St Giles CofE Primary School

Together in the light of God's love
Respect – Nurture – Inspire –Achieve
Bringing out the best in every child

Newsletter – Autumn 1

Half Term Highlights at St Giles
As we reach the end of our first half term, it's hard to believe how quickly the weeks have flown by. It has been a wonderful start to the school year, filled with learning, laughter and plenty of memorable moments.
We are especially proud of our 22 Reception children, who have settled brilliantly into school life. They have embraced new routines with confidence and enthusiasm, and it has been lovely to watch their friendships grow.
Across the school, every child has thrown themselves into their learning, and it has been a joy to visit classrooms and see the exciting experiences taking place each day. From Sycamore and Maple classes exploring the fascinating world of Ancient Egypt, to Elm and Oak classes learning about Guy Fawkes and creating artwork inspired by Yayoi Kusama, there has been an abundance of creativity, curiosity and excitement. The enthusiasm buzzing through our classrooms has been a delight to see, and we look forward to sharing some of this fantastic learning with you at our **Sharing Afternoon on Friday 20th November at 2.45pm**. We hope many of you will be able to join us.

Harvest Celebrations
At the beginning of October, we came together to celebrate Harvest, one of the highlights of the autumn term. As in previous years, our Year 5 and 6 pupils worked together to create a beautiful Harvest loaf, which was used both in our school celebration and at the church Harvest service on Sunday. The children thoroughly enjoyed crafting the different sections of the loaf, and were especially pleased to make a second loaf that they could share with their classmates. Our Harvest celebration was a wonderful occasion. Every class performed something they had practised, and each contribution brought smiles to the faces of those watching. As one parent kindly shared, it was "a gorgeous, uplifting experience for everyone that came to watch." We could not agree more. A huge thank you goes to all our staff for helping the children prepare so wonderfully for the service. We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the families who donated items for the Family Support Work food collection. Your generosity will make a real difference to local families who need support.

Working Together with Parents
We greatly value the partnership between home and school, and this half term we have enjoyed welcoming parents into school for a range of workshops and events.

Mrs Maynard, our English and Reading Lead, recently hosted a session for Reception families, sharing how we teach phonics and reading in Key Stage 1 and offering practical ways to support reading at home. She has also produced a helpful reading guide for families, copies of which are available in the entrance hall and will soon be available on our website.

Alongside this, we were pleased to host a parent workshop and coffee morning, in partnership with our school support team, focusing on positive communication. It was wonderful to see parents coming together to share ideas and experiences. We are already looking forward to our next session in the Spring Term, which will focus on supporting children with friendships.

Celebrating Pupil Leadership
A particularly exciting part of the half term has been appointing our new pupil leaders.
Our annual Bishop Team elections, a proud St Giles tradition for more than 50 years, once again showcased the confidence, maturity and thoughtfulness of our Year 6 pupils. Eight children stood for election, each delivering heartfelt speeches reflecting on our school values of Respect, Nurture, Inspire and Achieve and sharing their ideas for supporting younger pupils. The standard was exceptionally high, making the decision a difficult one. We are delighted to congratulate **Ben**, **Florence** and **Digby**, who were elected as our new Bishop Team members.
We also elected our new Team Captains, with Year 6 pupils speaking passionately about how they would encourage and support their colour teams. Congratulations to **Ivan**, **Amelia**, **Cassidy and Zack**, who will be leading their teams this year.
In addition, we have established our Worship Team and School Council, providing leadership opportunities and responsibilities for children across the school. We are excited to see the ideas and initiatives they develop throughout the year. Our Worship Team will be led by **Eliza**, **Cody**, **McKenzie and Harrison**.

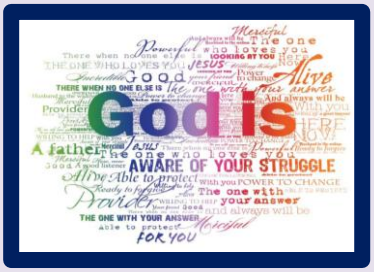
Bowles Residential Adventure
Our Year 5 and 6 residential visit to Bowles was another highlight of the half term. The trip provided a fantastic opportunity for pupils to challenge themselves, build resilience and develop teamwork through a range of outdoor activities. Despite some rather wet and windy weather, spirits remained high and the children threw themselves into every challenge with enthusiasm and determination. The photographs in this newsletter capture just how much they enjoyed the experience. By the time everyone returned on Thursday, there were certainly a few tired children... and staff too!

As we look ahead to the next half term, we would like to thank all our children, staff and families for helping to make such a positive start to the school year. We are excited for all that lies ahead and look forward to sharing many more achievements and celebrations with you in the weeks to come.

With very best wishes,
Mrs Coulson and Mr Savage

Collective Worship

As we began a new school year, our collective worship focused on the theme of **wisdom** and the importance of building strong foundations, just like the wise builder who built his house on the rock. We have been encouraging children to settle back into routines, strengthen friendships, develop resilience and make wise choices that help them grow as learners and individuals. Through exploring God as our Creator and guide, children have reflected on how they can live out our school values of **Respect, Nurture, Inspire and Achieve**, helping us to fulfil our vision of **bringing out the best in every child**. Together, we are working to create a community where every child feels valued, supported and inspired to flourish.





Our new Bishop team for this year – Ben, Florence and Digby!



Our new Team Captains for this year!

Our Maple Cake sale raised a whopping £412.55! Thank you to the PTA and Maple parents for this amazing start to our cake sales this year.

Sports Stars part 1!

Congratulations to our KS2 runners who took part in the Cumnor House Cross Country – they all ran well and tried their hardest.

Well done to all those who have attended sporting events this half term – you have represented St Giles so well and we are incredibly proud of you!



Sports Stars part 2!

Congratulations to Digby and Cassidy who recently took part in a 6K Commando Obstacle Mud Run with their dads. They worked really well as a team and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



Bonfire Season approaches!

One of our Year 2 children, Dessica, carried her first lit torch at the Heathfield Bonfire – she did so well and is very proud of herself, as well she should be!



Year 5 Camp and Bowles


















Learners of the Week

Oak	Sienna for being a kind and caring role model to the reception children. Going above and beyond! Oliver for making good choices in independent learning. Ethan for an amazing start to the year in Oak Class. Gigi for amazing successful sentences. Oz for trying really hard with his writing!
Elm	Finley for an incredible start to Year 2 – a super Year 2 learner! Kobie for working so hard at successful settling into Year 2 – great perseverance! Zachary for incredible progress and effort with his independent writing. Emilia for super effort and wonderful sentence writing. Clara TM for best effort in her writing.
Sycamore	Isabella for an amazing start to Year 3. Byron for a brilliant week especially in science. Zoe for great work in class. Eden for amazing sentence starters. Phoebe for writing an amazing escape story. Neve and George both for amazing attitude to all learning. Ella for amazing sentence work on her group. Posy for a fabulous positive attitude to all her work.
Maple	Oscar for making great links in his learning. Zack PR for a great start to Year 6. Florence for reading questions carefully in maths so they can be solved accurately. India for accurate speech punctuation. Georgia B for being a fantastic scientist. Ivan for great focus and hard work all week. Benjamin for a very well written explanation with lots of accurate grammar features. Zack M for great mathematical thinking. All of Maple for their great team work, resilience, supporting of each other and for having great fun together at Bowles.
Sports Stars	Digby, Sino and George for great parkour skills and being really helpful in the lesson. All of our rugby stars who took part in the Year 5/6 Rugby Festival at Haywards Heath Rugby Club. Bella and Elijah for good skills in Bench Ball. All children who took part in the Year 3 and 4 Cross Country at Cumnor House School.
Read in the Beat	Elsie and Orla.
Headteacher's Award	Miss Murray for 30 years of being an amazing teacher at this school! INSPIRE Lottie for such an amazing reading diary.

Happy Birthday to.....

Eliza, Faye, Lyra, Amelia, Maya, Pandora, Georgia E, Aiden, Teddy, Orla, Cassidy, Molly, Zack P, Guy, Harry, Ralph, Peggy, Benjamin, Evie and Phoebe.

Autumn Term 2 2026 - Diary Dates	
Date	**Events**
Half Term 26th -30th October	
Sunday 1st November	**Deadline for individual and sibling pictures**
Monday 2nd November	**INSET DAY**
Wednesday 4th November	Rescheduled year 5/6 Football tournament pm at St Pauls Burgess Hill – selected children
Thursday 5th November	Deadline for bringing shoebox items in
Friday 6th November	School Remembrance Service – St Giles Church 9:00 a.m. led by Maple Class 2:15pm RHSE parent workshop here at school
Wednesday 11th November	Remembrance Day **9:30 a.m. Prospective Parent Open Morning** Year 5/6 Science at Cumnor pm
Thursday 12th November	Whole School Flu vaccinations 1pm onwards
16th - 20th November	**Anti-bullying Week – Break the Silence**
Monday 16th November	Odd Socks Day – all children are encouraged to come in wearing odd socks for the day
Thursday 19th November	KS1 Net Games Festival for selected children
Friday 20th November	Non-uniform day – collecting for PTA Christmas Fair Sharing afternoon for all classes – 2:45-3:30 p.m. Come and look at your child's work
Monday 23rd November	Year 5/6 Author visit to Ardingly tbc
Tuesday 24th November	Year 5/6 Sports Crew training (selected children)
Thursday 26th November	PTA Wreath making event at the Martindale
Friday 27th November	9am Advent Eucharist in church with Worship Team
Saturday 29th November	PTA Christmas Fair
Wednesday 2nd December	Year 4-6 Girls Cricket Festival tbc
Friday 4th December	Bluebell Railway Concert in the evening tbc
Tuesday 8th December	Nativity Performance 2:00 p.m. – for parents, siblings and preschool
Wednesday 9th December	Nativity Performance 2:00 p.m. – for adults only please
Thursday 10th December	Whole School trip to the pantomime – The Hawth
Friday 11th December	2pm Music Concert showcasing St Giles pupils Oak Class Cake Sale
Tuesday 15th December	Rocksteady Concert 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday 16th December	Christmas Lunch- please order via FEED app
Thursday 17th December	KS2 Carol Concert 6:30 p.m.– St Giles Church
Friday 18th December	Last day of term
Christmas Holidays	
Monday 4th January	**INSET DAY**