St Giles Primary and Nursery School Office Friday Flyer!

Achieving through kindness, compassion and perseverance

Dear Parents and Carers,

During our whole class **Collective Worship every Thursday** we use a resource called **Picture News**.

Picture News is a resource that helps children learn about the world around them and encourages them to think deeply about current events, values, and the world they live in. Each week, the children are shown a **thought-provoking image and a news story** linked to a **"big question."** Together, we explore the story, discuss different viewpoints, and reflect on how it connects to our school values and to life in our community.

The weekly picture news helps children to:

- Develop their **understanding of the wider world**
- Think **critically** about real-life issues
- Share their **opinions respectfully**
- Reflect on **British values** such as respect, tolerance, and democracy

Our **wonderful Collective Worship Team** have discussed that it would be lovely to share the weekly **"big question"** with parents and carers, so that you can talk about it together at home if you wish. This is **completely optional**, but it can be a great way to spark meaningful conversations. If children do chat about the question at home, they are very welcome to **share their thoughts and ideas** during our **Monday Collective Worship**.

The weekly **"big question"** will be included in our **Friday Flyer each week** for you to access. There will always be 2 questions, 1 which is aimed at our younger children (Class 1 and 2) and 1 aimed at our KS2 children (Class 3 and 4)

If you'd like to find out more about Picture News, you can visit www.picture-news.co.uk.

Class 1 and 2 – How can we help protect trees?



Class 3 and 4 - What would you tell world leaders if you were at COP30?



REMINDERS FOR THE WEEKS AHEAD	
Monday 17th November	•
Tuesday 18th November	• Class 3 Dodgeball event at the Arc. 1.30pm – 3.00pm - **Please provide consent in Arbor trips** • **NO FOOTBALL CLUB**
Wednesday 19th November	•
Thursday 20th November	• Swimming for Class 3
Friday 21st November	• Celebration Collective Worship 2.45pm in school You will have received a message if your child will be receiving a certificate.
Monday 24th November	• **INSET DAY – School closed to pupils**
Tuesday 25th November	• **NO FOOTBALL CLUB**
Wednesday 26th November	•
Thursday 27th November	• Swimming for Class 3
Friday 28th November	• Celebration Collective Worship 2.45pm in school. You will have received a message if your child will be receiving a certificate.

OTHER NEWS

- **MONDAY 24TH NOVEMBER – REMINDER THAT THIS IS AN INSET DAY – SCHOOL IS CLOSED TO PUPILS FOR STAFF TRAINING.**

- **Wraparound Care Bookings** – Thank you to everyone who has booked for Breakfast and After School Club using Arbor. **A polite reminder that all children must be booked in advance**. We are still having children arrive at Breakfast Club and After School Club that we weren't expecting. Fortunately we have been able to accommodate the extra children so far but some days we have been at maximum capacity. If you are experiencing any teething problems using Arbor to make bookings please do let us know in the office so that we can help you.

- **Christmas Dinner – Wednesday 17th December.** Unfortunately, this year we are unable to open this up to the whole school. Only children who normally have a school lunch on Wednesdays will be able to have a Christmas Dinner. This is totally out of our control due to issues with kitchen equipment which is currently restricting the catering staff on a daily basis. We understand that this may be disappointing as we have always been able to offer this in the past. Please accept our apologies.

- **Tuesday Football Club with Mr Williams.** The Football league matches have finished for this term. Due to the dark nights football club will also take a break until after Christmas. We will advise when this will restart.

- **Friday 19th December** – As this is the last day of the Autumn Term there will be **NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB.**

- **Nut Free School –** A gentle reminder that we are a **nut free school**. This means **no nuts or nut products** (including peanut butter, Nutella, cereal bars with nuts etc.) should be brought into school. We have children with nut allergies and even a small trace can cause a serious reaction. Your support helps us keep everyone safe and healthy.

- **Car Park Safety** – **Polite Reminder and for the benefit of our new parents - Please do not use the school car park to drop off and collect your children.** The car park is for staff, visitors and deliveries only. The safety of your children is our priority and the car park is not a safe place for children at these busy times of the school day. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this.

- **Water Bottles - Please ensure your child has a water bottle, with their name on (containing only water) in school every day.**

Please do not hesitate to contact us on 01629 56813 or by email with any questions or queries.

Friday updates can be found in the Newsletters section of our school website.

FURTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026	
Monday 1st December	Christmas Jumper Swap – See poster below for details
Thursday 4th December	Last Swimming for Class 3 until after Christmas
Wednesday 10th December	Christmas Crafts for Nursery children and September 2026 new starters 3.30pm – 4.30pm
Thursday 11th December	Pantomime at Buxton Opera House – Whole School Please use Arbor to give consent and payment is due by Friday 28th November. NO SWIMMING for Class 3
Friday 12th December	Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Crafts and Secret Santa
Saturday 13th December	Cake and Carols in St Giles Church 3.00pm
Wednesday 17th December	Infant Nativity 2.00pm. Parents and relatives of infant children are invited to watch the performance. Tickets are not required. Carol Service in St Giles Church 7.30pm
Thursday 18th December	Infant Nativity 5.00pm. Parents and relatives of infant children are invited to watch the performance. Tickets are not required. NO SWIMMING for Class 3
Friday 19th December	**Christingle Service in St Giles Church at 2:30pm** **Everyone is welcome to join us.** **NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB** **Last day of term**
Monday 5th January	First day of the Spring Term
Thursday 8th January	NO SWIMMING FOR Class 3
Thursday 15th January	Swimming for Class 3 Deadline for Primary School Applications for Sept 2026
Friday 30th January	Young Voices for Class 4
Monday 23rd February	**INSET DAY – School Closed to pupils**
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day
Friday 20th March	Comic Relief/Red Nose Day
Thursday 26th March	Easter Service – details to follow
Friday 27th March	Easter Bonnet Parade and PTFA Mini Easter Fair Last day of term
Monday 4th May	**May Day Bank Holiday**
Monday 11th May	KS2 SATS – Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling
Tuesday 12th May	KS2 SATS – English Reading Paper
Wednesday 13th May	KS2 SATS – Maths Paper 1 & 2
Thursday 14th May	KS2 SATS – Maths Paper 3

Friday 15th May	Y6 Celebration at Whitworth Park
Monday 1st June	**INSET Day – School Closed to pupils**
Wednesday 24th June	**SPORTS DAY**
Wednesday 1st July	**Year 6 Transition Day at Lady Manners**
Thursday 2nd July	**Year 6 Transition Day at Highfields**
Thursday 23rd July	**Last Day of term** **NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB**



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

DEALING WITH TRAUMATIC & CHALLENGING EVENTS

Children and young people may face a wide range of traumatic or challenging events – from bereavement and illness to bullying, family breakdowns, or witnessing violence. These experiences can affect their mental health, behaviour, relationships, and academic progress. With the right support from trusted adults, children can begin to feel safe, rebuild resilience, and develop healthy coping strategies. This guide offers practical and empathetic ways to provide support and promote positive outcomes.

1 A PREDICTABLE ENVIRONMENT

Children who have experienced trauma often feel unsafe or uncertain. Creating routines, setting clear expectations, and maintaining consistency can help restore a sense of security. This structure offers reassurance and helps children feel more in control of their surroundings.

2 USE LANGUAGE THAT MATCHES THEIR AGE

Speak clearly and sensitively, choosing words that are appropriate for the child's age. Avoid overwhelming them with too much information at once. Offer gentle, honest explanations and focus on reassurance, especially when talking about difficult or sensitive subjects.

3 TRAUMA AND THE BODY

Mention briefly that trauma can show up in physical ways, such as changes in sleep, appetite, concentration, or as physical aches and pains. Consider this before labelling behaviour as 'difficult' or 'lazy'. Some children may become withdrawn, while others may be more outwardly challenging. Highlight that there's no 'one way' children respond.

4 AVOID RETELLING OR RELIVING TRAUMA

Children sometimes get asked to explain or repeat their experience multiple times. Striking a balance of when to listen and when to gently redirect can help to avoid unnecessary re-traumatisation. Acknowledge, but don't probe for detail unless safeguarding procedures require it.

5 AVOID DISMISSING OR MINIMISING FEELINGS

Seemingly well-meaning comments like "It's not that bad" or "You're okay" may shut down children's emotional expression and are often not helpful. Instead, acknowledge what they're feeling, even if it seems small. Validating a child's emotions helps them feel seen and encourages open communication in future.

6 UNDERSTAND HOW THEY'RE FEELING

Many children don't have the words to express their emotions, especially during distress. Supporting them to name what they're feeling – such as angry, scared or sad – builds emotional literacy. Tools like emotion charts, drawing, or storytelling can help externalise feelings in a safe, manageable way.

7 BE AWARE OF YOUR OWN RESPONSES

Children pick up on adult emotions and reactions, often mirroring them. Staying calm, even in challenging situations, helps children feel more secure. Practising your own self-regulation is an important way to model healthy stress management and encourages children to do the same.

8 SEEK PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

While many children benefit from everyday emotional support, some will need more specialised help. If symptoms persist, worsen, or disrupt their daily life, consult with school safeguarding leads, a GP, or a mental health professional. Early intervention can prevent long-term difficulties and support healthy recovery.

9 MAINTAIN CONNECTION

Isolation can worsen the impact of trauma. Encourage involvement in group activities, praise their efforts, and ensure they feel like a valued part of the school or family community. Meaningful connection with trusted adults and peers builds resilience and a sense of belonging.

10 BE PATIENT – HEALING TAKES TIME

There's no quick fix for emotional recovery. Children may have good days and setbacks, and progress may not always be visible or linear. Your ongoing support, patience, and presence can help them move forward at their own pace, knowing they are not alone.

Meet Our Expert

This guide has been written by Anna Bateman. Anna is passionate about placing prevention at the heart of every school by integrating mental wellbeing within the curriculum, school culture, and systems. She has been a member of the advisory group for the Department for Education, advising them on their mental health green paper.



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The National College®

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ST GILES PARISH CHURCH MATLOCK CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

A Christmas Tree Festival will take place at St Giles Parish Church, Matlock from Thursday 11th December to Sunday 21st December.

The church will be filled with decorated trees supplied by a wide selection of businesses, clubs, churches, schools, charities etc from the Matlock area. Most of the trees will be real, with others being abstract or artificial.

The festival will be open with a short service on Thursday 11 December at 6pm followed by refreshments. Church will be open each day from 10am – 4pm, except Sunday 12noon – 4pm. (except Fridays 12th & 19th from2.30 - 3.30pm due to school services).

On Saturday 13th December from 10am – noon there will be a craft session, open to all, including Christmas Wreaths, cards and tree decorations – there will be a charge for these items.

Later on the Saturday, at 3pm, there will be a Cake and Carols Service, open to all.

The traditional Carol Service of lessons and carols will be held on Wednesday 17th December at 7.30pm followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Throughout the Festival there will be a Children's mouse hunt to complete.

Refreshments will be available each day from 10am – 3.30pm, and Sunday 12noon – 3.30pm.

The Festival is free to visit, with any donations going to the upkeep of St Giles Church and The Children's Society.

The Tree Festival will close on Sunday 21st December with a Thanksgiving at the end of the 9.30am Eucharist. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

If you are interested in taking part in the Tree Festival by donating and decorating a tree, please contact for further details:

- Claire Drabble - email: claire_drabble@hotmail.com or phone 0770960541

Notes for people taking part

- Each tree will be allocated a position, number and name label
- The tree can be erected in church between 9am Wednesday 10th Dec and 4pm Thursday 11th
- The tree should be between 3 – 5ft in height
- The tree should be freestanding, in a pot, stand or base
- Any lights should be battery powered they will be turned on and off by church each day
- You may include information/ advertising leaflets
- All trees should be removed between noon Sunday 21 Dec. and 4pm Monday 22nd

Fiona Gymnastics







After School Gymnastics Sessions

Thursdays in term time
Starting Thursday 6 November 2025

Children are taken to the hall after school at 3.15pm for a 15 minute break, then the session starts at 3.30pm

3.30pm—4.15pm
£5.00 a session (paid half termly)

Sessions incorporate floor work, agility, apparatus and Rhythmic Gymnastics. Musical and fun!

For further information and to book a place email: fionagymnastics@outlook.com







COME AND JOIN US FOR

Christmas Crafts

Who: Nursery and reception 2026 starters

When: Wednesday 10th December at 3:30pm - 4:30pm

What: make a variety of different Christmas crafts with Mrs Taylor, Mrs Rodgers and Miss Simpson.

Mince pies, cookies and drinks available all whilst listening to Christmas music!

NO NEED TO BOOK, JUST TURN UP!

Autumn & Winter Menu

Available Daily: Bread, Salad, Fruit, Yoghurt & Drinking Water

CELEBRATING 120 YEARS OF SCHOOL MEALS

Week 1

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
The Main Event	Beef Bolognese with Pasta & Seasonal Vegetables	Crispy Chicken or Quorn Burger V in a Bun with Potato Wedges & Seasonal Vegetables	Pork or Vegetarian V Toad in the Hole with Mashed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables & Gravy	Sweet & Sour Quorn Dippers Ve with Mixed Rice & Seasonal Vegetables	Golden Crumbed Fish Fingers with Chips, Baked Beans & Peas
Alternative Choice	Margherita Pizza V & Seasonal Vegetables	Pasta with a Creamy Tomato Sauce V & Seasonal Vegetables	Creamy Cauliflower Bake V with Mashed Potatoes & Seasonal Vegetables	Vegetarian Mince Layered Tortilla Stack V with Mixed Rice & Seasonal Vegetables	Vegetable Fingers Ve with Chips, Baked Beans & Peas
Daily Choice	Pasta Pot, Filled Jacket Potato or a Sandwich meal. - Please speak with your school for their selection.				
Dessert	NEW Gingerbread Cookie	Chocolate Orange Muffin	Bitesize Cornflake Bar with Fruit	NEW Lemon Sponge Tart	Autumn Fruit Crumble with Custard

03.11.25
24.11.25
15.12.25
19.01.26
09.02.26
09.03.26

Week 2

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
The Main Event	NEW Chicken Goujons with Homemade BBQ Sauce, Mixed Rice & Seasonal Vegetables	Margherita Pizza V with Seasonal Vegetables	Yorkshire Pudding with Beef Hot Pot / Roast Pork / Quorn Fillet V with Potatoes & Seasonal Vegetables	Big Breakfast with Sausage & Bacon or Vegan Breakfast Ve, Hash Browns, Baked Beans & Tomatoes	NEW Harry Ramsden's Battered Fish Fillet with Chips & Seasonal Vegetables
Alternative Choice	Five Bean Chilli Taco Ve with Mixed Rice & Seasonal Vegetables	Veggie Bolognese Ve with Pasta, Seasonal Vegetables & Garlic Dough Balls	Cheese & Tomato Puff Pastry Swirl V with Seasonal Vegetables	Jacket Potato with Cook's Choice of Filling V & Seasonal Vegetables	Creamy Cheesy Pasta Bake V with Crusty Bread & Seasonal Vegetables
Daily Choice	Pasta Pot, Filled Jacket Potato or a Sandwich meal. - Please speak with your school for their selection.				
Dessert	Vanilla Shortbread Slice	Chocolate Cracknel	Bitesize Sprinkle Cake with Fruit	Jelly & Fruit	NEW Jam Roly Poly & Custard

10.11.25
01.12.25
05.01.26
26.01.26
23.02.26
16.03.26

Week 3

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
The Main Event	Vegetarian Sausage Roll Ve, with Baked Beans, Herby Potatoes & Seasonal Vegetables	Pork or Vegan Meatball Sub Ve with a side of Pasta & Seasonal Vegetables	Roast of the Day or Quorn Fillet Ve with Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables & Gravy	Chicken or Vegetable V Curry with Mixed Rice, Seasonal Vegetables & Flatbread	Golden Crumbed Fish Fingers with Chips, Peas & Sweetcorn
Alternative Choice	Pasta with Homemade Tomato Sauce Ve & Seasonal Vegetables	Jacket Potato with Filling V & Seasonal Vegetables	Old School Cheesy Potato & Bean Pie V with Seasonal Vegetables	Mac & Cheese V with Seasonal Vegetables & Flatbread	Pizza Panini V with Chips, Peas & Sweetcorn
Daily Choice	Pasta Pot, Filled Jacket Potato or a Sandwich meal. - Please speak with your school for their selection.				
Dessert	NEW Toffee Apple Muffin	Bitesize Chocolate Crunch with Fruit	Cook's Choice of Mousse	NEW Carrot Cake Cookie	NEW Saucy Chocolate Pudding

17.11.25
08.12.25
12.01.26
02.02.26
02.03.26
23.03.26

DERBYSHIRE County Council

For further information and the allergen matrix please visit: www.schoolmeals.derbyshire.gov.uk

Derbyshire County Council
School Calendar 2025/26

August 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
31					1	2	3
32	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
33	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
34	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
35	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September 2025 (19)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
36	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
37	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
38	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
39	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
40	29	30					

October 2025 (18)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
40			1	2	3	4	5
41	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
42	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
43	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
44	27	28	29	30	31		

November 2025 (20)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
44						1	2
45	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
46	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
47	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
48	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2025 (15)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
49	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
50	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
51	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
52	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
1	29	30	31				

January 2026 (20)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1				1	2	3	4
2	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
3	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
4	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
5	26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2026 (15)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
5							1
6	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9	23	24	25	26	27	28	

March 2026 (20)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
9							1
10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
12	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
13	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
14	30	31					

April 2026 (14)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
14			1	2	3	4	5
15	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
16	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
17	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
18	27	28	29	30			

May 2026 (15)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
18					1	2	3
19	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
22	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2026 (22)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
23	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
25	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
26	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	29	30					

July 2026 (17)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
27			1	2	3	4	5
28	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
29	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
30	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
31	27	28	29	30	31		

Denotes Bank holidays Denotes School holiday dates