

St Giles School News

June 2025

**CELEBRATING
100 YEARS
1925—2025**



Specialist School for Physical and Sensory

'Be the best you can be'

www.st-gilesschool.co.uk

Summer Fair – Saturday 5th July 2025, 12pm to 3pm

We're thrilled to invite you to our much-anticipated **St. Giles' Summer Fair!**

Join us on **Saturday 5th July**, from **12 noon to 3pm**, for an afternoon of **fun, food, and festivities**.

There will be:

- Traditional games and stalls
- A sizzling BBQ
- Face painting
- Tombolas, raffles and prizes and much, much more!

A **huge thank you in advance** to all the amazing parents, carers, staff, and member of the local community who are volunteering their time to run stalls, flip burgers, paint faces, and keep the fun flowing. **All funds raised** will go directly to the **Friends of St. Giles' School**, supporting enriching opportunities for our pupils throughout the year.

We can't wait to see you there and celebrate the summer together!

Upper School Summer Show – A Sensory Spectacle!

What a show! On **Tuesday 24th June**, our Upper Department students delivered a spectacular performance bursting with **music, movement, light, literature, and dance**. From **Blur to Classical music, Narnia to soundboards**, and a journey through **Top of the Pops, the '80s, '90s and today**, it was a wonderful display of talent and creativity – **with bubbles to top it off!**

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who made this event so special and attended – students, staff, parents, carers and governors.

Special recognition goes to:

- **Ewa Wilhem**, Head of Upper Department and **Rebecca Colclasure**, our talented music teacher

We're so proud of what our Upper school community created together. Bravo!

Attendance & Engagement – A Big Thank You

We are delighted to report the **highest attendance we've ever had** this half term – thank you to all families for your dedication. Every day in school truly makes a difference.

We also extend our appreciation to all parents and carers who attended **Parents' Evening on 18th June**. It was lovely to welcome you into school to hear about your child's progress and to showcase the support from our **Therapy, Transition, Family Support Worker, Rebound Therapy teams**, etc.

Please remember: if you wish to speak with our **NHS partners** (including Medica/Tulip Team, OT, SALT, and Physio), contact information is available on our school letters and website. While they are based in school, they do not work *for* St. Giles' – but we are happy to help direct you to them where needed.

Home-School Communication – A Work in Progress

We'd like to sincerely thank all parents and carers for your continued engagement with the **home-school books**. These are vital tools for supporting your child's daily experience at school.

We understand communication is important – and we're listening. With limited time and space during morning drop-offs or afternoon pickups, discussing sensitive matters at these times can be difficult. Reception can be busy and is not always confidential. We are also aware that transitions for your children can be challenging at the start and end of the day.

Moving forward, we kindly ask that:

- If there's something important to share, please write it in the **home-school book**

If a conversation is needed, we'll be happy to arrange a **phone call or meeting**.

Our **staff guidance** will be:

"Please check the home-school book daily. If there are concerns or updates noted, respond or escalate to the relevant class teacher."

Please be aware that this means that it is not that SGS staff does not want to have meaningful conversations with you before or after school. We are simply asking that the main form of communication at the start and end of the day is through the home school book. More in-depth conversations will require a meeting to be arranged. We are also exploring the introduction of a **school-wide planner or diary** in the next academic year (**2025–2026**) to further support consistent and clear communication. **Watch this space!**

Thank you again for your support and understanding.

Thank You – From All of Us

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Summer Fair – Saturday 5th July 2025, 12pm–3pm

Parents/Carers evening for Middle and Upper School department students (for those parents/carers only with students moving classes next year) – Wednesday 9th July 2025 from 4pm to 6pm.

Last day of term – Tuesday 22nd July 2025 at normal time.

First day back for students – Wednesday 3rd September 2025 at normal time.



Croydon Health Services
NHS Trust

Dear Parent or Carer,

Please be aware that after your child's nineteenth birthday, they are no longer automatically entitled to free NHS dental care, even if they remain in full-time education. Please also be aware that being in receipt of PIP or DLA, alone, does not automatically entitle your child to free NHS dental treatment.

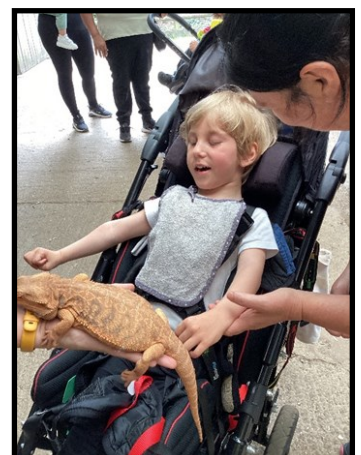
There are some benefit payments that do carry automatic exemption from dental charges, such as Income Related Employment and Support Allowance.

Alternatively, you can try applying for an HC2 certificate. You can search for and complete the forms for this online. Type in "How to get an HC2 certificate" or access the following site: <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-low-income-scheme-hc2-certificates-full-help-health-costs>.

More information on who can access free NHS dental treatment can be found on www.gov.uk/government/publications/leaflet-and-poster-on-nhs-dental-services

Indigo class had the fantastic and invaluable opportunity to visit Godstone farm. During the visit the students were able to interact with a range of different animals, they listened to the different noises they made and were all really engaged.

The students also had a 1:1 animal experience where they were shown a duck, guinea pig and a lizard up close! Towards the end of our visit we got to watch the pig race, where they were encouraged to cheer for the pigs as they went past.



Blue Class - Summer Term 2

We are excited to share the wonderful activities and learning experiences your children are engaging in this term. Our focus is on the summer show, art, and exploring nature, all while integrating key elements of the EYFS curriculum.

Summer Show

This term, we are preparing for our summer show, which promises to be a delightful event! The children are practicing their lines and storytelling skills, which helps build their confidence and creativity. They are working hard to bring their characters to life and tell a captivating story. We are incorporating various elements such as costumes, props, and music to make the show engaging and memorable. We look forward to showcasing their hard work and talent, and we hope you will join us to celebrate their achievements!

Art and Photography

In art, we are exploring photography as a form of art. The children are learning to combine their computing and art skills to capture and showcase the beauty of nature around us. This project links to several EYFS curriculum areas:

- **Expressive Arts and Design:** Children experiment with photography and digital tools to create art, exploring different media and materials.
- **Understanding the World:** Exploring nature and the local area helps children develop curiosity and understanding about the world.
- **Personal, Social, and Emotional Development:** Displaying their photographs and participating in sensory stories boosts their confidence and self-awareness.

Communication and Language: Using visual aids and sensory experiences improves listening and attention skills.

Sensory Stories and Nature Exploration

We are creating sensory stories about going to the beach, which the children thoroughly enjoy. When the weather is sunny, we take to the outdoors to explore nature and our local area. These activities are particularly beneficial for children:

- **Nature Walks:** Children use Ipads to capture interesting sights, feel different textures, and listen to the sounds around them.
- **Sensory Stories:** We use props like sand, shells, and water to simulate a beach experience, engaging their senses and telling a story.

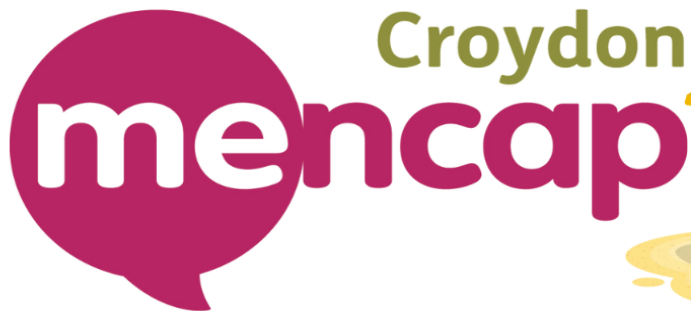
Photo Displays: Children create photo displays of their nature photographs, using symbols or signs to explain their pictures.

These activities provide a rich, inclusive learning experience for all children, helping them to express themselves and understand the world around them.

We are excited to see the children's creativity and exploration flourish this term. Thank you for your continued support!



If you would like to attend please contact Sue Payne via email at info@croydonmencap.org.uk to book your free place. This trip is for Parent/Carers only

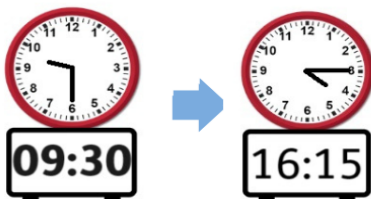


Brighton Carers Coach Trip

June
2025

Thursday

26



Join us for a trip to Brighton and a chance to relax, shop and take in the scenery



Meet at Fairfield Halls

Explore the lanes and the pier!

Coach pick up from Fairfield Halls – drop off at Brighton Sea front -approximately 11.20 am

Return journey leave 2.45 – arrive back at Fairfield Halls 4.15 approximately (depending on traffic)



Contact Sue to book



07718 494 468



sue@croydonmencap.org.uk

The Croydon NHS Speech and Language Therapy Team at St Giles School.

Who we are:

Emma Bridgeman - Speech and Language Therapist (Lead for Physical Disability and AAC)

emma.bridgeman@nhs.net

Romika Ramlagan - Specialist Speech and Language Therapist - romika.ramlagan@nhs.net

Ruchi Shrivastava - Specialist Speech and Language Therapist - ruchi.shrivastava1@nhs.net

Shanay Huffstead - Speech and Language Therapy Assistant

A bit about us:

We are part of a larger team working at Croydon Health Services NHS Trust and all work across St Giles as well as other settings in the Borough. As a team we work across all classes in the school, working with teachers and teaching assistants to provide communication and eating and drinking support to the students at St Giles. We are on-site for most of the week which enables us to have a close working relationship with the staff at St Giles as well as our other professional colleagues from Croydon Health Services such as Nursing, Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy.

What we do:

All children at St Giles School are supported by staff who receive training from our Speech and Language Therapy Team. This training and support means that the staff at St. Giles have a high level of knowledge and skill about communication development and support, as well as eating and drinking difficulties and alternative and augmentative communication (AAC). We also liaise with teachers of each class to provide advice and support as required for the children they teach. This ensures that staff who support the children can implement any strategies throughout the day within the child's familiar class environment.

We may also directly see children who have eating, drinking and swallowing difficulties and/or communication difficulties which are impacting on learning, wellbeing or safety.

How to contact us:

Please feel free to contact us to discuss any queries or concerns you have at any time during the academic year. You can do this via email, via your child's home/school contact book or you are also very welcome to call us on the contact telephone number (020 8680 2141 - option 7).

Emma



Romika



Ruchi



Dear Parents/Carers,

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme returns for the Summer 2025 holidays. Croydon Council is working in partnership with over 50 local organisations to provide FREE holiday activities and food for children who are in receipt of benefits-related Free School Meals.

What's included: Up to 16 days of face-to-face activities, including a daily healthy meal and fun activities

Every child/family in receipt of benefits-related Free School Meals will have the chance to book onto programmes running this Summer.

On **Monday 30th June**, you will receive an email or text message from HolidayActivities (hello@holidayactivities.com) stating 'You have been issued a voucher'. The email will contain details of how to register/sign-in to the booking platform and claim your child(ren)'s voucher. Once you have claimed your voucher you will be able to link your HolidayActivities Voucher to your Holiday Activities Account, which will show the available credits you have to use. If you are unable to locate this email, please check your junk mail.

If you have more than one child, you will have received multiple vouchers via email/text. Please ensure you access the individual link for each of your children for their credits to show in your Holiday Activities Account. When you first log in, HolidayActivities will ask for you to share your location. By doing so, clubs will be displayed based on those closest to you.

If you have any trouble with accessing the platform, please email support@holidayactivities.com. Spaces on the HAF programme are limited and pre-booking is essential. All bookings must be confirmed using the HolidayActivities online platform.

Please look out for your email or text message from HolidayActivities.com (hello@holidayactivities.com) which contains your voucher code, and book now to ensure that your child does not miss out.



Please see below for some more workshops from Renaissance Legal. Please visit their website (below) for booking details.....

Planning for the Future with Wills & Trusts webinar – Wednesday 25 June 10.00am via Zoom

Philip Warford will present a webinar about what to consider when planning for the future of a disabled or vulnerable loved one using Wills and Trusts. Philip will explain how you can safeguard means-tested benefits and how to provide financial security for them, as well as the rest of your family. Philip will talk through the different Trust options available, the importance of a Letter of Wishes and the role of Trustees.

Decision Making for Vulnerable People webinar - The Mental Capacity Act, Lasting Powers of Attorney and Court of Protection – Thursday 10 July, 10.00am via Zoom

Philip Warford will be delivering a webinar about who can make decisions on behalf of another person, the key principles of the Mental Capacity Act 2005, Powers of Attorney and how the Court of Protection might help. If you are a parent or carer of a child or young person who may not be able to make decisions about their welfare and finances now or in the future, you will need to consider the best ways to protect them as they move to adulthood.

Universal Credit webinar – Thursday 17 July 10.00am via Zoom

Universal Credit is a means tested benefit that was first launched in 2013, and it replaces six of the older style benefits; child tax credits, working tax credits, income support, income-based Jobseekers Allowance and income-based Employment and Support Allowance. In this free webinar, welfare benefits specialist Nicola Spruce will explain more about what Universal Credit is and how the government's 'Move to UC' strategy might affect you or somebody you are supporting.

A bit about Renaissance Legal (www.renaissancelegal.co.uk)

Renaissance Legal are based in Brighton. We specialise in working with families and carers of disabled and vulnerable individuals, helping them plan effectively for the future with Wills, Trusts, Powers of Attorney, Court of Protection applications, Inheritance Tax Planning and Benefits advice. Renaissance Legal has an unrivalled reputation for their work in the disabled and vulnerable community. The team prides itself on truly understanding the unique needs of families and disabled individuals – all of whom are dealing with complex, often challenging lives, where it's vital that they understand their options. Our webinars are free to join and there is no ongoing obligation.

www.renaissancelegal.co.uk

01273 610 611 . Pacific House, 126 Dyke Road, Brighton, BN1 3TE

Excellent school attendance continues to be a priority for our school community. We ask that if your child/children are going to be absent from school

that you continue to inform us before 8.00am by ringing the school office or preferably emailing our dedicated absence address:

absence@st-giles.croydon.sch.uk

Nursing Update

At the end of the summer term we will be sending home any medication or milk that will be expiring over the summer holidays. Please can a new supply of medication or milk, including emergency Buccolam be requested and sent in on the 3rd September. Please ensure that all medication has an up to date prescription label attached. If your child has a gastrostomy button, please can you provide a spare button in their school bag that can be used if an unplanned change is required.

Thanks, Tulip Nursing Team



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PRESENTS

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SUNDAY
27 JULY
11am - 5pm

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