



Spring Newsletter – February 2022

We have had a busy half term in school. I am struggling to believe I have been here five weeks. The staff and children have made me extremely welcome and I must say, I think the children at St Giles Primary School are the politest children I have ever worked with.

Everyone works very hard here. Even parents, where your continued support with homework, including learning times tables and daily reading is very important to your child's education and the progress they make while they are with us.

This month the children have supported online safety day. A day designed to support the safe and positive use of digital technology for children. This year had the theme 'All fun and Games' and explored respect and relationships online. Below is a link for parents to support children staying safe online at home. We have also been using resources published by the NSPCC called Speak out Stay safe online.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/blog/top-tips-for-under-11s>

World Book Day – Thursday 3rd March

This year the children are invited to dress up as their favourite book character or wear a T-shirt with a book theme. The PTFA will be holding a second hand costume sale and book sale on Friday 18th February after school. There is a box near the school reception so if you have any costumes or books that you no longer need and you would like to donate them to the sale to raise money for the school we would be very grateful.

British Science Week - 11th-20th March

The theme for science week this year is growth. We are planning a "science day" and activities will centre around looking at all sorts of growth, including buildings, eco-friendly behaviours, animals and even how we can grow plants on Mars. All very exciting!

Derby City Peace Doves sculptures

Peace Doves is a mass participation project that will invite messages of hope and peace from across the region and will culminate in the creation of an art installation that will hang temporarily inside Derby Cathedral Spring 2022. St Giles Primary have been asked to participate in the project and plan to hang our own sculpture in school.

Attendance

It is very difficult for children to learn if they are not in school. Infrequent or late attendance leads to children feeling constantly behind in their school work. As a school we appreciate that Covid-19 has had a great impact on children's attendance over the past two years but as

we begin to get back to normal we are becoming more proactive in looking at children's attendance and putting systems in place to ensure it doesn't drop below 95%. We ask all parents to follow school procedures for reporting absences and try their best to ensure children are punctual for school each day.

Parent Pay

There are lots of outstanding balances on Parent Pay for dinner money, Breakfast Club, After School Club and trips. Please help us by keeping an eye on your Parent Pay accounts and ensuring they are up to date.

Parents Evenings

These will take place during the week commencing Monday 28th March – further details will be sent out nearer the time.

INSET DAYS

A reminder of the remaining INSET days this school year.

Monday 28th February, Monday 6th June and Tuesday 7th June

Curriculum

Reception's topic this half term was "What's that sound?" They focussed on the noises they hear, noises made by animals, noises that they can make (vocal sounds and instruments) and noisy stories.

Year 1 & 2's topic was all about Brazil! With the Rio carnival in mind, the children have made shakers and colourful masks and also coloured Brazilian flags and made tasty Brigadeiros (chocolate treats.) They will be ending their topic with a carnival this week!

Year 3 and 4 have been exploring predators, prey and food chains. They have learnt about how animals, birds, insects and plants survive and thrive in their habitats. The children have programmed a route for a prey animal to get past predators in Computing and learnt about some predators from the past in History.

Year 5 & 6 have travelled to Egypt, the land of pyramids and a history spanning thousands of years. A land full of wonder. They have experienced a trip down the Nile to the Valley of the Kings where they explored Tutankhamun's tomb, learned the art of mummification by experimenting with Seti the Sea Bass, and tomatoes.

I wish you all a happy and safe holiday and hope to meet more of you next half term.

Janet Robinson
Interim Headteacher

Dates for your diaries

Friday 18th February – break up for half term

MONDAY 28th February – INSET DAY

Thursday 3rd March – WORLD BOOK DAY

Friday 18th March – RED NOSE DAY – details to follow after half term

Monday 28th March – Parents Evenings this week

Wednesday 6th April – Easter Service in St Giles Church 9.30am (details to follow)

Friday 8th April – Break up

Monday 25th April – Back to school

Friday 29th April – Class Group Photographs

Monday 9th May – Thursday 12th May – Year 6 SATS

Monday 9th – Tuesday 10th May – Class 3 to Lea Green

Wednesday 18th May – Class 4 to Harry Potter

Friday 27th May – Break up

Monday 6th June – INSET DAY

Tuesday 7th June – INSET DAY

Wednesday 8th June – Back to school

Friday 22nd July – Break up