

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another very busy and enjoyable term at St Giles. International Week was a wonderful celebration across the school, and our class "Wow Events" were a real highlight. It was lovely to meet so many of you who were able to attend and share these moments with us.

When we return after the Easter holidays, we will be launching Science Week, with lots of exciting activities planned across the school.

Please keep an eye on the school website for updates and photographs.

Staffing Updates

This term, we say a heartfelt thank you and goodbye to members of our Swimming Team, **Lesley Mulcahy** (25years service) and **Wendy Bevis**, (38 years service) who have been part of St Giles for many years. They have supported countless pupils to develop confidence and enjoyment in the pool. Wendy and Lesley have become true pillars of the school—our Lead Moving and Handling Champions, ensuring both staff and pupils are supported safely and confidently every single day. As LOLER sling examiners, they carry a huge responsibility with professionalism and care, often working behind the scenes to keep everything running smoothly. We are extremely grateful for their dedication and we wish them both a very happy and well-earned retirement! We warmly welcome **Vicky Panagiotidou** as our new Swim Instructor. **Lisa Mellor**, already known to many families as a PCSA, will also be stepping into the new role of Swimming Assistant, bringing consistency and experience to the team.

We also say goodbye to **Wendy Mullinder**, who has worked as a Teaching Assistant at St Giles for many years. Wendy has supported countless students across many classes, always showing exceptional care, patience and a genuine commitment to their wellbeing and success. Her kindness, dedication and constant support have made a meaningful and lasting difference to both students and staff. We wish her all the best for her retirement and the future.

We are pleased to welcome **Daniel Davis**, who joins us as the new teacher for Dalzell Class. Daniel joins us from another special school in London and brings valuable experience to our team.

Term-Time Leave and Holiday Requests

Recently, we have received an increasing number of requests for pupils to be taken out of school for holidays during term time. As a school, we must follow national guidance, which states that **headteachers cannot authorise holidays during term time** except in *very exceptional circumstances*. These circumstances are extremely limited, and family holidays do not meet the threshold. Regular attendance is essential for continuity, routines and progress for our pupils, and we appreciate your support in adhering to this requirement.

Friends of St Giles (PTA) & Governor Vacancy

I met with our PTA, the Friends of St Giles, last week. We are looking to welcome new members who would like to help us plan events and create further opportunities for our pupils. If you are interested in joining, please contact the school office.

We are also seeking a **Parent Governor** to join our Governing Body. If you would like to contribute to shaping the future of the school, please send an expression of interest to:

office@st-giles.croydon.sch.uk

Requests to Meet Senior Leaders

We are receiving a number of urgent requests for immediate meetings with senior leaders. Whilst we always want to support families and resolve issues promptly, we kindly ask that all concerns follow the appropriate route:

- 1. First contact the class teacher**
2. If needed, the concern then goes to the Head of Lower School or relevant phase lead
Senior leadership meetings may then be arranged once these avenues have been explored

This helps ensure the right people are involved at the right stage and allows the senior team to prioritise safeguarding, curriculum and operational responsibilities. Thank you for your support.

Finally, I would like to wish all our families a happy, restful and peaceful Easter break. Thank you for your continued support and partnership

Warm regards,

Marianne Rodger-Weetman
Headteacher

Orange class

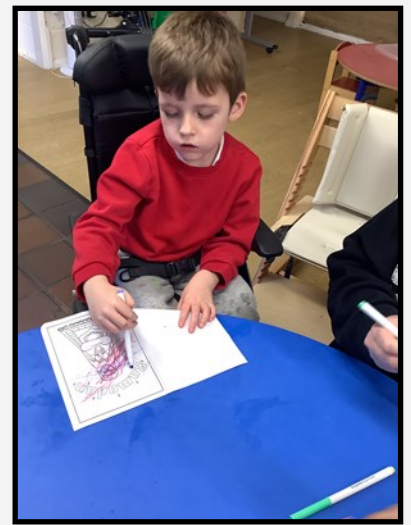
This term, orange class really enjoyed learning about Ramadan and Eid and understanding more about this special time. We especially like singing Ramadan Moon in RE.

We have had a fantastic time discovering lots of different stories. We became rough, tough night pirates, sailing the seven seas on exciting adventures! Along the way, we helped look after our oceans by cleaning up the beach with Rocket and writing letters encouraging people to put their rubbish in the bin so it doesn't end up in the sea. We even rescued a baby turtle who had become tangled in plastic.

In maths, we have been investigating numbers and enjoying lots of fun counting games together. During messy maths, we explored capacity using water and discovered different ways to move it by emptying, filling, pouring and measuring, with plenty of splashing along the way! It reminded us of when the fox in the story *Rosie's Walk* fell into the pond.

In drama, we have been doing an excellent job practising turn-taking. We listened carefully to our friends using their voices and used symbols to choose where to go in our Teleport game.

We are very proud of all the persistence and curiosity orange class has shown and look forward to another successful term ahead!



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

International week

The International Week celebration at St Giles School has begun. It is a vibrant and educational event where each class selects a country to explore. Throughout the week, students will be learning about the culture, history and traditions of their chosen country, engaging in creative activities. Parents have been invited to join in the fun.

Christy class took a flight to Canada and enjoyed the whole travelling experience including watching an in-flight film and snacks. They will be learning about Canada for the remainder of the week.

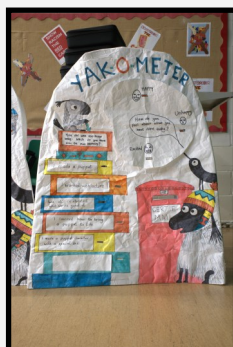


The Littlest Yak performance was a perfect fit for our children. They were fully engaged from the very beginning, expressing their enthusiasm through laughter, comments, and wide eyed attention. The show's creativity and inclusiveness held their interest right through to the end of the 1 hour 30 minute performance.

Even the smallest details — from the beautifully crafted set to the charmingly different sized yaks added to the magic. Children also had the chance to meet the puppets before and after the show, which proved especially helpful for those who are usually nervous around puppets and were then able to enjoy the performance with confidence.

In the afternoon workshop, the children met the actors properly and proudly shared artwork inspired by **The Littlest Yak**. They even had the opportunity to make music together, with one of the actors inviting them to play her guitar.

Overall, the experience was a wonderful addition to our Irresistible Curriculum, and Middle School is already looking forward to welcoming more events like this in the future.



Hello to the fantastic community of St Giles. My name is Daniel Davis, and I am delighted to introduce myself as the new teacher in the wonderful Dalzell Class.

My journey in education has already taken me on an incredible path. As a young adolescent, I quickly realised that if I couldn't become a professional athlete, the next best thing would be to become a teacher. So, when my university studies came to an end, I joined the educational charity City Year as a volunteer. This was a transformative experience that allowed me to work in a primary school in East London, supporting disadvantaged pupils across their core subjects. From my very first moments in the school, I could see the impact I was having—particularly as male role models can sometimes be underrepresented in education. This reassured me that I was making the right choice in pursuing a career in teaching.

After completing my year of service, I joined Fit For Sport, an activity company delivering PE and sports across a range of primary schools in London, as well as supporting extracurricular activities. This role exposed me to a variety of school environments and broadened my understanding of how each school serves its local community. I felt very much in my element delivering Physical Education, as leading an active lifestyle is something I am truly passionate about.

Following this, I applied for a role in a special school within my local community—an area of education that had been recommended to me by a colleague. I was successful, and my horizons were broadened even further by a world I had never previously encountered. That was over seven years ago, and I haven't looked back since. I began my teacher training in 2020 and became fully qualified in 2024.

Throughout my journey, I have been continually reminded of the importance of our young people. They are our future, and the opportunity to help shape their lives has kept me motivated, hungry, and eager to grow within this profession. It is with great pleasure that I now continue this journey with St Giles—a school with deep history and a powerful commitment to supporting young people with complex needs.



Mind in Croydon provides a wide range of services for people with mental health problems and their carers. These services include: a carers' support service information and advocacy services counselling

Applicable age ranges: 25 plus years, Parents and carers, 17 to 24 years, 11 to 16 years, 5 to 10 years.

For more details call 0208 668 2210 or Website: admin@mindincroydon.org.uk

Easter Gifts

We are delighted to let you know that **Tesco** has kindly donated **Easter eggs**, so each child will be bringing one home. We would like to send a huge 'thank you' to Tesco's once again, for their generous donation of Easter Eggs, for our St Giles pupils.

Tesco have supported St Giles on numerous occasions and we are very grateful for all their help.

Picture shows: Marianne Rodger- Weetman (Head Teacher), Tony Carlin (School Business Manager), Nicole Todd (Assistant Head), Suleyman Oral, People and Safety Manager at Tesco's and Geneva Raymond, also from Tesco's.



CROYDON
www.croydon.gov.uk

LEARNING DISABILITY carnival

Join the celebration of inclusivity, creativity and community filled with music, food, games and performances

Love and Laughter

Kids activities and Games

Food and snacks

🕒 10:30 AM - 5:00 PM
📅 27th June 2026

📍 North End, Croydon
Town Centre CROITP

📞 07521417134
07849638590

✉️ victoria@ldacroydon.org.uk
Stella@ldacroydon.org.uk
samuel@ldacroydon.org.uk

You're Never Alone CIC

Supporting SEND Families Together

Who We Are

YOU'RE NEVER ALONE CIC OFFERS PEER SUPPORT FOR PARENTS AND CARERS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND). FOUNDED BY A SEND PARENT, OUR COMMUNITY PROVIDES EMPATHY, RESOURCES, AND EMPOWERMENT TO FAMILIES NAVIGATING SIMILAR JOURNEYS.

What We Do

- WEEKLY SUPPORT GROUPS - SAFE, WELCOMING SPACES EVERY TUESDAY DURING TERM TIME.
- REMOTE SUPPORT - PHONE, EMAIL, AND SOCIAL MEDIA SUPPORT WHEN YOU CAN'T ATTEND IN PERSON.
- INCLUSIVE EVENTS & GUEST SPEAKERS - ACCESSIBLE HOLIDAY EVENTS AND...

Why It Matters

- REDUCE ISOLATION AND BUILD A COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITY. SHARE PEER-LED GUIDANCE, SELF-CARE, AND RESILIENCY.
- CONNECT FAMILIES WITH VALUABLE EXTERNAL SUPPORT.

Proven that through events and groups we make a difference.

DONATE 📍 At yourneveralone.uk

How to connect

- 📧 @youre_never_alone_ldn
- 🌐 Youreneveralone.uk
- ✉️ admin@Youreneveralone.uk

Manor of Fun youth club—Mondays 3pm to 5:30pm

This afternoon youth club provides social and informal education for young people with disabilities, learning difficulties and additional needs. Provided and funded by Croydon's 0 to 25 SEND Service. Applicable age ranges: 17 to 24 years, 11 to 16 years, 5 to 10 years

Ecclesbourne Road, Thornton Heath, CR7 7BN

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annemarieabalo@benshammanor.com; Paul.funnell@croydon.gov.uk