



# GIS NEWSLETTER

18th August 2020

Gjøvikregionen International School  
Studieveien 17, 2815 Gjøvik  
Tel: +4724076141  
Email: [post@gjovikis.no](mailto:post@gjovikis.no)

## Thank you!

We would like to thank all parents for a smooth drop-off on the first day of school! All children were in their respective classrooms for a prompt start. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

As a reminder, **just this week**, Grade 1 students should use the kitchen door in the morning but should be picked up at the main entrance.

Please find below drop-off and pick-up times for all grade levels:

Time	Main entrance	Back door	Side door
8:00-8:10	G1	G4	G6&10
8:10-8:20	G2	G5	G7
8:20-8:30	G3	G9	G8

Dismissal

PYP (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday)

Grade 1,2&3 at 2:45

Grade 4,5&6 at 2:55

PYP (Thursday)

Grade 1,2&3 at 11:45

Grade 4,5&6 at 11:55

MYP

Grade 7,8,9&10

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 3:05

Thursday at 12:00

## Meet the teacher

As explained in the welcome email last week, Meet the Teacher Night will take place digitally this year due to the current infection control measures. The event will take place on 20 August 2020 as per the timetable below:

Time	Session	Session
5:00 – 6:00	Meetings with PYP class teachers	Introduction for parents new to the MYP
6:00 – 7:00	Meetings with MYP homeroom teachers	Introduction for parents new to the PYP

Homeroom teachers will send parents a link to their meeting. Below, please find links and login information for the PYP and MYP Induction sessions for parents new to the programmes:

### **PYP Induction**

Time: Aug 20, 2020 06:00 PM Oslo

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76608943108?pwd=d25CTjJPL3pLTENWS3lkZnhCYTFpQT09>

Meeting ID: 766 0894 3108

Passcode: 4Q1nBU

### **MYP Induction**

Time: Aug 20, 2020 05:00 PM Oslo

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77928862276?pwd=SC9tNzJvRDZGUnJKaXU5YjF3Z3dZUT09>

Meeting ID: 779 2886 2276

Passcode: 4QMRnW

## **New teachers**

We are pleased to introduce to you another three teachers joining us this academic year. At the moment, Ms Sills and Mr Davis are undergoing quarantine and will start work on 24 August 2020. Ms Thomas is still awaiting her residence permit. Unfortunately, she has been experiencing some delay due to the pandemic.



### **Ms Perrin Thomas**

I grew up in a small town in South Dakota in the US. I have a BA in English with an emphasis on teaching English as an additional language from St. Cloud State University in Minnesota. My first teaching experience was in a US public school with ELL refugees in grades six, seven, and eight. More recently, I taught in an international school in India

teaching first and second grade. In addition to the classroom, I have also enjoyed teaching swimming and dance classes. In any educational setting, I strive to create a culture of curiosity, empathy, and joy.

Outside of the classroom, I enjoy traveling, dancing, and studying linguistics. I'm looking forward to all Norway has to offer.



**Mr Barnaby Davis**

I am an experienced English teacher who has taught throughout Europe and Asia for the last 12 years, most recently in Vietnam. I have always had a huge passion for the English language and its vast repertoire of literature, and feel privileged to have the chance to pass that passion on to my students. I obtained my bachelor's degree from King's College London and qualified to teach at the University of Exeter, teaching for some time in England before moving abroad.

I am also a qualified Drama teacher and have hugely enjoyed organising school plays and sketch evenings in the past. I look forward to offering the same opportunities at GIS.

Outside of the classroom my interests are very tied up with what I teach: I read voraciously and write for fun, but also enjoy watching and playing rugby where possible.



**Ms Sorcha Sills**

I am originally from New Hampshire and Florida in the USA, but I am also Irish. For the past ten years I've taught English Language and Literature and English for language learners in China, Romania, Brunei, and Vietnam. I love teaching English because it gives students the opportunity to be



creative, and develop and express their opinions and ideas about the world. I have consistently advocated for students who learn in different ways throughout my teaching career, and love unlocking the potential of individual learners.

In my spare time, I enjoy reading, swimming, and wildlife spotting.

When I was small, I read a book called Snow Treasure by Marie McSwigan about Norwegian children who helped the resistance by smuggling gold bullion on their sleds to keep it out of Nazi hands. I am happy to have the opportunity to live and work in a place that so captivated my imagination as an early reader.

## Infection control measures

As you know, we are following government guidelines to ensure GIS is a safe place for students and teachers. In order to limit contact between cohorts we introduced a modified timetable and increased the number of supervision duties for staff, among other measures. Many of the solutions we have introduced are difficult to implement for a small staff. Therefore, we would be grateful if you could refrain from using the school playground after school. We go to great lengths during the day to keep cohorts apart, so please avoid situations where children from different cohorts come in close contact.

## School nurse

We are pleased to inform you that Ms Kristin Bratland will continue as our School Nurse this academic year. Ms Bratland will be available to students and parents on Wednesday and Friday from 9:00am to 3:00pm.

## Bus and taxi service

Attached to the newsletter is a request form for transport for your child to and back from school. Certain conditions apply, including the child's age and the distance to the school. If you qualify and want to apply for the service, please complete the form and return it to [post@gjovikis.no](mailto:post@gjovikis.no). We will complete our section and pass the form on to the kommune you live in. If you have questions about the service or decisions made regarding your application, please contact the school office in your kommune or Innlandet fylkeskommune.

More information they can find on [innlandstrafikk.no](http://innlandstrafikk.no)

## Communication

In order to ensure effective communication between home and school, please contact your child's class teacher directly regarding any issues, e.g. early departure or sickness. All email addresses at GIS follow the same pattern ([name.middlename.surname@gjovikis.no](mailto:name.middlename.surname@gjovikis.no), e.g. [adam.armanski@gjovikis.no](mailto:adam.armanski@gjovikis.no)). For last minute changes, please call us at 24076141.

## Personal number – NEW PARENTS

Like other schools, GIS is required to report current enrollment levels to the Ministry of Education. Apart from each child's name, we are required to provide the child's full personal number/personnummer (11 digits/siffer). If your child is new to GIS this academic year, please ensure that you submit the number to your child's class/homeroom teacher this week. The parents who bring their children to school in the morning may want to do it in person (please speak to Mr Armanski at

the main entrance); others may want to send the number with their child rather than by email.

## **Appropriate clothes**

This is just to remind you that each child needs to have appropriate shoes for school, including science and PE. Please note that slippers, sandals and/or flip flops are inappropriate for school. Also, please ensure that your child has rain gear. Primary students (Grades 1-5) should also have a set of spare clothes in their cubby.

## **Late arrival**

It is important that students arrive at school on time so that they can start classes promptly at 8:30am. At the beginning of the day, teachers introduce the day's programme and answer students' questions about what is going to happen. Students who are late miss the introduction and disrupt the flow of the class.

Students who arrive at school after 8:30am need to register in the office before they go to the classroom. They receive a late slip, which they need to give to the teacher. If a student comes late to the classroom without a late slip, he/she will be asked to return to the office to collect a late slip.

## **Visual Image Consent Form – NEW PARENTS**

We would like to thank the parents who have returned the form already. We would be very grateful if you could complete and return the attached Visual Image Consent Form to us as soon as possible. NOTE: Returning parents need to submit a new form ONLY if they want to withdraw/amend their consent.

## School Departure Form – Grade 1-4

Thank you for submitting the form for your child (Grade 1-4 ONLY). If you have not done so already, please complete and hand the form in as soon as possible. It helps us ensure safety at GIS. We understand you may not be certain at this point what your routines will be for the rest of the year. However, amendments can be made at any time, so please submit a form that reflects your current routine and feel free to change it in the future.

## Health

Your child's safety is our priority. Therefore, we need to be aware of any health issues that may affect him/her at school. Please inform your child's class teacher of any conditions and provide any advice you can to allow us to act quickly and effectively in an emergency.

## Homework

### **PYP (Grades 1-6)**

Please note that during this academic year students will receive homework on Thursday and it will be due in the following Wednesday. The arrangement will allow students to identify the best time during the week to complete assignments. Please note that the first homework this year will be assigned on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2019.

### **MYP (Grades 7-10)**

MYP students have a separate homework timetable, which is incorporated in the timetable they received yesterday.

## School photos

School photos will be taken on **15<sup>th</sup> September 2020**, including class, individual and sibling photos. Following the session, parents will receive a link to their child's photos. Selection and payment are made online and photos are delivered within a few days. Like last year, we will use <http://ariel.no/>.

## Leave of absence

According to Norwegian Law, students are allowed to miss up to 10 days of school in an academic year. Parents are required to apply for a leave of absence in advance and it is the Head of School's prerogative to approve or reject each application. The head **must** reject all applications if the absence is longer than 10 days.

If a child misses more than 10 days, he/she loses his/her place. Parents may reapply. However, if there is a waiting list, the next child on the list is accepted. Should a child's education be compromised due to absenteeism, the school will contact the child protection agency.

Please ensure you submit an application (you can find it [here](#)) each time your child needs to miss school.

## Milk and snack

Parents can order milk, yoghurt, carrots, etc. through <https://www.skolelyst.no/>. The selected products are delivered to GIS every Thursday and distributed during lunch break for the rest of the week.

## SFO

We are pleased to confirm you can still enroll your child in before- and after-school childcare (SFO). Please send a completed form to [post@gjovikis.no](mailto:post@gjovikis.no).

## School support contact details

If you have any questions about the matters below, please contact the relevant person:

Taxi (GIS)	Dennis Wanda	<a href="mailto:dennis.wanda@gjovikis.no">dennis.wanda@gjovikis.no</a>
Taxi/bus (Kommune)	Ingrid Raasholm	<a href="mailto:ingrid.raasholm@gjovik.kommune.no">ingrid.raasholm@gjovik.kommune.no</a>
School Nurse	Kristin Bratland	<a href="mailto:kristin.bratland@gjovik.kommune.no">kristin.bratland@gjovik.kommune.no</a>
SFO	Deepika Senthilkumar	<a href="mailto:sfo@gjovikis.no">sfo@gjovikis.no</a>