

Friday 1st October 2021

Dear Parents,

Harvest Celebrations

We have had a great week of Harvest assemblies and it has been lovely to welcome Mike Morris from the Watling Valley Ecumenical Partnership back into school again. Our Harvest table looked fabulous this morning and The Food Cupboard volunteers were very grateful for the range of products donated. Thank you to everyone who felt able to contribute as these goods now go to support a family in need in our locality. Much appreciated.



Pupil Voice

Well done to our Y6 House Captains!

Nightingale: Mykhalia - Vice Captain Tyler

Moore: Isabella - Vice Captain Jack

Shakespeare: Kitty - Vice Captain Eva

Bronte: Sukhpreet - Vice Captain Lewis

Our House Captains will be role models for others in our school. They will be collecting the housepoints each week and taking on key roles of responsibility. We really look forward to working with them this year. Well done!

Friends Association

Thank you to all those who came along to the AGM on Tuesday and to those who were unable to make it but are willing to support at future events. A new committee has been formed for the coming year and members are as follows: -

Chair: Jen Maher - Abbie in Y6

Vice Chair: Christina Chan - Melody in Y2

Secretary: Vivien Mc Dermott - John in Y1

Treasurer – Louise Sheehan - Dylan in Y6

Publisher – Becks Trowse - Kitty in Y6

Staff members: Natalie Duke and Angie Bailey

Sally Lau - Yuki in Y4 and Youta Nursery

Krishna Patel –Junior in Y3 and Krishvi Y1

Fouve Rowlingson -Erin in Y2 and Zoe FS

Roi Petropoulou -Evan in Y1

Lucy Gyau Awuah -Emily in FS

Priti Patel – Neha in Y1 and Shivan Nursery

Nicole Wood – Lily in Y1



We had our first meeting after the AGM and already have a few events planned. Just to give you a flavour of things to come - look out for: -

Christmas Cards - the children will be busy creating these soon ready for printing. These will then be available for you to purchase for Christmas!

Thursday 21.10.21 - Cake Sale on the playground

Additional events going forward include: - a competition for half term, lantern making workshops, movie night and the Christmas Shop! Further details will be sent out via our Giles Brook Friends Association (GBFA) newsletters.

Reading/Phonics Workshop for Y1 and Y2 Parents

We look forward to seeing those parents who have signed up on - **Monday 4th October at 6p.m.**
We are now fully booked for this session. Thank you.

Tattenhoe Foodie - Donation

Many thanks go to Tattenhoe Foodie who have donated £100 to our school following their raffle at the 'Foodie' event held at the end of July. This will go toward new playground equipment for the children to use during their lunch breaks.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Thank you to all those who came along or who donated some gorgeous cakes!
We raised £228.33 for this very worthy cause.



School Photos - Thursday 7th October

School photos will take place next Thursday. Children who have siblings in school will have their photos taken together and individually. Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate any children/family members not at Giles Brook as we have done in the past. If your child usually comes to school in their P.E. kit on a Thursday (Y4 and Y6), you are welcome to send them in school uniform if you prefer and we will accommodate changing before PE.

Parent Consultation Evenings

Consultations take place in the week beginning 18th October - Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Further information will come out to you shortly. It is most likely that, for this term at least, these will be online consultations.

Free School Meals

All children in Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to receive school meals at no cost to you. This is a **universal** entitlement for all infant aged children. Entitlement to Free School Meals for children in Year 3 and above is not universal. Parents need to make a separate application and eligibility will be dependent on the benefits received.

Who is eligible? Parents entitled to: -

- Income Support
- Employment & Support Allowance – Income related
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance (not Contribution Based JSA)
- Child Tax Credit only (with a combined family income of less than £16,190 per annum as assessed by HM Revenues & Customs) Please note, anyone receiving Working Tax Credit, regardless of income, will not qualify for free school meals.
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you receive)
- National Asylum Seekers Support (NASS)
- Guaranteed Element of Pension Tax Credit

How do I apply? Please contact us for details of how to apply or go directly to the following link:-

<http://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims>

If you are a parent receiving one of the benefits listed, your child will also be eligible for Pupil Premium funding. We recommend that you click on the link and apply if you are entitled as this will bring in extra funds into our school. If you are eligible, please apply before Wednesday 6th October. Thank you.

Parking

As the weather has turned, the carpark at the front of the school has inevitably got busier. We have some double bays at the far end of the carpark - please remember that, if you park in one of these bays, the car in front must not be left unattended. This part of the carpark isn't a great design but we have to work with what we have. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Naming of Uniform

Unfortunately, we are already seeing a number of unnamed items of school clothing. Please ensure your child's school uniform, coats, fleeces and PE kits are clearly named. A name inside the item means we have a better chance of getting it back to the right classroom and the right child. Thank you!

We have a missing fleece clearly named with: - Terblanche. If your child has taken this home in error, please could it be returned to a member of the Y5 team. Thank you!

Hello Yellow - Mental Health day - Friday 8th October 2021

Next Friday is World Mental Health Awareness Day. The theme is 'Hello Yellow' and we invite children to come to school, if they wish, wearing something yellow in addition to their uniform. At a time when talking about our wellbeing and emotional health is so very important, we will be focusing on some activities to get children talking and sharing their thoughts and feelings. Anything yellow will do - yellow socks, a banana hat, a yellow hair ribbon, T-shirt or a scarf - be as inventive as you like. We are using the day to heighten awareness and will not be fundraising on this occasion.



Covid Update

To date this term, we have been very successful in keeping Covid at bay - dare I even say it! Good practices continue through the school on a daily basis and rooms are continually kept well ventilated. We would like to thank you for your vigilance; we know many of you are regularly testing with LFTs and this really does help. If a close family member tests positive, we ask that you take your child for a PCR test - just to be sure. Keeping your child at home while waiting for test results, really helps to keep positive cases out of school. We thank you for your support with this.



This week, it has become clear that Autumn is creeping in and that lovely summer sunshine seems to have started to fade away! With this in mind, please ensure your child comes to school with a jumper or fleece to wear inside the classroom and a fleece or coat for outside. Morning play times particularly, can feel quite chilly. Thank you!

Have a good weekend.

Angie

Angie Bailey
Deputy Headteacher/Head of School