



# GIFFARDS PRIMARY NOVEMBER 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.

## Polite Reminder

Please can we remind parents to notify us at drop off in the morning (or earlier in the week, if possible) if your child has an appointment. It is very difficult to get messages to the class once the teachers are teaching.

## 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,

Last half term was very busy and our **Crazy hair** and non uniform day was a wonderful way to finish for the October break. Well done to all the pupils and parents for some fantastic, creative hair styles.

I have had the pleasure in showing prospective parents/carers around the school over the last few weeks with further tours going ahead before Christmas. I want to thank the children and staff who welcomed the visitors so warmly, showing them what a fantastic school and wonderful, polite, hardworking pupils we have. If you have a child due to start school in September 2024 and would like to have a look around or know someone who is considering Giffards, please ask them to contact the school office, tour dates are on the school website. Applications for pupils due to start school in September 2024 have now opened via the Thurrock.gov.uk website – applications can be made from now until 15th January 2024.

As the weather turns colder and wetter please do ensure your child comes to school with a coat, we do try to ensure children can go outside at breaktimes unless very wet—so they do need this extra layer to keep them warm. Please also ensure pupils come to school in correct uniform. As a reminder children should wear black school shoes not trainers. Please keep trainers to the days when pupils come in wearing PE kit. Many thanks.

As part of our continual developments to the curriculum, we have introduced Digimap into our Geography focused topics, last half term children in years 4 and 5 enjoyed field trips to local areas in the minibus and used Digimap to plot where they were and what they found or could see. Over the academic year all year groups will have the opportunity to experience educational visits but as these are arranged to support work covered in school some of these are planned for later in the year, so don't worry if your child has not been on a visit yet. Many thanks for your continued support.

*Mrs N Haslam-Davis*

## Kitchen Hygiene Award

We are proud to announce our kitchen staff achieved a Level 5 Food Hygiene Rating for the school kitchen in their recent Thurrock Council unannounced inspection. This is the highest level that can be achieved. Very well done.



## 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.



## Year 4 Trips to Wat Tyler Park and Thameside Nature Reserve

Year 4 had a great time visiting Wat Tyler Park and Thameside Nature Reserve. At Wat Tyler we got to make our own rivers and then we went on a nature walk to identify the features of a real river. We also learnt about the history of Wat Tyler Park as an explosive factory and took part in a fun orienteering activity testing our map skills. At Thameside, we went to see our local estuary and port, identifying and sketching all the human and physical features we saw. We all had lots of fun!



## Year 5 Trip to Coalhouse Fort

The children visited three different designated areas around Coal House Fort to conduct a litter survey. We were investigating how much litter was in areas around water and what types. It was surprising some of the items that we found and how much rubbish was lying around.





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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

**Friday 3rd November—Flu Vaccinations**

**Monday 6th November—Bookings for Parents Evening go live from 7:00pm**

**Tuesday 7th November—EYFS Thorndon Park Gruffalo Trip**

**Thursday 9th November—Yr 5 Royal Observatory Trip**

**Friday 10th November—EYFS Parents Maths / Phonics Workshop, 2:00pm**

**Monday 13th November—Odd Socks Day**

**Monday 13th—Friday 17th November—Anti-Bullying Week**

**Friday 17th November—Children in Need**

**Monday 20th + Tuesday 21st November—KS2 Parents evenings**

**Wednesday 22nd November—Year 5 Walk Online Roadshow**

**Wednesday 22nd + Thursday 23rd November—KS1 Parents evenings**

**Friday 1st December – PSA Christmas Fete, 3:15—5:00pm**

**Wednesday 6th December—KS1 Disco**

**Thursday 7th December—KS2 Disco**

**Friday 8th December—PSA Christmas Wrap**

**Christmas Break—Thursday 21st December—Wednesday 3rd January 2024**

**Thursday 4th January—Children Return to School**

### Jeans for Genes

Thank you to all who participated in our Jeans for Genes day. We raised over £200 for the cause.

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

[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'**

### Year 3 Trip to Thorndon Park

Our year 3 children visited Thorndon Park in September. Whilst there, they learned about life in the Stone Age. The children built dens, learned how to light fires, played hunting games and tried to communicate without words.





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### Year 6 PGL Residential / Activity Week

On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October, a group of Year 6 children headed off to PGL Little Canada on the Isle of Wight for a week full of challenges (including keeping your cabin clean and making your bed!) and new experiences. During the four busy days, the children tackled many different activities including abseiling, climbing, the giant swing and the trapeze. Many fears were faced during these activities. During the evening, the children took part in games, activities and a camp fire. It was great to see our children work together and encourage each other especially when the task was new and difficult. The children returned on the Friday feeling tired, a little bit grubby but having learned more about themselves and how they can achieve more than they thought they could. A huge thank you to the adults and to the PGL staff who supported the children.



The children that didn't go to the Isle of Wight residential took part in an activity week instead. During the week they visited Thriftwood where they climbed the climbing wall, abseiled and built rafts. They also went to Wat Tyler Park where they completed an orienteering task and a variety of team building challenges. The children built dens and toasted Marshmallows at Thameside Nature Reserve on the Wednesday before finishing the week with two days at school taking part in activities such as fencing, mini golf, darts, archery, axe throwing, spike ball, tug of war and a nerf war. The children had a fantastic week.

