

15<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parent and Carers,

A very big 'Welcome' to all our new Reception and Nursery parents. We look forward to working with you and supporting your child through their Early Years at Giles Brook. Our Early Years Team will be sharing with you all the exciting opportunities the children have in the weeks and months to come and I look forward to getting to know your children and learning all their names! The children have settled beautifully into their new routines - it's actually hard to believe they have only been in school a week!

### Congratulations!

A huge thank you to all the children who have put themselves forward to be a part of our pupil voice representatives. The adult leaders will be meeting with the successful candidates next week to share some of the exciting responsibilities they will experience across this academic year. Well done to you all 😊

### Rock Steady sign-up information (Years 1 - 6 only)

If you would like your child to take part in Rocksteady this year, we have limited spaces still available for guitar and drums. These will be filled on a first come, first served basis. Please visit:

<https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/>

Select: For Parents, Sign Up Today

Payments will be made directly to Rocksteady. There is more information regarding this on their website.

### Starting School for the first time in September 2024

For more information, please click on this link: <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/schools-and-lifelong-learning/school-admissions/starting-primary-or-juniormiddle-school-september>

If you know of anyone who would like a place at Giles Brook, please tell them to call the school to arrange a tour. Thank you.

### SEND Coffee Morning

Does your child have a Special Educational Need and/or Disability? Are you worried about how your child's needs will be met once they move onto Secondary school? If so, we will be holding our first SEND Coffee Morning on **Wednesday 18th October at 9am**. This is a great opportunity for you to come along, have a cuppa and meet with staff and other parents to discuss SEND support. We will have a representative from SENDIAS (SEND Information advice and support), PACA (Parent and Carers Alliance) and the 5 Dimensions transition SENCo. You are all warmly welcome!

### Friends Association

It was lovely to see some new faces at the Friends Association AGM on Monday. It really is a fantastic organisation who work tirelessly to raise funds for the school. Please see the attached newsletter from them, detailing the new committee and their work to date. Thank you.

### This half term's value - kindness

This half term, we will be emphasising the importance of kindness. We will be spreading the following message through assemblies and our everyday interactions.

## Attendance Matters!

At Giles Brook we place great importance on good attendance and punctuality. We know that a child's attendance has a direct impact on their learning. Those children who are regularly late or absent from school do not achieve their potential and do fall behind in class. Please support the school in this by ensuring that your child attends school regularly and arrives ready to learn and on time at 8.40am.

Poor punctuality can lead to your child...

- Feeling embarrassed in front of their friends
- Missing the beginning of vital lessons making them fall behind
- Missing important instructions for the rest of the school day
- Learning bad habits which could affect their employability in the future

The table below shows just how much education could be missed by being late to school each day:

Minutes late per day	Learning time lost in a year
5 minutes	3 ½ days
10 minutes	7 days
15 minutes	10 ½ days
20 minutes	14 days
30 minutes	21 days

If your child is experiencing a mild illness and you are not sure if you should send them to school, please take a look at this advice: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

*We show kindness to others and expect others to be kind to us. We show kindness in our thoughts, words and actions.  
We take steps to stop any actions which may lead to bullying.*

Have a lovely weekend,

Claire

**Autumn term dates**

26.9.23	Y4 visit Bradwell Abbey (Anglo Saxons)
29.9.23	Macmillan coffee morning
3.10.23	YrR - Y6 Flu immunisations
6.10.23	Y5 visit Silverstone Experience
6.10.23	Harvest collection
10.10.23	World Mental Health day
11.10.23	Yr 6 residential parents meeting (6pm)
16.10.23	Parent consultation evenings
17.10.23	Y3 visit Safety Centre
18.10.23	Parent consultation evenings
20.10.23	School closes for half term
31.10.23	School reopens
2.11.23	Y6 visit Oxford Natural History and Pitt Rivers Museums
6.11.23	Birch class swimming lessons - every Monday for 6 weeks
17.11.23	Children in Need
5.12.23	Reception Christmas performance to parents (2pm & 6pm)
12.12.23	KS1 Christmas performance to parents (2pm & 6pm)
13.12.23	Christmas lunch
14.12.23	Y3 visit MK Theatre (pantomime)
19.12.23	Reception visit The Stables (Hansel and Gretel)
21.12.23	KS2 Carols on the playground (2.45pm)
22.12.23	School closes for the Christmas break