St. Giles CE Primary and Nursery School
Starkholmes Road
Matlock
DE4 3DD

Email: enquiries@st-giles-matlock.derbyshire.sch.uk

Phone: 01629 56813

Head of School: Bethany Simpson

Thursday 23 rd July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As another fantastic school year comes to an end, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly wonderful year at St Giles CE Primary and Nursery School.

What an incredible few weeks we have had! From exciting sports day, The Works Story Bus to our fun-filled water fights, our brilliant Summer Fair and so many memorable moments, it has been wonderful to see our children smiling, laughing and making memories together. These experiences are what make school so special, and we are incredibly proud of every single child for embracing every opportunity with enthusiasm, kindness and perseverance.







Our Year 6 Children

To our amazing Year 6 children, today marks the end of your journey at St Giles. You have been fantastic role models, showing kindness, determination and resilience throughout your time with us. We are so proud of everything you have achieved and know that each and every one of you has a bright future ahead. Whilst you will be greatly missed, we cannot wait to hear about all the wonderful things you go on to accomplish. Good luck!

I would also like to say a heartfelt thank you to our Year 6 families for your support over the years. It has been a privilege to watch your children grow, and we wish you all the very best for the future.



Our wonderful PTFA Team

A huge thank you must also go to our fantastic PTFA. Their dedication, enthusiasm and hard work have enabled us to provide so many wonderful opportunities and experiences for our children this year. We are incredibly grateful for everything they do for our school and look forward to their events next academic year.

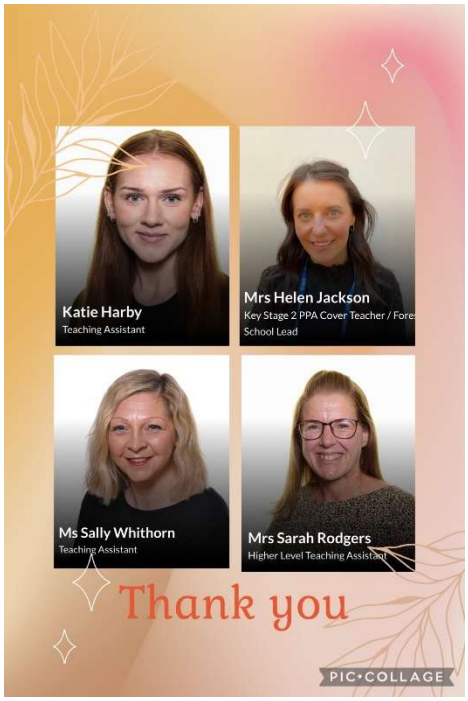
Our fabulous staff

Finally, I would like to thank our incredible staff team. Their care, commitment and passion ensure that every child is encouraged to flourish both academically and personally. They go above and beyond every day, and I am so proud to work alongside such a dedicated team.

This year we also say farewell to two very special members of staff. After eight wonderful years at St Giles, we wish Mrs Taylor a long, happy and well-deserved retirement. During her time with us, she has made an incredible impact on so many children and families. As an expert in Early Years, she has given countless children the very best start to their school journey. Every child who has walked through our doors has been welcomed by her kind, calm presence, nurturing nature and unwavering dedication. Her warmth, knowledge and passion for Early Years education have left a lasting legacy, and she will be greatly missed by us all.

We also say goodbye to the lovely Mrs Scully. Although she'll only be just over the hill and we're sure we'll still see plenty of her, we would like to thank her for everything she has done for our school community. We wish her every success and happiness in her new chapter. She, too, will be greatly missed, and we send both Mrs Taylor and Mrs Scully our heartfelt thanks and very best wishes for the future.





Thank you parents and carers

To all of our parents and carers, thank you for your continued support throughout the year. Whether you've attended school events, supported your children with their learning, volunteered your time or simply worked alongside us, your encouragement and partnership make such a difference to our school community.

We hope you all enjoy a happy, safe and restful summer holiday, filled with special moments with family and friends.

Looking Ahead to September…

As we look ahead to the new academic year, we are incredibly excited about some of the changes taking place at St Giles. We felt it was the perfect time for a fresh start, and what better time than the beginning of a new school year!

We are delighted to introduce our **new class names**, *inspired by the wonderful woodland wildlife that surrounds our school and reflects our love of the outdoors. From September, our classes will be:*

- **Nursery – Hoglets**
- **Reception – Hedgehogs**
- **Class 2 (Years 1 & 2) – Squirrels**
- **Class 3 (Years 3 & 4) – Foxes**
- **Class 4 (Years 5 & 6) – Badgers**

We are also going to be refreshing our **house names**, *drawing inspiration from the rich local history that surrounds us here in Derbyshire. We have asked all the children to have a think about what our house names could be. So far we have had Chatsworth House, Riber Castle, River Derwent… we look forward to hearing the ideas from the children in September.*

We can't wait to see the children embracing their new class and house identities as they continue to make wonderful memories together. The children will be told their houses when they start back in September when we have heard their ideas for house names!

We are also thrilled to share that we have secured additional funding that will enable us to further improve areas of our school. This investment will enhance both our indoor and outdoor learning environments, ensuring that our children continue to receive the very best provision, opportunities and experiences. We look forward to sharing these exciting developments with you as the work progresses throughout the year.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on **Monday 7th September** *. Please remember that children should return wearing their* **full school uniform** *. School logo jumpers and cardigans can be purchased from* **Kick Off** *in Matlock.*

Thank you once again for making this another memorable year at St Giles CE Primary and Nursery School.

Have a wonderful summer, and we look forward to seeing you all in September!

With best wishes,

Miss Bethany Simpson
Head of School