

Friday 5th November 2021

Dear Parents,

Well it has certainly been a very busy first week back after the Autumn half term break but great to see all our children beavering away again and fully involved in their new areas of learning. Unfortunately, the directives on Covid delivered yesterday have meant that we have had to make some swift changes to the way we work in school again but we hope the impact will be minimal on our children and their daily routines. Please see the accompanying newsletter which explains the changes made to meet the new guidance.

Having advised of a small number of cases of Covid 19 over the half term break, I'm pleased to say that the holiday seems to have broken any chain of transmission that might have been evident and cases at Giles Brook remain extremely low. We want to keep it that way! As the weather turns slightly colder, we advise that you send your child into school in warm uniform, layers are best - all clearly named please. Ventilation is key and we continue to ensure we have good airflow through our classrooms.

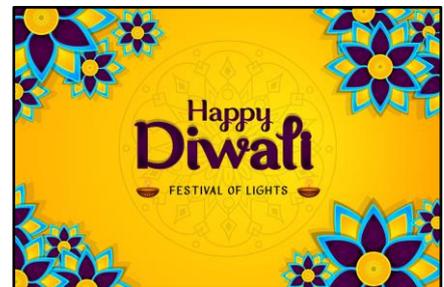
Friends Lantern Making Workshop

What a lovely after school event!

Many thanks to all the Friends Association who got involved as the children had a great time and they left with their little lanterns



glowing as they walked across the playground. Despite a few challenges with production time, we had some really lovely designs. Thank you to all our parents who had to wait those extra few minutes on collection.



A very Happy Diwali to all our families who are celebrating this week.

Cross Country Event - Middleton

Yesterday, we took 11 children to Middleton Primary School to compete in a cross-country event against seven other schools. Our children did brilliantly! The Year 5 girls' race was very competitive I hear, with a fourth place for Giles Brook. The Year 6 girls' race was a tough one but the Year 6 boys did brilliantly taking first and second and two further placements in the top ten. Well done to all the children involved.



Lost Property

We seem to have accumulated an enormous amount of lost property over the first half term this year. This will be out on tables at the bottom of the parent path each morning and evening over the coming week - after that, it will be used as spare clothing in school or recycled. Please remember to label your child's uniform - it is so much easier for us to return items to you swiftly if they are named. Thank you.

Christmas Shopping Evening at Tattenhoe Pavilion

There is a planned Christmas Shopping Evening at Tattenhoe Sports Pavilion on the 19th November from 5pm until 9pm where lots of local small businesses will be showcasing their products. I assume this will still be going ahead so why not go along and stock up for Christmas?

Staff Update

Many, many thanks go to Michael for all the years of work put in as Site Supervisor at Giles Brook. Michael actually retired a while ago but has been coming into school to support in the evenings whilst we have been recruiting. We are all going to miss seeing him around each day but we hope that he can now finally enjoy his retirement.



We welcome Mr. Nigel Pegg to the role of Site Supervisor this week. Attached is a photo of Nigel so you will know who he is if you see him around before or after school.

This week, we also say goodbye to Rachel who has worked in our After School and Breakfast Club. We wish her well for her new endeavours. We welcome Amanda to the ASC role and Chysanthy as a new midday supervisor. We are sure all our new staff will settle quickly with us at Giles Brook.

Parent Workshops

Unfortunately, with the current Covid directive, we cannot now run the maths workshops as planned on Monday and Tuesday next week. These will run again once the restrictions ease. If you have booked a place, you should have been informed by email this afternoon.

End of the School Day

As the evenings are drawing in, we need to use the outside playground space for our After School children pretty much straight after the end of the school day. We will therefore be returning to the system of blowing a whistle on the playground around 3:35 p.m. to indicate the gates will be closed and locked. We would appreciate it if you could make a swift exit at this time so that our After School Club and Sports clubs can use the site safely. Many thanks.

I'm sure many of you are out to firework events this weekend. The beginning of November is always such a busy time so please enjoy the celebrations safely with your children.

Have a good weekend.

Angie

Angie Bailey
Deputy Headteacher/Head of School