

Friday 8th September 2023

Dear Parent / Carers,

A warm welcome back to all our children and families. It has been lovely hearing from the children about time spent with families and the excitement from trips they have enjoyed. It's typical that after a somewhat soggy summer, the sun and heat has coincided with the children's return but they have settled into their new classes and routines beautifully. Everyone in school is looking forward to the year ahead.

Staffing update

This year we welcome our new Year 3 teacher, Hannah Stapleton, and new Teaching Assistant, Emma Barbieri to the Giles Brook team. They are welcome additions to the school and they have loved getting to know your children.

Healthy snacks

A reminder that children should bring a healthy snack to school for morning break. This could be a piece of fruit or a cereal bar - no crisps or chocolates please. Please do not provide your children with chocolate bars in their lunchbox - a treat sized chocolate covered biscuit or something similar will be fine.

Thank you!

Sporting Success

Congratulations to Nick, Mark, Kerry and the team for achieving the School Games Gold Award and to all the children who represented the school last year - we do love our sport here at Giles Brook and we are pleased that our school's efforts have been acknowledged.



Uniform and the wearing of jewellery

The children looked very smart on their first day back at school - thank you for supporting us in our uniform policy. A reminder that **no jewellery** should be worn apart from plain stud earrings. We will ask children to remove necklaces/bracelets/hoop earrings and return them to parents at the end of the day.

Please can you ensure that the children do not wear earrings on PE days. If they are wearing them, they will be asked to remove them. Medical advice confirms that any jewellery worn in physical education lessons is an unnecessary risk and should be avoided at all times

Music lessons

All music lessons, including Rock Steady, start on Tuesday. Please ensure your child brings their instrument (if they had one last year) on the following days:

Brass: Tuesday

Violin: Tuesday

Guitar: Wednesday

Rock Steady: Wednesday

Keyboard: Thursday

Woodwind: Friday

Tracksuit Jackets

Giles Brook tracksuit jackets are available to buy for children in Years 3 to 6. If you would like to pre-order one please make payment on SchoolGateway. The estimated delivery is the end Sept/early Oct 2023.

Year 2 visit to Oxford University Museum of Natural History

Permission and payment is due by this Tues 12 Sep 2023.

Year 5 visit Rainforest Workshop visit from Zoolab

Permission and payment is due before next Friday 15 Sep 2023.

Prompt payment for both would be appreciated.

Pupil Voice

We continue to value our pupil's thoughts and ideas and believe it is hugely important that they have a 'say' in the way our school community teaches and learns and we are now in the process of recruiting and launching all our school committees. Both Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils have an opportunity to share their ideas with teachers, parents and governors by applying to be a part of the School Council, Eco Council (KS2), Arts Council, Digi Leaders (KS2- additional information will be brought home), Sports Leaders (Y6), Librarians (Y5 & 6) and House Captains (Y6). The application forms for School and Eco Council will be coming home with your child today if they have chosen to apply. Secret voting will take place on Friday 15th September and we wish all those applying the best of luck. We are looking forward to lots of new suggestions and ideas!

It has been a wonderful start to the school year and we are looking forward to welcoming our Nursery and Reception pupils next week. I have been told that it is going to be the hottest day of the year on Saturday so enjoy this lovely sunshine whilst it lasts!

Best wishes

Claire

Claire Britnell
Headteacher

Autumn term dates

11.9.23	Rowan class swimming lessons - every Monday for 6 weeks
15.9.23	Y5 rainforest workshop
15.9.23	Y2 visit Oxford Natural History Museum
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
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
13.12.23	Christmas lunch
14.12.23	Y3 visit MK Theatre (pantomime)
19.12.23	Reception visit The Stables (Hansel and Gretel)
22.12.23	School closes for the Christmas break