



St Giles School



Newsletter

Spring 2019

From The Executive Head Teacher and Associate Head of School

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had an incredible start to the year!

You can see the learning journey of pupils is becoming real, staff and pupils have been celebrating their learning and achievements.



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Through the fabulous displays around school pupils are now talking about their learning outside of their classrooms and with friends from other classes.



Last week we were chatting to a group of pupils and we asked a boy to talk to us about his work and he said "I'm just doing my learning" and went on to tell us all about the ice age.

We have seen pupils being inspired to learn. For example, one class created an imaginary fire and were warming their hands outside their role play cave (in secondary) as an inspiration for writing. Another class had a 'Dr Who' Tardis covering the classroom door as they went on their time travelling journey.

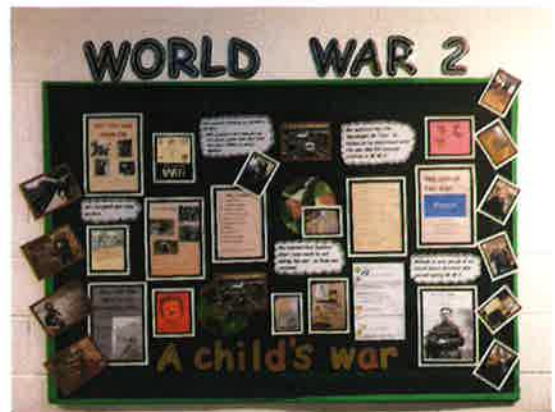
One class were submerged in the senses of a festival, 1960's style. Pupils were feeling wet mud, and grass, smelling incense and enjoying the paraphernalia of costumes and music.

A nationally renowned theatre company called 'Bamboozle' have performed their intensive and immersive production of 'Down to Earth'. Designed specifically to cater for the access needs of children and young people who have profound and multiple learning disabilities, Down to Earth evokes the atmosphere of a World War 2 allotment in the North of England which incorporated all of the senses. It was breath-taking!!!

Thank you to all of you who have completed the parent and carer questionnaire, your feedback is really important.

Have a wonderful half-term holiday!

Matt and Donna



'No dreams are out of reach'

In order to reach our dreams
we must have:

- Determination** – We know what we need to do to succeed
- Resilience** – If at first we don't succeed, we try again
- Enthusiasm** – We must want to learn and enjoy learning
- Aspirations** – We must never lose the ambition to achieve high
- Motivation** – We need you to believe that we can do it and encourage us
- Success** – we want you to celebrate our achievements however small they might be



You may have seen the above logo quite a lot lately in and around school.

As school staff we really want our pupils to understand that we strive for our pupils to show determination and resilience in their learning, enthusiasm for learning and life, that they share their aspirations for life goals and are supported to reach them and that they are motivated to succeed.

We want our pupils to understand these words and to recognise and celebrate with us when they achieve any aspects of the vision.

For pupils to begin to understand what we mean by determination, resilience, aspiration and so on we have agreed as staff to focus on one word a term fully immersing our pupils in what the focus word for the term means so that our pupils can understand that these key words are needed not only in learning but in life and in every aspect of our daily activities.

We will start with the word "**determination**" next term.

Staff will use the word "determination" in home/school diaries, phone calls, face to face meetings, we will encourage our older pupils to use it in the language they use daily, it will be used in lessons as part of learning, on the playground, in corridors, in assemblies - in fact, everywhere around school.

We would love you, as parents to join us on this journey and let us know daily, weekly or whenever you can about the times your child has shown determination outside of school. I will create a board in school where we can celebrate these moments and really start to ensure that "No DREAMS are out of reach" for our pupils!

Please help this vision on its way by writing in diaries, sending in photographs or offering suggestions as to how we can make sure we capture every moment of our pupils' successes.

IEB Corner

Hi There,

It is now a year since your IEB was put in place and I would like to think that you appreciate all the work which has been carried out in the past months. There have been changes at our school, but we believe that in such a short period of time these have been positive and for the good of all, children. Parents/ carers, and staff. We look forward to seeing the results of the recent parents/carers questionnaire and to discovering what your opinions of the school are and what has changed for you over the past twelve months. Also, just as importantly where you think we need to carry out more work on your behalf.

As you may know the role of an IEB is to oversee many responsibilities that affect the day to day working of the school. It is also intended to bring about any necessary improvements as quickly as possible. Hence, we have been meeting on a very regular basis and looked in detail at all aspects of the management of the school. To give you an idea as to what this means in practice we have reviewed and updated our policies; ensured our website is up to date, is compliant with legal requirements, and contains all the information you need to know; approved a school improvement plan which we regularly hold our senior leader's to account for and ensure it is improving the standards at our school. One of our key priorities has been to make sure your children are safe whilst at school and again we have updated our safeguarding policy which we ensure is followed for the benefit of all.

Members of the IEB are in school on a regular basis. Members are responsible for an area of concern to monitor and will meet on a regular basis with members of staff to learn what has been happening and then report back to the full IEB. This means that as we go around the school, we are also able to see for ourselves the way in which the school overall has progressed since we arrived last year.

As always, any comments or questions you may have of us please let us know and we will do our best to deal with them as soon as possible.

With best wishes for the half-term break.

Chris Levy
(Chair)



Primary News

We have come to the end of yet another busy term! Where has January gone? I am very fortunate to arrive in school early, when all is quiet and this gives me the opportunity to walk around the Primary Classes taking a long look at the achievements of your children. I am really proud of all the hard work that pupils and staff have created over the last term. There have been two topics studied in Primary; "How many colours in a Rainbow" as well as "Where does Snow go?"

I move from class to class looking at how the learning from the topics are growing and developing and how this is shown through the classroom environments and pupil work.

This term we have been really lucky for some classes to have experienced the Bamboozle Theatre for our Pre-Formal Learners and also a Sensory Story Telling Day for our Pre and Semi Formal Learners.

I am really excited for all the good work to continue as we move towards the warmer weather and the beauty of spring.



Willow Class

We have been incredibly busy here in Willow Class! We may be the youngest class but not a day goes by without us exploring something new every day and this half term has been no different.

Our topic this half term is 'Where does snow go?'

The story we chose to focus on was 'The Snowman' by Raymond Briggs. We have been looking at the different types of clothing we wear in the winter and in the summer, knowing then that we wear certain clothes for those seasons. We have also added Makaton signs to the book to help us read it. We have also been able to match the signs to the pictures in the book.

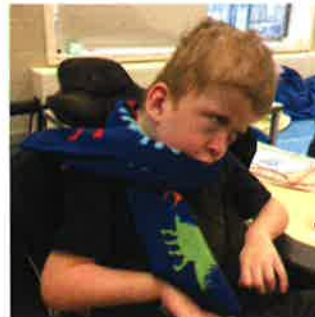
We have been fortunate to have new resources linked to our topic in our classroom and we certainly have been making full use of them! These include ice blocks, which we love to build with. We have made towers to knock down and an ice house for little Mr Tumble!

In our 'Knowledge and Understanding of the World' curriculum (Science), we have looked at ice and using our new pipettes, we have added lukewarm water to it to make it melt. Lots of curiosity and learning through exploration was shown.

We continue to share in the celebrations of our friends when it is their birthday by sharing a snack together at our table and enjoy seeing them blow out the candles on their special cake.

What an amazing half term we have had Willow Class! You continue to amaze us with all you can do!

I wonder what our next topic 'Do cows drink milk?' will bring us??



Rowan Class

What a fantastic half term it has been for Rowan Class! Our topic is all about the rainbow and the colours that make up a rainbow.

As you can see, this half term we have been looking at the story "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, what do you see?"



We have used the book as a starting point for all our learning. This includes learning about a different colour each week by exploring jelly, playdough and cornflour all made in the colours of the week not just to feel, explore and make marks but also to use different tools to explore the mediums. We have also used fabrics, ribbons, bubbles and tried different and flavoured foods in our work. Limes, lemons, blueberries and strawberries were very popular – not so the red onion! I think the oranges for the last week of term will be more happily tried! We have also encouraged the pupils to use signs and symbols to name different colours, foods and animals as discussed in the book. In Science we have been experimenting in making a rainbow using skittles.

We add a different colour each week and the pupils are now starting to anticipate what may happen. We have also watched as different coloured pompoms melt after they have been frozen. This has not only been a part of our exploration of different tools but also used in Maths and Science. We have also explored the different marks made by wet and dry chalk.

Next term we will be starting to mix Colours using the book, "The Colour Monster" and we will also start to grow a rainbow garden using the book, "Planting a Seed" All very exciting stuff!

As well as all this we have been to a special Sensory Story Telling session and explored Chinese New Year with all the flavours, sounds and colours.

Regards,

Rachel, Kirstie, Faye, Danielle, Jo, Doina, Chloe and Josie



Blake Class

Here in class we have been enjoying learning

about different Art styles from around the world,

Forces in Science and our reading, writing and

numeracy skills. We enjoyed the Book bag sensory

story and some of us were lucky enough

to be part of the Bamboozle day. Here's to

another successful term of fun learning and experiences.

Safeguarding Corner

I thought it would be beneficial to include some regular safeguarding information.

The aim of this message is to communicate key information to parents concerning Safeguarding and how as a school we aim to keep you informed to actively promote the safeguarding and welfare of all our pupils.

What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. Safeguarding means:

- protecting children from abuse and maltreatment
- preventing harm to children's health or development
- ensuring children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children and young people have the best outcomes.

Safeguarding children and child protection applies to all children up to the age of 18.

- At St. Giles we encourage parents to let us know of any bumps and bruises that occur at home and that they noticed that may have occurred at school. Similarly we will inform you if we notice any bumps or bruises that have occurred in school or that we have noticed on entry in to school or as early as possible in the school day. This is not to create a culture of mistrust but to encourage open dialogues to support the children at St. Giles.
- In recent weeks we have become aware that some messages that are quite important have not been passed on correctly to staff if they are not written in the Home/School Diary. To make sure we have full details of any information that you wish to pass onto school staff please either write in the Home/School Diaries or telephone school staff.
- It is important that we have at least three contact numbers for you; one being not anyone living in the family home. Please make sure the office always have up to date information of how to contact you.
- Online safety for our children is a concern that affects the majority of us as parents. Some of the phone companies have joined forces with some of the big phone companies to offer parents advice and support.

Some information can be found at:

<https://ee.co.uk/our-company/corporate-responsibility/keeping-children-safe-online>
<https://www.o2.co.uk/help/nspcc>

Last week the Government produced guidance on screen time. They produced a handy information sheet on using screens sensibly.

UK Chief Medical Officers' advice for parents and carers on Children and Young People's screen and social media use

Technology can be a wonderful thing but too much time sitting down or using mobile devices can get in the way of important, healthy activities. Here are some tips for balancing screen use with healthy living.

Sleep matters

Getting enough, good quality sleep is very important. Leave phones outside the bedroom when it is bedtime.



Sharing sensibly

Talk about sharing photos and information online and how photos and words are sometimes manipulated. Parents and carers should never assume that children are happy for their photos to be shared. For everyone – when in doubt, don't upload!



Education matters

Make sure you and your children are aware of, and abide by, their school's policy on screen time.



Keep moving!

Everyone should take a break after a couple of hours sitting or lying down using a screen. It's good to get up and move about a bit. #sitlessmove more



Safely when out and about

Advise children to put their screens away while crossing the road or doing an activity that needs their full attention.



Talking helps

Talk with children about using screens and what they are watching. A change in behaviour can be a sign they are distressed – make sure they know they can always speak to you or another responsible adult if they feel uncomfortable with screen or social media use.



Family time together

Screen-free meal times are a good idea – you can enjoy face-to-face conversation, with adults giving their full attention to children.



Use helpful phone features

Some devices and platforms have special features – try using these features to keep track of how much time you (and with their permission, your children) spend looking at screens or on social media.



Hope this gives you some supportive guidance.

There will be more information next time!

Kirstie

Lewis class

This term in Lewis class we have been learning about prefixes and suffixes. We have been learning how to describe pictograms and starting to double numbers.

We have been improving our skills with a number of musical instruments and thinking about how different music sounds.

Lewis class has been exploring colours, primary and secondary, how they change when they are mixed and how light passes through them.



Some of us enjoyed the noodles for Chinese New Year, cooking them to make Vegetable Chow Mein and eating the meal afterwards. Some of us thought noodles were Yucky !!



Office Gossip



The office would like to say a huge thank you to parents who registered with us on Parent Mail – here are our statistics so far!

99% of families are receiving text messages

95% of families are receiving emails

66% of families are using the mobile app

We need to try and increase your usage of the app as we use this to book parent evening appointments and send out forms that you can sign electronically!

If you feel that you need help setting up your parentmail account please contact the office team who would be more than happy to help you.

*Important
DATE!*

Parents Evening - Wednesday 6th March, 2019
Inset Day - Friday 5th April, 2019

EHCP—IMPORTANT NOTICE

As from 23rd April, 2019 your EHCP paperwork will be sent via email and you will have to telephone school for a password to open the document.

If you have changed your email address, please let the office know.

If you do require a paper copy, this can be requested from the school office, however you will have to collect this in person.

School Closure

If the decision is made to close the school to pupils, parents will be notified by text message via Parentmail. Parents can also tune in to Radio Nottingham on 103.8 FM and Trax FM on 107.9 MHz who will also be notified of school closures.



Easter Raffle - Any egg donations/chocolate would be greatly appreciated. Tickets will be on sale after half term.

St. Giles mugs are still on sale in the office at £5 each.

Tolkien Class

Tolkien class have been exploring Time this term. We had great fun travelling back in time in our very own time machine, back ten thousand years to the ice age, where we explored what life would have been like using our senses.

With a visit from the Creswell Crags outreach team we learned about the people and animals that lived here all that time ago. We examined the skeletons of a lion and a wolf and used our knowledge and thinking skills to piece them together. We have thought about our own histories and considered what we would like our futures to look like, remembering our school vision statement that 'No Dreams Are Out Of Reach'. Next half term we will be whizzing off to another time zone but we will have to wait and see where we end up. It could be anywhere!

P16

Venture class have travelled a long way and achieved so much together in the Autumn Term and continue to do so in the Spring Term. We have handled snakes, spiders and other animals at Animal Care. We have passed our Functional Skills English assessments.

In Media studies we have made our own individual websites using Wix and have started to create some super animations.

As a class we have progressed in our work experience at our very own Coffee Shop in Retford Town Centre and we have pulled together as a team and helped each other with personal skills and we continue to develop our transferrable work skills. We are becoming more confident around new people and customers explaining who we are and serving them in a professional way.

In Catering we are studying for our food handling/hygiene certificate and a Level 1 Nationally recognised qualification. We have designed individual menus and cooked meals for ourselves and peers. This has enabled us to learn how to be more independent, develop essential life skills for the future, prepare, cook and serve meals and put into practice all the new skills that we have developed in food preparation.

At Adventure Service students we have been learning within the local community and beyond enjoying new experiences and places, we have built fires from scratch in the woods to make hot drinks and food. We have progressed in our use of money by using many community amenities and have been out and about experiencing the great outdoors and nature.

Ally Smith (Assistant Head Teacher)

Burns Class

This term's unit of work explores the concept of time and time travel. Through studying contemporary children's literature, classic texts and poetry we will be immersed in the language and experiences associated with time, changes and time travel. We have applied for our jobs as "time travelling reporters" by filling in an application letter and writing our own covering letter. We have been in training for the last two weeks and are about to complete our first mission in the ice age reporting on a volcano eruption. Over the next half term we will be studying a time period closer to home and looking at the Egyptians before letting our imaginations run riot and visiting the future.

In Maths we have looked at telling the time and sequenced events in our lives. We have found some amazing facts out about how long we have been alive and even found numbers bigger than our calculator about how many seconds since we were born. We have estimated how long something will take and timed how long it actually took.

Our other topic areas have enabled us to further explore the world around us, learn how to stay safe and healthy and make links across our learning. Our topic was given an additional wow factor with a visit from the Creswell Crags outreach team where they handled real bones from animals living during the Stone Age and found out about the people who lived nearby such a long time ago. We also had the chance to travel in our very own sensory time machine, powered by the imagination, had a go at story telling around a camp fire we built, learned about what they needed to light a fire, why it would be used and have studied rock art. The highlight in class was a visit from "Cave girl Ann" when we had the chance to hot seat her and ask her questions about her life. We have made a fantastic 3d model of Creswell crags, thinking about the physical features of what makes a good place to settle as well as adding human features.

Keats Class

Keats Class investigate forces!

This half term has seen Keats Class have the most fantastic time while exploring the

topic "Forces" in Science.

We have designed and created rockets to launch by PUSHING down on the bubble

rocket launch pad and have worked out who is easiest and hardest to PULL on the

trolley. We also laughed lots during an exciting What's in the box session that

consolidated our learning before applying it while making a paint pendulum. It was messy,

funny and best of all, everybody learned lots which is just the way Keats

Class like it!

