St. Giles CE Primary and Nursey School
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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! It has been wonderful to see all the children return, full of energy and ready for an exciting term ahead. We have a busy few weeks planned with lots of fantastic learning opportunities and exciting activities planned for our children this coming term.

Before we look ahead, let's look back and celebrate last half term!

Class 2 Trip to the Space Centre

Last term, our Year 1 and 2 children learnt all about space. They visited the National Space Centre in Leicester and had a fabulous time! There were lots of things to explore and learn about, we particularly enjoyed visiting the planetarium! The children were able to explore a rocket and see real life moon rock. They learnt about life as an astronaut and what it would be like on the International Space Station.



Chinese New Year

We always learn and celebrate key events throughout the year, and last term we learnt all about Chinese New Year! All the children enjoyed taking part in our Chinese New Year celebrations. We learnt about the Year of the Snake and took part in lots of different activities, including exploring and tasting noodles, spring rolls and prawn crackers. Each child received a red envelope which had some sweets and a kind message. The children learnt about the custom of giving and receiving when celebrating Chinese New Year to symbolise good wishes and luck for the year ahead.

Young Voices

It's always a pleasure taking our junior children to Sheffield Arena for Young Voices! The children blew us away with their performance and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



Visits from our local PCSO





Valentines Disco

The children at St Giles sure know how to party! 🎉

A huge thank you to our incredible PTFA for organising such a fantastic Valentine's Disco. The children had an amazing time dancing, singing, and playing games!













NSPCC Number Day

We had an incredible time celebrating NSPCC Number Day with a variety of fun activities!





Children's Mental Health Week



We celebrated Children's Mental Health Week with a variety of engaging and meaningful activities centered around the theme "Know Yourself, Grow Yourself."

Our goal was to help children understand the importance of mental health and self-awareness. Throughout the week, we had many discussions about how we feel when we experience different emotions and how we can navigate through some emotions while embracing others. Many children shared examples of things that made them happy, sad, or worried, and we supported each other in understanding that feeling different emotions is perfectly okay.

Safer Internet Day

Online safety is a key area we continually teach and explore with our children. As part of **Safer Internet Day**, pupils across EYFS, KS1 and KS2 engaged in various activities to enhance their understanding of staying safe online. Our younger children read stories like *Troll Stinks* and *Clicking Chicken* and discussed how to stay safe while using the internet and who to tell if we ever feel worried or unsure. During circle time the children discussed with each other things they do on phones, tablets or laptops. Our older children learned about online scams, how to identify them and what to do if they encounter one.



There are lots of helpful resources online – just search for 'safer internet day 2025' and you will be able to find further support.

Sporting Events





We have had lots of sporting celebrations last term. The Infants took part in a KS1 Fundamentals festival at the Arc where they learnt many key skills like throwing, jumping and running. Next term they will be taking part in the Matlock and Dales Multi Skills event at All Saints' Junior school. The KS2 children also took part in a cross-country competition at Whitworth Park. This term we have the restart of the Matlock and Dales Football League to look forward to plus other competitions, such as Tag Rugby and Dodgeball.

World Book Day 2025

Our wonderful PTFA team hosted our very first World Book Day costume swap and it has been so lovely to see so many outfits being donated and reused. Don't forget our PTFA are hosting a cake sale and book swap today for a small donation. Please come and support to raise lots of money for our school.



Upcoming events:



🌸 Mother's Day Afternoon Tea Invitation! 🌸

We would love to invite all the wonderful mothers, nannas, sisters, aunties, or special female figures to join us for a lovely Afternoon Tea in school!

Come and enjoy a delightful afternoon with your child(ren), filled with tea, coffee, soft drinks, delicious cakes, and fun crafts to create together!

This is a special opportunity to relax, chat, and celebrate the amazing female figures in our children's lives.

If you have any allergies and you are planning on coming, please do let us know in the school office so we can accommodate for all.

BOOK LOOK – Tuesday 25th March – Following the Afternoon Tea there will also be an opportunity to look at your children's books from 3.15pm until 4.00pm

Stay and Study

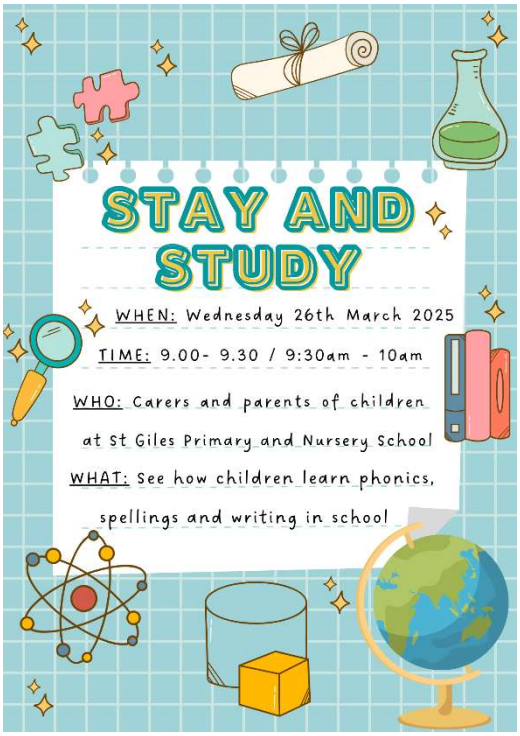
Following feedback from our recent parent survey, we would like to invite parents into school on **Wednesday, 26th March**, to observe how we teach phonics, spellings, and writing.

This is a fantastic opportunity to see our teaching methods in action and gain an insight into the language and vocabulary we use, particularly during phonics and spelling lessons. To ensure the morning runs smoothly without disrupting learning and to accommodate families with children in different classes, we have organised the sessions as follows:

Early Years & Year 1/2 (Nursery, Class 1 and Class 2) Parents: 9:00 - 9:30 AM (Phonics and Spellings lessons)

Key Stage 2 (Class 3 & 4) Parents: 9:30 - 10:00 AM (English lesson)

We look forward to welcoming you into our classrooms!



Upcoming PTFA events:

Thursday 27th March - Own clothes day – please bring in a chocolate donation!
Monday 31st March – Easter Fun after school! Children are encouraged to make a Easter bonnet at home ready to bring into school on the Monday for our Easter Bonnet parade at 3pm.

Please see their Facebook page for lots of updates regarding meetings and events.
https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1AMJYZqZDe/?mibextid=wwXIfr

INSET Days for the next academic year (September 2025 – July 2026)

Please find below the INSET dates for the next academic year. These can also be found on our school website: Microsoft Word - 2025 - 2026 INSET days

INSET Day (5 per year)	Date
INSET Day 1	Thursday 4th September 2025
INSET Day 2	Friday 5th September 2025
INSET Day 3	Monday 24th November 2025
INSET Day 4	Monday 23rd February 2026
INSET Day 5	Monday 1st June 2026

Collective Worship:

Value promoted in Collective Worship:

Value for reflection: Forgiveness: 'Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive others.' - Colossians 3.13

We are very proud of our daily Collective Worship which involves all children and staff. Over the Spring term our children will consider and reflect on the value of Forgiveness. The work in Collective Worship complements our PSHE curriculum and the behaviour principles which all staff teach and model and helps to make our schools a positive and supportive environment where all our children can flourish.

Friday Updates & Communication

Don't forget to check out our 'Friday Update' every week, sent by our wonderful office staff! It's a great way to stay informed about important dates and upcoming events at school.

Last week, our teachers also shared class newsletters to help you keep up with what your child is learning this half term. Additionally, be sure to check our school website and Facebook page for weekly class blogs!

Thank you for your continued support,



Bethany Simpson
Head of School