

Thursday 21st October 2021

Dear Parents,

### Parent Consultations

Thank you to all parents who attended parent consultations online this week. It is really important for our teachers to meet with you early in the school year so that progress can be shared and any target areas your child needs to focus upon can be discussed. As a school, we really value the support you give at home and those extra 10/15 minutes when you can - embedding a skill, practising times tables, spellings and reading with your child, really does make a difference. Thank you!

### Reading Meeting for Foundation Stage Parents - Monday 1st November 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Please note that this meeting starts at 6:00 p.m. as per the letter sent to Foundation Parents. This is the first day back after the half term.

### Maths Parent Workshops - November 2021

**Monday 8th November 6p.m** - Maths for parents of children in Y1, Y2 and Y3

**Tuesday 9th November 6p.m** - Maths for parents of children in Y4, Y5 and Y6

Bookings for these parent workshops can be made on School Gateway. Thank you!

### Cross Country Championships - MK Bowl

Last Saturday, twenty five children took part in the Milton Cross Country Championship and we had our first ever Cross Country individual champion! Lauren (Y6) won the senior girls race meaning she has now qualified for the National County Championships - amazing! A special mention also goes to Oscar and Isla in the junior races, coming 10th and 26th respectively which is a fabulous effort considering there were 132 children taking part. We had some very respectable times from all our children and are very proud of all their efforts. A massive 'Thank you' to all those who cheered our children on too!

We found out last week that our school has been awarded the **Gold Sports Mark!** A great achievement which celebrates all of the hard work and commitment our children put into the wide range of sports they take part in at Giles Brook. It also recognised the fantastic effort of our children during lockdowns - with so many of them doing individual challenges in their gardens and uploading their videos to school for submission into online MK Sports Partnership competitions. As always, many thanks goes to Nick Halasz for his direction and motivation.



### Year 6 Secondary School Applications

The [Citizens Portal](#) is open for parents and carers to apply online for a secondary school place. Please note that all applications for Secondary school places **must be submitted by 31 October 2021**. Please ensure that you make your application in time as it is very unlikely that you will receive an offer for a local school or a school of your choice if the deadline is missed.

### Y6 and Y5 swimming

Swimming lessons for Y5 children who are unable to swim 25m unaided, continue after the half term. If your child is in Y6 and a non-swimmer, you would have received a letter this week. Please ensure this is returned to school. Lessons will start for those Y5 and Y6 non-swimmers directly after the half term on Monday 1st November. Please ensure your child brings their swimming costume, towel and swimming cap (goggles if wished) into school each Monday. Thank you!



### Friends Association - GBFA Cake Sale

The cake sale was a great success tonight - thank you to all those who donated cakes whether baked or bought!

### Festival of Light - Lantern Making workshop - Tuesday 2nd November

The Lantern Making workshop is now fully booked. This is a new activity session for our Friends Association and clearly has been very popular!

To support the workshop, we invite you to send in any recyclable materials after the half term to replenish our stocks. Items such as plastic bottles, small cardboard boxes (jaffa cake size), kitchen rolls (not toilet rolls), bottle tops or lids. Thank you!

### Pumpkin Competition - now live on Google Classrooms and Tapestry!

The Friends invite you to upload a photo of your well decorated or well carved pumpkin! Photos will be judged in the first week of November and a prize awarded for each year group.



### Y3 Visit to Hazard Alley



Our Year 3 children visited Hazard Alley on Tuesday to explore a variety of scenarios and learn how to keep themselves safe. They learnt about road safety, fire and water safety and about making responsible choices. They even had to respond to a scenario and make an emergency 999 call which, I hear, they all did really well. The staff at Hazard Alley were thoroughly impressed by our children - their knowledge, their enthusiasm, their listening skills and their great manners. Miss Kendall and Mrs Rothman said they had never had so many compliments. Well done Year 3!

A great way to end the first half term.

As part of their R.E. work, our Y2 children have been learning how Christians use the church. On Wednesday afternoon we were lucky enough to have our Year 2 wedding. The children have been taught about hymns, worship, baptism, Harvest festival and weddings and the 'grand finale' was acting out a Christian wedding ceremony. All the children looked fabulous in their smart clothes. They were very sensible for the 'important and serious' ceremony and then had lots of fun at our celebration in the hall afterwards. What a wonderful wedding!



### House point Winners

Moore House received the most house points this half term. Children in 'Bobby Moore' are invited to wear their own clothes to school on Friday 5th November (own PE clothes if it is your child's P.E. day!) Well done to all in Moore house and to all those children who have worked hard to earn house points this term. Keep up that great effort!

### Staffing news!

Mrs. Shah leaves us this half term to start her maternity leave. Deepa is expecting her second child in December and is looking forward to putting her feet up for a few weeks before her new little addition arrives. We wish her all the best and will keep you updated!

Faduma, who has worked at Giles Brook as a lunchtime supervisor and a cleaner for the last 15 years, also leaves us at half term as she is moving on to new endeavours. We can't thank her enough for her hard work and we wish her the very best for the future.

It has been a busy and productive half term at Giles Brook - it certainly has been lovely going back to some of the ways we used to work prior to lockdowns. We have had a range of sports going on for the older children at lunchtimes and it has been great to see children mixing together again when playing

outside. Hygiene has remained high priority and vigilance with this, alongside good ventilation, has meant we have only had a very small number of Covid cases reported in the last term. Unfortunately, there is an indication nationally that cases are now on the rise again so please do take all the precautions you can when mixing with others or making visits over the half term. Thank you.

School closes today for the half term break as Friday is an INSET day. We look forward to seeing everyone again, ready for learning, on **Monday 1st November**.

Have a great half term!

**Angie**

Angie Bailey

Deputy Headteacher/Head of School