St. Giles CE Primary School
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Friday 26th January 2024

January newsletter

Dear parents,

We hope that this letter finds you all well. It has been lovely to welcome all of our children and staff back into school for the spring term.

We have had a happy and busy start to the term. It is wonderful to see our children making the most of the wide offer on hand with the large range of after school clubs combined with Forest Schools, swimming and Bikeability.

Online safety: www.stgilesceprimarymatlock.co.uk/online-safety/



It sounds like many of our children received electronic devices for Christmas and have been enjoying using these.

According to the latest stats, children aged 8 upwards spend 4 hours or more a day on digital devices!

The new year often means new starts so please find attached some guidance to support children and families in balancing screen time.

Please remember: if you have concerns about safety online then please contact school. We're here to help.

Online safety workshop for parents and guardians: Monday 5th February at 5 p.m.

We are delighted to welcome Traci Good back to school to lead an informal session for parents on how to support children with online safety.

During the hour, we'll consider what children and young people are doing online and how we can all support them to navigate this space carefully.

We'll look at the pros and cons of parental controls, including tracking apps and the importance of engaging with our child's online life.

As part of the session parents will be directed to excellent sources of support that they can tap into, free of charge. Grandparents and extended family members are also encouraged to attend this informative session.

This workshop is open to all families across the partnership and is hosted here, at St. Giles, on Monday 5th February. We hope to see you there.

NSPCC workshop via Zoom: Wednesday 7th February 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

We'd also like to share details of this workshop which is online, organised and run by the NSPCC.

The workshop is part of the NSPCC's Game Safe Festival and will help parents:

- Learn about tools and resources that support safe play.
- Better understand how to keep children safe when gaming online.

You can sign up for a free ticket via this link: https://ww1.emma-live.com/GameSafe/purchase_tickets



Parents' survey: www.stgilesceprimarymatlock.co.uk/parent-surveys/

Many thanks to those who completed our recent survey. It was lovely to see:

- ✓ 100% of respondents reported that their child/ren are happy in school.

- ✓ 100% of respondents reported that their child is well looked after in school
- ✓ 100% of parents of children with additional need reported that school gives them the support they need to succeed.
- ✓ All bar two parents reported that the school has high expectations for their child/ren.
- ✓ 100% of respondents shared that the schools supports their child/ren's personal development. This has been a huge area of focus for us.
- ✓ 100% of parents would recommend the school to another parent.

Areas for our school to further improve

Thank you for your continued support and for bringing the following areas to our attention:

- 13% of our responders felt that school did not always make them aware of what their child/ren are learning.



We have recently reviewed our format and style for the half termly class newsletters which are shared online (both via e-mail and our website). We'll continue to review these newsletters so that they provide useful information for all.

We will also consider how we share these (as I know Parent Pay has been difficult to get set up).

- Whilst 70% of parents felt school made sure pupils were well behaved, 17% of parents reported that they felt school did not make sure our pupils were well behaved.

Our school governors are meeting tonight during which we'll discuss behaviour. This is an area we have really strengthened as a staff body and our children, our staff, external visitors and governors who have visited school have all commented on how settled and calm the school is.

Rest assured, we're continuing to work with all children to make the right choices and we're looking forward to the introduction of our new kindness awards this term.

The staff and I look forward to welcoming you into school in the next few weeks as we host our Spring parents' evenings.

Thank you for your continued support.





Ben O'Connell
Headteacher

Bethany Simpson
Senior Teacher

Spring Term Dates

January

- Wednesday 24th January – Bikeability – Level 2 – Group 2
- Thursday 25th January – Swimming for Year 3 and 4
- Friday 26th January – Forest Schools - Y3
- Tuesday 30th January – Football practice after school

February

- Thursday 1st February – Swimming for Year 3 and 4
- Friday 2nd February – Forest Schools – Year 3
- Friday 2nd February – Whole School Number Day NSPCC
- Monday 5th February – Online Safety Workshop for parents 5.00pm - 6.00pm
- Tuesday 6th February – St Giles v South Darley Football Match after school
- Thursday 8th February – Swimming for Year 3 and 4
- Friday 9th February – Forest Schools – Year 3
- Monday 12th February – Parents' Evening Class 1 and Class 3
- Tuesday 13th February – Parents' Evening – Class 2 and
- Wednesday 14th February – Parents' Evening – Class 3 and Class 4
- Thursday 15th February – Swimming for Year 3 and 4
- Thursday 15th February – Parents' Evening – Class 4
- Friday 16th February – Forest Schools – Year 3
- Friday 16th February – Break up for half term
- Monday 26th February – INSET DAY school closed for staff training
- Tuesday 27th February – Back to school
- Thursday 29th February – PTFA School Disco 3.30 - 5.30

March

- Monday 4th March – AFTER SCHOOL CLUB until 4.00pm only
- Tuesday 5th March – St Giles v Darley Churchtown Football Match
- Thursday 7th March – Swimming for Year 3 and 4
- Thursday 7th March – World Book Day Whole School
- Monday 11th March – Stay and Play – Class 1 and Class 2 2.45pm - 3.15pm
- Wednesday 13th March – Book Look – Class 3 and Class 4 3.15pm - 3.45pm
- Thursday 14th March – Swimming for Year 3 and 4
- Tuesday 19th March – Castle View v St Giles (upper Highfields)
- Thursday 21st March – Swimming for Year 3 and 4
- Tuesday 26th March – St Giles v All Saints Football after school
- Thursday 28th March – Last Swimming for Year 3 and 4
- Thursday 28th March – Last day of the Spring Term

April

- Monday 15th April - School reopens for the Summer Term
- Thursday 18th April – No swimming this week
- Thursday 25th April – Swimming for Years 5 & 6