do more for children with SEND without the restrictions of a mainstream school/curriculum.



In 2016 I was given the opportunity to lead the EYFS as Phase Leader. I had the responsibility of the Nursery as well as the Reception classes. I thoroughly enjoyed this role. I was able to build relationships with parents across the Phase as well as other professionals. It was a different perspective on teaching and learning, that gave me an insight into the inner workings of a school and senior leadership team. Towards the end of my time at my previous school, I was able to shadow the SENDCo which made me realise where I wanted to take my career next. It was in 2020 during COVID that I applied for the job of class teacher at St Giles. I had some previous experience working with children with SEND but my first year at St Giles really was a learning curve for me! St Giles is a phenomenal place, the care that the staff have for the students is unmatched and I was so pleased to be a part of the community.

In 2022 I applied to become Head of Lower Department and since then I have planned WOW events, Coffee Mornings for parents, showcases and performances, trips and so much more to allow the children to experience an irresistible curriculum. The students at St Giles never fail to amaze me, their tenacity and resilience is incredible. There is never a dull moment but I wouldn't have it any other way.

The Remarkable Success of Our Cool Café Run by Our Amazing Students!

We are delighted to share the tremendous success of our school's pioneering café, operated by our exceptional students which resulted in a grand £228.90 profit. The Cool Café has not only become a great achievement for our learners and staff but also a shining example of what inclusion and determination can achieve.

The café was envisioned as a place where our students could gain practical experience and develop essential life skills. The opening of the café stands as a testament to their hard work, dedication and ability to overcome challenges.

Managed by these talented students under the careful supervision of our dedicated staff, the café has exceeded all expectations in both operations and impact. Students were responsible for preparing food and beverages and the customer service which they appeared to enjoy.

Beyond its culinary success, the café has fostered a profound sense of community. It has created opportunities for meaningful interactions between students and the customers of the café.

The positive feedback from the school community has been overwhelming.

Parents, staff, governors and other visitors have praised the initiative, highlighting the opportunity for our learners' personal growth and increased independence.

Looking ahead, we are excited about our next Cool Café event and we are counting on your presence in visiting the café. You will not only be enjoying great food and drinks but also contributing to a powerful cause that empowers young people of St Giles to succeed and thrive.



Summer Fayre Sat 15th June 12-3 pm

A very special event with lots of activities such as games, crafts, face painting and the usual Tombola.

This year we will be having a Pimms tent, afternoon tea and our delicious barbeque.

We are sending out your Raffle tickets, lots of prizes being added every day. Extra tickets are available from the School reception.

If any parents/grandparents/carers would like to help run a stall, bake cakes, help set up etc. please let Joni in the school office know.

Do you know an autistic, ADHD or SEN child who loves trains?

All Aboard Club runs inclusive train play sessions for autistic, ADHD and special needs children. The children can build and play with our huge train sets in a safe, understanding and supportive environment.

At our play sessions, the children are in charge. They can run the trains, build the track, and sort out any problems. It builds their confidence, reduces their anxiety, and allows them to play for hours, while developing their social and communication skills.

All Aboard Club staff and volunteers have lived experience of autism and ADHD, so we understand the children's challenges. We do everything possible to make the sessions as accessible and inclusive as possible for each and every child.

Our sessions are suitable for children and siblings aged 4 and upwards. A parent or adult carer needs to stay for the whole session.

Not sure if All Aboard Club is right for your family? You can now book a £5 trial session for first time families.

If you'd like a chat about our play sessions and your child's specific needs, please call us on 07948 407343 or email info@allaboardclub.com

LOCATION - St Nicholas Community Hall, SM1 2RG



Zoolab Visit

This term, Upper School have been learning about Animals and Plants. As part of this, we organised for a company called ZooLab to come and visit us and they brought along some animals!

We were lucky to see an African land snail called Thor, a cockroach named Storm, a corn snake called Humphry, a frog called Hulk, a stick insect called Groot and a Scorpion called Venom. We learnt lots of interesting facts like:

- A Cockroach is the fastest insect in the world.
- A Corn snake uses it's tongue to smell
- A Scorpion has 12 legs and 8 eyes

All the children were really brave and enjoyed holding and stroking the animals.



Welcome to the June edition of our e-bulletin!

We are very excited to share some interesting and exciting new events we have planned for you! All our events are free for carers.

This month is a special one, as we are celebrating **Volunteers Week** (03/06 – 07/06), and **Carers Week** (10/06 – 14/06). At the Carers Information Service, we have organised lots of activities and events to celebrate and make the most of it

The Carers Information Service provides advice, information, and support to carers in Croydon who are looking after someone who needs their help to due to illness, disability or old age.

The Advice Desk at the Carers Support Centre is open 10am – 1pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, for carers to drop-in & get advice from our experienced Advice workers!

You can also contact us by calling 020 8649 9339 (opt 1) to speak to one of our friendly team. If we are busy helping other carers you can leave a message or send us an email to enquiries@carersinfo.org.uk. One of our advice workers will get back to you ASAP. Below are just some of our sessions—see website for more info.

CarersCafé

Come and join us

We are open from 10.30am to 12.30pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Come and enjoy a free drink and chat with other carers and our café volunteers. Carers deserve a break, and this is the place you can relax with other carers who understand what you are going through.

Find us at:
Carers Support Centre, 24 George Street,

Carers Café Recipe Swap

Have a recipe you love and want to share? Bring it in!

10th June

10.30am – 12.30pm



Carers Singing Group



Bodyfit Classes

Join our Bodyfit Classes, every Tuesday of the month!

Led by a fitness instructor, you can engage in various exercises, such as cardio, strength training, or flexibility work, to improve your overall fitness levels.

This month the workshops will take place on:

11th June
18th June
25th June

For details on how to join, please contact us at:
020 8649 9339 (opt 1) or enquiries@carersinfo.org.uk

Carers Massage

Relax & unwind with a shoulder massage. Must be booked in advance.

10th & 14th June @ 10.30am – 4pm

To a place, please contact us at:
020 8649 9339 (opt 1) or enquiries@carersinfo.org.uk



We Have Moved

Croydon Mencap is no longer based at
Portland House, Thornton Heath



New Address

Croydon Mencap
60-61 Leslie Park Road
Croydon
CR0 6TP

Please note that our telephone number has not changed

020 8684 5890

www.croydonmencap.org.uk

Croydon Mencap
60-61 Leslie Park Road, Croydon,
CR0 6TP



Come join us at
Croydon's 2nd

LEARNING DISABILITY CARNIVAL



SATURDAY, 06 JULY
NORTH END,
CROYDON
CR0 1LP

(main entrance to Whitgift Centre and
Centrale)

Find out about activities and events in
Croydon for people with learning disabilities.



11:00 - 17:00



Activities

Entertainment, Dance, DJ's, Poetry, Arts & Crafts, Face Painting, Hand
Massage, Health Checks, Stalls, Food & Drink, Cakes, Jerk BBQ, Slushies.
Meet other local people, local charities, community groups, Croydon
Council, and NHS services.

For more information:

victoria.kamara@cvalive.org.uk / 07578908631
Stella.osan@mencap.org.uk / 07977055465

LETTUCE FUN FACTS

1. **SALAD SUPERSTAR:** LETTUCE IS LIKE THE SUPERSTAR OF SALADS! IT ADDS CRUNCH, COLOUR, AND FRESHNESS TO YOUR PLATE.
2. **COOL WEATHER FRIEND:** LETTUCE LOVES COOLER WEATHER AND GROWS BEST IN SPRING AND AUTUMN WHEN THE TEMPERATURES ARE NOT TOO HOT.
3. **MIXING COLOURS:** SOME SALADS ARE EVEN MORE FUN WHEN YOU MIX DIFFERENT COLOURED LETTUCES TOGETHER. IT'S LIKE CREATING A COLOURFUL ARTWORK ON
4. **COOKING CREATIVITY:** YOU CAN GET CREATIVE BY MAKING LETTUCE WRAPS. YOU CAN FILL BIG LETTUCE LEAVES WITH TASTY FILLINGS LIKE CHICKEN OR VEGGIES.
5. **WATER-LOVING PLANT:** LETTUCE NEEDS PLENTY OF WATER TO GROW WELL. IT'S LIKE A THIRSTY LITTLE PLANT!

Did you know?
**INTERNATIONAL
FACT**

The ancient Egyptians
used lettuce in
their meals over
4,000 years ago?

Aspens



GOOD FOR YOU



Go Wholemeal!

Eat brown bread, whole wheat pasta and brown rice to **feel fuller for longer** and increase the amount of zinc and iron in your diet

GOOD FOR YOU



Squeeze some citrus fruits into your day and feel zesty!

Containing **Vitamin C**, they can help you **feel less tired** and help with the normal function of your immune system.

Aspens



FEED YOUR FAMILY FOR £5

VEGAN HARISSA CHICKPEA & LIME STEW WITH COUSCOUS



Feed your family of four for £5 with this tasty vegan harissa chickpea & lime stew. 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



THE COUSCOUS

6.

Boil the water in a saucepan and add the stock cube.

7.

Measure the couscous into a heat proof bowl, add the stock and boiled water. Cover tightly with cling film or a lid and leave for 10 minutes.

8.

Shred and add the coriander to garnish before serving.

ZERO WASTE

Save the chickpea water you have drained to make vegan meringues for your dessert* additional cost, not costed into original recipe.



Aspens



FEED YOUR FAMILY FOR £5

VEGAN HARISSA CHICKPEA & LIME STEW WITH COUSCOUS



INGREDIENTS



Main Ingredients	Cost £
2 x Tins of Chickpeas in Water	1.18
20g Harissa Paste	0.40
1 x Brown Onion	0.12
3 x Garlic Cloves	0.14
1 x Green Pepper	0.55
1 x Tin of Chopped Tomatoes	0.35
1/2 Aubergine	0.43
1 x Lime	0.24
1 x Vegetable Stock Cube	0.09
240g Couscous	0.55
360ml Water	0.00
15g Coriander	0.26
TOTAL COST	4.31

Prices correct at time of printing and may vary. All items available from leading supermarkets.

Please observe the allergen information on the product packaging.

Based on a family of four.

View our video online



THE STEW

1.

1st Preparation! Dice the onion, pepper and aubergine then grate the garlic cloves.

3.

Add the tinned tomatoes and fill the empty tin half full with water to rinse the tin out and add this to the stew.

4.

Add the zest and juice of the lime.* Then drain the chickpea water (save the water) and add the chickpeas to the stew.

2.

Gently fry the onion and pepper in a saucepan with a little oil until softened and they start to brown. Then add the aubergine, garlic and harissa paste and fry for another 2-3 mins.

5.

Simmer on a low heat for 30 minutes.

MEANWHILE...

- Good for you
 - Good for the planet

