



# GIFFARDS PRIMARY

## SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



### Breakfast Club

Our breakfast club runs every day before school. Doors open at 7:30am, last admittance at 8:20am. No need to book, £3.00 a day, payable on Scopay.

### Contact Details

If your circumstances or contact details change, please can we remind you to let us know! It is really important we are always made aware of changes in case of emergency.

Many thanks

### NO DOGS ON SITE

We would like to remind all parents/carers that Dogs are NOT allowed on the school premises, this includes carrying the dog. Only registered Guide Dogs are allowed on site.

Dear Parents /Carers,

I'd like to extend a huge welcome back to everyone. It's been lovely to see the children settle so well back into school. Welcome to our new EYFS pupils! On behalf of the whole Giffards family, we extend a warm welcome to our new Foundation stage pupils and their families! We are delighted you have joined us.

I'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone for avoiding Queen Elizabeth drive on the first day back due to the over running gas repairs/roadworks. We anticipated a traffic jam but thanks to everyone parking away from school it was all very quiet and calm. Thank you also for bearing with us over the last 2 weeks, the reduced time between pick up of KS1 and KS2 caused some initial teething problems but the children are getting quicker at packing up at the end of the day so hopefully this won't be a problem going forward. If you do find you are late collecting from KS2, please be reassured a member of staff will always wait with your child.

**Year 6 secondary school applications are now open.** If your child is currently in year 6 it is time to apply for a secondary school place. A message was sent to all year 6 parents last week about the open evening at Gable Hall on Tuesday 26th September. Each secondary school will run open evenings – details should be on their websites. So please do look around and ensure you apply on time. Applications received after the closing date are treated as late applications. This means there will be far less chance of your child being offered a place at the school you want.

**EYFS tours are now available**—Is your child due to start school in September 2024? If your child was born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020, you must apply soon for their reception school place for September 2024. The applications open in November and close usually around 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024. You must apply via the [Thurrock.gov.uk](http://Thurrock.gov.uk) website. We have tour dates available for any families who wish to look around, tours last approximately 1 hour. We ask that if possible families attend without children in prams/pushchairs due to limited space in classrooms. Please ring admin on 01375 672138 to book.

I'm delighted that **our after school provision is now up and running.** This is run by Junior Adventure Group but some of our staff also work at the after school club – so pupils may well recognize a friendly face. This facility starts as soon as school finishes and ends at 6pm. It is held in the KS1 classroom by the EYFS entrance gates, collection is from there. There is a bell and mobile number on the gate for parents to use upon arrival. If the children are outside having fun when you arrive, they will be brought over to you. Please use the KS1 entrance gate on Queen Elizabeth Drive not the gate by the admin area. Numbers are lower than we'd like at the moment so please do support this provision if you need after school child care. When we surveyed parents over 70 families responded to say it was something they would use. Booking is easy just log on and register with Junior Adventure Group. We recommend that you create an account and register your child/ren, if you believe you may need this provision, as this saves time later especially if you need to make a last-minute booking. Bookings are closed by 2pm each day.

**Parent Information sessions.** Many thanks to all the parents that were able to come into school for their child's year group session. Information and PowerPoints will be sent home via Groupcall for those parents unable to attend.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead filled with fun and lots of learning!

*Mrs N Haslam-Davis*

### School Dinner Cost Reminder

Please note that from September, the cost of a school meal will be £2.50 (KS2 pupils only. KS1 pupils do not pay for their school meals). Meals can be paid for via Scopay or by card at the office. A copy of our school dinner menu is available on our website.

### Mobile Phone/ Smart Watches

A reminder please - ideally, pupils should not bring phones to school, if they are needed, then phones must be put on silent and must be handed in to the class teacher. Smart watches should not be worn in school by pupils. Children will be asked to remove them if brought in.





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### Parent Drop-Ins

If you have any concerns about your child then please pop in to our

#### Inclusion Team Drop In:

Every Monday 9:00-9:30am

Every Friday 2:30-3:00pm

Enter via the KS2 office area

#### Who Can I See:

Mrs Holdsworth can help you with any *behavioural* concerns that you may have. Mrs Teager can help you with any worries concerning *Additional Needs*.

### Communication From the School to Parents/Carers

Please be advised that we send out the majority of our information via email from our Groupcall system. We also add all correspondence to our website. Please do keep an eye out for our Groupcall emails to ensure you don't miss any information that you may find useful. On occasions we may send a Groupcall text, however this method comes at great cost to the school and will only be used if a message is urgent.

### Diary Dates

Wednesday 20th September—4EC swimming starts (every other week)

Thursday 21st September—Yr 3 Trip to Thorndon Park

Friday 22nd September—Jeans for Genes Day

Wednesday 27th September—4BD swimming starts (every other week)

Friday 29th September—Macmillan Coffee Morning, 9:15am in KS1 hall

Friday 29th September—Yr 4 Port of London workshop at school

Monday 2nd October—5DR Field Trip to Coalhouse Fort

Wednesday 4th October—5CW Field Trip to Coalhouse Fort

Thursday 5th October—Yr 4 Trip to Wat Tyler Park

Friday 6th October— School Photos

Mon 9th—Fri 13th October—Year 6 PGL Residential / Activity Week

Monday 16th October—Yr 4 Trip to Thameside Nature Reserve

Thursday 19th October—Yr 4 Trip to Thameside Nature Reserve

Mon 23rd—Fri 27th October—Half Term

Monday 30th October—Inset Day (school closed to pupils)

Tuesday 31st October—Inset Day (school closed to pupils)

Friday 3rd November—Flu Vaccinations (information will follow in due course)

Tuesday 7th November—EYFS Thorndon Park Gruffalo Trip

Thursday 9th November—Yr 5 Royal Observatory Trip

Monday 20th + Tuesday 21st November—KS2 Parents evenings (details will be sent home nearer the time)

Wednesday 22nd + Thursday 23rd November—KS1 Parents evenings (details will be sent home nearer the time)

### Term Time Holidays

A reminder that holidays during term time are unauthorised as per our Policy. If you do take your child on holiday during term time, it will affect your child's attendance and you may be issued with a fine.

### AFTER SCHOOL

#### PROVISION AT GIFFARDS

We are pleased to announce Giffards Primary now have an afterschool provision on site. This is in partnership with Junior Adventures Group (JAG).

Bookings are available now at:

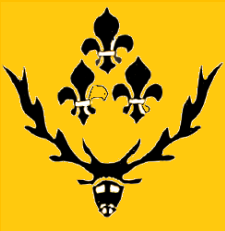
[https://  
www.junioradventuresgroup.co.uk/find-  
us/giffards-primary-school](https://www.junioradventuresgroup.co.uk/find-us/giffards-primary-school)

Please book early to secure your child's place. The club is available for children in Reception—Year 6.

### Twitter

We would like to remind you that Giffards has a Twitter account.

If you wish to follow us our username is  
**'GiffardsPrimary'**



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### Thurrock Council secondary school admissions

If your child has just started the last year of primary education, you must now apply for a secondary school place.

#### Important information – applying for a secondary school place for September 2024

If your child was born between **1 September 2012** and **31 August 2013**, you must apply for a secondary school place for **September 2024**.

**Apply online from 1 September at [thurrock.gov.uk/admissions](http://thurrock.gov.uk/admissions)**

Go to [thurrock.gov.uk/admissions](http://thurrock.gov.uk/admissions) and select 'Secondary school admissions'. You will be able to open an online copy of our prospectus for Thurrock primary schools, booklet called **Secondary Admission Information September 2024**, which you should read carefully before applying.

You must have an email account to apply online.

You should also try to join us online at one of the briefing sessions before you complete an application.

**Three briefing sessions for parents will be held on Thursday 14 September 2023 via webinar on the council website.**

**First Session: 1pm - 2pm; Second session: 4pm - 5pm; Third session: 6:30pm - 7:30pm**

Go to [thurrock.gov.uk/admissions](http://thurrock.gov.uk/admissions) and select 'Secondary school admissions' to access the webinar.

Offers will be available for applicants via your online account from **12:30am on 1 March 2024**.

#### Apply for a secondary school place

When making an application you can list up to six schools that you wish to apply for, in your order of preference. You can list schools outside of Thurrock – including grammar schools – if you wish.

If you are applying to any school that is religious by character, make sure you also complete their supplementary form and return it direct to the school by the closing date for applications.

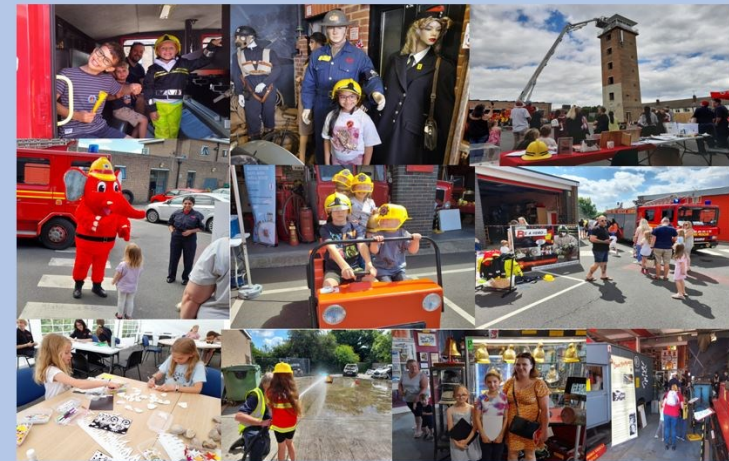
If you have more than one child transferring to secondary school, you must apply separately for each child needing a place.

If you do not complete the application and return it by the closing date of **31 October 2023** you may be given a place at the nearest school with a space available, after all on-time applications have been dealt with.

If you have read all our information online and still have questions, please contact our Admissions Team by emailing [school.admissions@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:school.admissions@thurrock.gov.uk) or phoning on **01375 652 883**.



**Essex Fire Museum Open Days**  
**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023**  
**(10.30am to 4.00pm)**



Visits must be pre-booked via:  
[museum@essex-fire.gov.uk](mailto:museum@essex-fire.gov.uk)

**Address: Essex Fire Museum, Grays Fire station,  
Hogg Lane, Grays, RM17 5QS**