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

Email: enquiries@st-giles-matlock.derbyshire.sch.uk
Phone: 01629 56813

Head of School: Bethany Simpson

Dear Parents/carers,

Welcome back

I hope that you have had a wonderful and restful summer and are ready for the start of a new and exciting academic year here at St Giles.

It has been wonderful to welcome all the children and staff back to school; they have come back full of energy and ready to learn and it has been lovely to see them all again and catch up with their news. I'd also like to extend a special welcome to all of our new families who have joined us at St Giles - I hope you have been made to feel welcome.

Ofsted report

Exciting news (and hot off the press!) We have now finally received our Ofsted report following the inspection that took place just before the summer break, in mid-July.

We are delighted to share with parents and carers, and our wider community, that Ofsted have judged our wonderful primary school as GOOD.

All the staff are extremely proud of this positive outcome which is a testament to the care and commitment of our staff, the support of our yourselves, and of course, a celebration of our wonderful children.

Our Ofsted report recognised that St. Giles '*is a small and inclusive school, with a strong determination for all pupils to do well*'.

The team noted that children '*listen to each other and try their best in lessons. They play kindly in the sporting activities at lunchtimes.* It is also pleasing to read that the Ofsted team

observed that '*Pupils enjoy coming to school. Staff know them individually well and pupils can talk to them about any worry they may have*'.

The inspectors considered the quality of education that we provide throughout school, recognising that '*the curriculum is ambitious*' and that '*leaders are ambitious for all*'. As I'm sure you'll all agree, our school is truly wonderful because of our staff who the inspectors found '*are proud and happy to work at the school*'. The full Ofsted report is available on our school website and will be published on the Ofsted website shortly.

As a school, and part of a supportive partnership, we all are excited to continue our journey to further improve the education and experiences we provide for all of our children.

Preschool

One exciting development and next step for our school, is our planned preschool for children aged between 3 and 4 years old.

We've been busy over the summer period and have carefully written a curriculum which builds into our Early Years curriculum, providing younger children with the perfect start to school life.

Our draft admissions policy is now with the Trust and we're liaising with excited families as we work towards opening after October half term.

We are just as excited as you are to welcome more children into our wonderful school. We will keep you updated on our progress, and as soon as we are ready to offer places, you'll be among the first to know.

If you know of any families who have a little one who has recently turned 3 or 4 and are looking for available places, please share our preschool news with them and the wider community. All information can be found on our 'Preschool' section on the school website.

Friday's Celebration Assembly

Every Friday we celebrate the children's achievements in school, and we would like to celebrate their successes outside of school! If your child has accomplished something special, such as earning a sports award, completing a music exam, or any other personal achievement, we would love for them to share it with us. These moments can be recognised and celebrated during our Friday Celebration Assemblies.

Please encourage your child to bring in any certificates, medals, or trophies that they have achieved that week so we can share their fantastic achievements with the school. We ask that these fantastic awards come in to school with your child on a Friday and go home on a Friday so they don't get broken or misplaced.

PTFA – Friends of St Giles

We would like to remind you that the first PTFA meeting on Thursday 26th September. Everyone is welcome, and we encourage you to come along to share your thoughts, ideas, and support for our school community. It's a great opportunity to get involved and stay connected. We look forward to seeing you there!

Thank you for your ongoing support and involvement in your child's learning journey. Your partnership is invaluable, and together, we can make this year a great success. As we look forward to a wonderful and busy year ahead, filled with new opportunities, growth, and memorable experiences, we are excited to continue working closely with you to support and celebrate your child's achievements. Here's to a fantastic year!

Kind regards



Ben O'Connell
Headteacher



Bethany Simpson
Head of School