

St Giles School News

September 2025



**CELEBRATING
100 YEARS
1925—2025**



Specialist School for Physical and Sensory

'Be the best you can be'

www.st-gilesschool.co.uk

"Dear Parents, Carers, and Friends of St. Giles",

What a fantastic start we have had to the new academic year! The corridors and classrooms are once again full of energy, enthusiasm, and smiles as we begin this exciting journey together. Our pupils have returned eager to learn, our staff are committed and inspired, and the whole St. Giles' community continues to shine brightly as a place of growth, inclusion, and belonging.

At St. Giles', we believe that every child has unique gifts to share, and together we strive to ensure that every learner has the support and encouragement they need to truly *be the best they can be*.

We are proud to provide that space – where well-being, friendship, and achievement walk hand in hand.

Advance Notices

Meet Our New Deputy Headteacher - reminder

Friday 3rd October 2025

9:45am – 10:45am

We warmly invite you to join us for tea or coffee and meet **Ms. Kelly Whiting**, our new Deputy Headteacher. Kelly brings with her a wealth of experience, passion, and a deep commitment to supporting every learner. This will be a wonderful chance to welcome her into our school family and hear her vision for the future of St. Giles'.

Parents and Carers Evening – advance notice

Wednesday 15th October 2025

4:00pm – 6:00pm

This is an important opportunity to meet with your child's teacher and other key staff, celebrate progress, and discuss next steps in your child's learning journey. We kindly ask all parents and carers to register on the **Studybug App**, by this Friday 3rd October 2025 – as this app will be used for you to make bookings when it goes live in a few days. Please follow this link to register -

<https://studybugs.com/about/parents>

Moving Forward Together

As we embrace this new academic year, let us celebrate the achievements of our children, the strength of our community, and the hope we carry forward together. We are excited about the opportunities ahead and thankful for the unwavering support of our parents, carers, and community.

Together, let's continue to build a school where every child can flourish and truly *be the best they can be*.

With gratitude and positivity,

Stephen Hehir

Headteacher

DATES FOR THE DIARY

October

Fri 3rd—Meet the Headteacher/Deputy Head coffee morning

9.45—10.45

Wed 15th—Parents Evening 4-6pm

Fri 17th—Cool Café 1000 -11.30am

Fri 24th—Mufti Day—exchange for donation to The Friends Association

Half term : Mon 27 Oct—Fri 31 Oct

November

Fri 28th—Inset day (no school for students)

Hello St Giles' School families and friends,

My name is Kelly Whiting, and I'm thrilled to have joined the SGS community this academic year as **Deputy Headteacher**.

It's been a joy to be welcomed so warmly into the school. I've been spending time across the site, getting to know our wonderful students and the dedicated professionals who make SGS such a special place.

This is my seventh year in a deputy headship role. Prior to joining SGS, I spent 14 years at a school in North London, where I held various teaching and leadership positions. My family is now relocating to Croydon, and I'm excited to explore everything the borough has to offer, especially its sense of community.

Originally from New Zealand, I've been working in the SEND field since I was 18. Supporting young people with special educational needs has always been my passion, and I truly believe it's the best job in the world.

I'm deeply committed to advocating for our students and their families, working collaboratively with our team, and finding creative ways to engage and inspire. Above all, I aim to bring joy and connection to learning. My goal is to help drive SGS to be the very best it can be, ensuring our students receive the highest quality education.

I look forward to getting to know our SGS parents better as the term progresses. For now, I'm enjoying every moment as I settle into this fabulous school!



In **Silver** Class, we have been looking at autumn and our topic "This is me". We have spent time exploring our responses to different experiences inside and outside of the classroom. Our sensory story is "Elmer" and we have all shown preferences to different sensations in the story. We all have sections we really enjoy. Throughout September, we have tried to encourage refusal of things we dislike / are not interested in, as well requesting more. We have looked at what makes us happy or sad and why we think a student might feel that way.

During cause and effect work we have restarted songs and lights. Some students find controlling people quite funny when we have to dance or sing. We have had activities that encourage time with a friend sharing an interest and some of the students are now looking or reaching out when they are close. We have time listening to our friends voices during a group interaction.

As part of our harvest work we have collected our own harvest from the school grounds and explored apples and pears, whole, peeled, mashed and pureed. We had time to explore what we can do independently and what engages us.



Do you have an experience to share about NHS continuing care?

Too many disabled children with complex health needs and their families miss out on vital NHS-funded support due to a postcode lottery of care.

This support, known as continuing care, provides tailored care packages for children with complex, often life-limiting, health needs that cannot be supported through the usual health services in England.

We are keen to speak to families who have experience of children's continuing care.

Get in touch with elaine.bennett@contact.org.uk and amanda.elliott@contact.org.

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

ADAPTEDTRENDS

Adapted Trends provides functional, fashionable and individual adaptive wear clothing that's suitable for teenagers and young adults with disabilities, special needs and wheelchair users.

Our specially designed adapted cargo trousers prioritise comfort and convenience for all users, particularly teenagers and young adults with disabilities and wheelchair users. By addressing these crucial needs, our adaptive trousers also provide valuable support to caregivers and have meticulously developed these unique trousers with several key points in mind:

- **Promoting Independence:** Our cargo trousers are here to help you feel more independent.
- They make it easier to dress yourself and take care of personal needs, giving you more freedom in your daily activities.
- **Making Life Simpler:** We've focused on creating adaptive fashion that's easy to wear. Whether it's you or someone helping you, our trousers make dressing and undressing and using the bathroom easier. This inclusive design takes away a lot of the stress that can come with these tasks.
- **Prioritizing Comfort:** Comfort is key for us. Our cargo trousers are made from high-quality materials that provide a soft, adaptable fit, ensuring that wearers can enjoy all-day comfort without compromising on style or functionality.

For more info please see **website:** WWW.Adaptedtrendsclothing.co.uk

Makaton Taster session for Parents & Carers of Adults/Children with Learning Disabilities.

16th October 2025 - 1pm - 2.30pm

Please see further details on flyer below.

If you would like to attend please contact Emily Oakhill via email at info@croydonmencap.org.uk to book your place. This session is for Parent/Carers only

PLEASE NOTE THERE ARE LIMITED PLACES





CROYDON

Croydon Council's RAP Programme stands for Recreation Activity Programme, a disability sports programme for young people aged 5-25, offering inclusive activities like swimming, rebound therapy, and powerchair football, and also provides a platform for families to connect. To join, new participants must contact SDO@croydon.gov.uk for registration, and all booking confirmations should be sent to the same email address.

About the program:

- **Target audience:** The RAP is for children and young people with disabilities or additional needs who are between 5 and 25 years old.
- **Purpose:** The programme focuses on developing physical skills, encouraging teamwork, and building confidence in a supportive and inclusive environment. The council has stated that the programme helps young people get active, develop skills, and most importantly, have fun.
- **Activities:** Activities are delivered by experienced and qualified staff and include:
 - Swimming
 - Basketball
 - Racket sports
 - Rebound therapy
 - Powerchair football
 - Dance
 - Holiday Clubs

Partnerships: The programme is run by Croydon Council's sport and leisure team in partnership with local organizations, such as the Palace for Life Foundation and SLiDE Dance.

Awards: In August 2025, the programme was named "Club of the Month" by Every Body Moves, a grass-roots program by Paralympics GB.

How to join: Those new to the programme must contact SDO@croydon.gov.uk to register and ensure a child's suitability before booking sessions.

For children's SEN activities in Croydon, please see below :

Specific activities include inclusive sports, drama, sensory play, and holiday schemes, with options for both young people and adults with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Resources for Children & Young People

[Croydon Local Offer:](#)

Provides information on short breaks, holiday play schemes, and other services for children with SEND.

[Club Hub UK:](#)

Features a comprehensive list of kids clubs, classes, and activities specifically for disabled and special needs children in the Croydon area.

[Eventbrite:](#)

Search for events and parties designed for children with special educational needs and disabilities.

[Croydon Mencap:](#)

Offers clubs and activities for adults with a learning disability, such as the Monday Night Social Club and the Saturday Club.

[Croydon SENDIASS \(Kids Charity\):](#)

A service offering advice and support for families of children with SEND, including information on local services.

[RAP sports courses:](#)

These courses offer inclusive sports like street dance, swimming, and table tennis for children and young people with disabilities.

[Support to Thrive:](#)

A play and learn session that takes place at a Children's Centre, which includes a sensory room

General Resources

[The Good Schools Guide:](#)

A general resource listing clubs and activities that may be suitable for children with SEN, such as bushcraft, cooking, and music lessons.

[Croydon Libraries:](#)

Check their events page for activities like Rhymetime and Book Buddies, which can be inclusive.

[Simply Connect Croydon:](#)

A directory that can help you connect with local community services and activities.



Update from the Nursing Team

Welcome back, we hope you had a lovely summer. We just wanted to update you on our team structure so you know who everyone is and the pathways everyone works under this academic year.

As usual we have had a busy start to the school year ensuring all of your children and young people's paperwork is up to date and gives an accurate reflection of their needs.

Individual Health Care Plans (Care plans)

The majority of our care plans have now been completed and sent out with the remaining care plans to be sent home by the end of next week. Could we ask that you check you are happy with these and make any changes you would like and then sign and return the signed copy to us. This acts as a consent for the care delivery of your child's planned health care needs during the day for school.

Paracetamol consent forms

You will have received a paracetamol consent form at the start of term; this will need to be returned completed and signed in order for us to administer paracetamol to your child at school if they become unwell or are in pain. We hold stock paracetamol in school so there is no need to send any in, however we cannot give this unless the signed form is returned each academic year.

Education Health and Care Plan input

The way nursing contributes to your child's EHCP is changing. From September we will be writing our EHCPs in a slightly different way. Following audit feedback from the summer term we are trying to remove some of the 'medical jargon' from our plans. We do however recognise that this information is important in building up a clear picture of your child's health needs at home and at school. We will therefore be attaching a copy of their care plan (IHCP) alongside their EHCP. If your child is in Nursery, Year 2, Year 6 or Year 9 you will receive a phone call from your child's nursing case manager to discuss their needs in relation to nursing in their EHCP, your aspirations and their aspirations to ensure we are capturing a true reflection of what you feel they require in relation to their health needs to keep them safe and ensure their attendance at school.



The School Nursing Team at St Giles School

NHS
Croydon Health Services
NHS Trust



Shona

Clinical Nurse Specialist
Special School Nursing
Pathway



Bernadette

Senior Staff Nurse



Louise

Senior Staff Nurse



Fawzia

Staff Nurse



Lovia

Staff Nurse



Yannick

Staff Nurse



Helen

Healthcare Assistant



Abbey

Healthcare Assistant



Danielle

Healthcare Assistant



Elizabeth

Healthcare Assistant



Tracey

Healthcare Assistant



NHS
Croydon Health Services
NHS Trust



Charlotte
Matron



Claire
Clinical Nurse Specialist
Acute Liaison



Judy
Clinical Nurse Specialist
Healthcare Transition



Melissa
Clinical Nurse Specialist
Neurodisability



Claire
Clinical Nurse Specialist
Behaviour Pathway



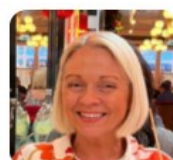
Diane
Allocated Senior Staff Nurse
Priory/Bensham Manor Schools



Shairy
Allocated Senior Staff Nurse
Redgates School



Yasmin
Allocated Senior Staff Nurse
St Nicholas School



Jane
Team Administrator



Louise
Assistant Practitioner
Behaviour Pathway



Gemma
Administrator
Behaviour Pathway

You will be receiving a letter in the coming weeks for the Circus Starr event next year. Please send your reply slip back ASAP if you are interested, as we will only have a limited amount of tickets.



**RETURNING WITH
ANOTHER MAGICAL SHOW!**



**FRIDAY 16TH JANUARY 2026
THE RECREATIONAL, FAIRFIELD HALLS,
PARK LANE, CROYDON, CR9 1DG**

**THANKS TO THE KIND SUPPORT OF LOCAL BUSINESSES,
TICKETS FOR OUR INCLUSIVE SHOWS ARE FREE!**

**OUR EVENTS ARE HELD ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE
DISADVANTAGED, DISABLED, OR HAVE ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS.**

WWW.CIRCUS-STARR.ORG.UK