St. Giles CE Primary School
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Headteacher: Ben O'Connell

Tuesday 7th November 2023

November newsletter

Dear parents,

We hope that you have all enjoyed a restful and relaxing half-term break. It has been lovely to welcome all of our children and staff back into school for the start of our new half term.

Thank you!

It was wonderful to welcome all of our families to Parents' Evening last term. Thank you to our PTFA who provided our families (and staff!) with welcome hot drinks and biscuits. This has been the first time that we have welcomed all of our families into school and we'd like to thank you for your continued support with the children's learning.

Look out for the class newsletters which will be coming home at the end of this week. They will provide you with an overview of the children's learning this term.

Also, please see below for further opportunities to visit school:

Friendship / Anti-bullying week commencing: 13th November

All of our children and staff will be taking part in planned learning next week as we come together to take part in Anti-Bullying Week. I'm looking forward to seeing the children (and staff!) come to school in their odd socks on Monday 13th as we celebrate that we're all unique and different.



This Anti-Bullying Week we will come together to have discussions about what bullying means to us, how banter can turn into something more hurtful, and what we can do to stop bullying.

Of course, we don't expect our children to like everyone and we understand that they won't always agree, but we will continue to teach and explore how they can show respect and 'disagree agreeably'.

We have attached an information pack from the Anti-Bullying Alliance which provides further information, guidance and a range of activities to complete at home.

As always, if you have any concerns regarding bullying (including anything untoward outside of school and/or online) then please contact school:

- enquiries@st-giles-matlock.derbyshire.sch.uk
- safeguarding@st-giles-matlock.derbyshire.sch.uk

Opportunities to visit school

As part of our commitment to fostering a strong partnership between home and school, we would like to invite you to come into our kind, calm and caring school during the course of the academic year.

NEW! Stay and Play (EYFS and KS1)

Every half term we would like to invite you to come along to our 'Stay and Play' sessions which is aimed at Class 1 and 2 parents and carers, and our 'Come and See' sessions which is aimed at Class 3 and 4 parents and carers.

Our first Stay and Play session will take place on Wednesday 6th December from 2:45pm until 3:15pm. This is an opportunity for your child to show your around their classroom, see their wonderful work and a chance to play with your child in their learning environment. On the day, please sign in at the school office and our friendly office staff will show you to class 1 and 2.

NEW! Book Look (KS2)

Our first book look session will take place on Thursday 7th December after school from 3:15pm until 3:45pm. On the day, please collect your child as normal and then enter school through the main school entrance. During the allocated time, you will be able to spend time in your child's classroom, where all of their work, books and displayed work will be available for you to share and celebrate with your child/ren.

We value the importance of parental involvement in school life and believe that by sharing your child's work and books and providing opportunities for you to come and play in their learning environment, it will allow you to gain a deeper understanding of their development and learning journey at our wonderful school.

Mystery Reader!

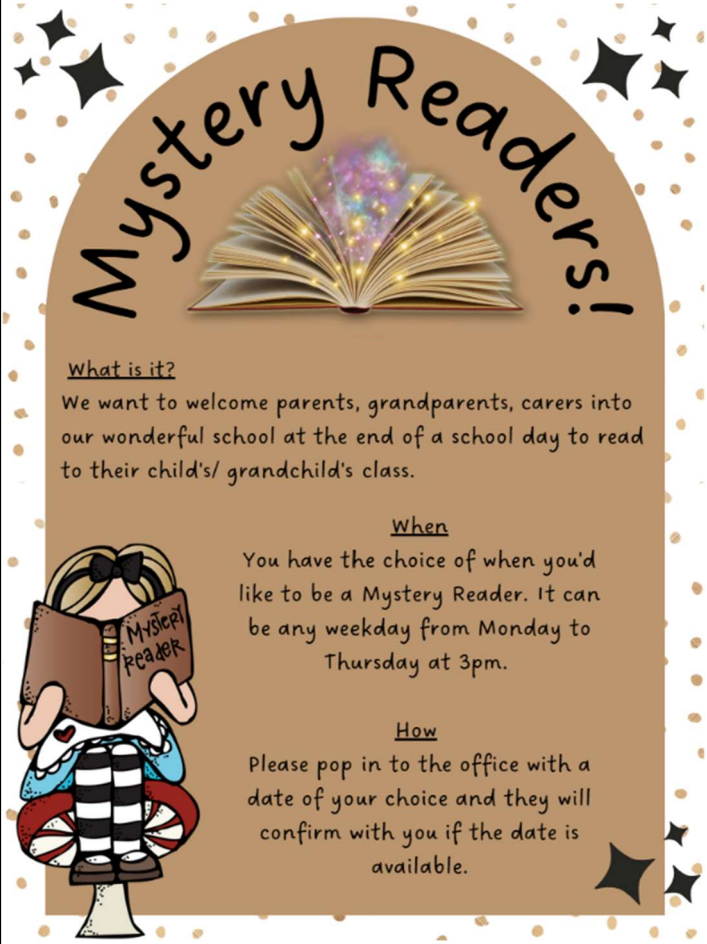
As a school we want to welcome our parents, carers, and grandparents into school at the end of the day to read to their child's/ grandchild's class. The reason we have chosen 'Mystery Reader' is because we want to keep your identity a secret to build anticipation and excitement for our children! For this to work we ask for you to answer 3 simple questions so we can provide the class with clues about our 'Mystery Reader'.

You can either bring an age appropriate book of your choice (shared with staff in advance) or use one from our school library which is age appropriate for the children.

'Mystery Reader' is going to be introduced to our children during the first week of this term.

When - You have the choice of when you'd like to be a Mystery Reader. It can be any weekday from Monday to Thursday at 3pm over the course of the school year.

How - Please pop into the office with a date of your choice and they will confirm with you if the date is available. Remember it's a mystery so please don't tell your child/ren when you are going to come into school.



Parents' Forum www.stgilesceprimarymatlock.co.uk/parents-forum/

It has been lovely to continue with the school's Parent Forum. This is an important partnership between parents and school. It is a valuable way to share ideas, views and to make suggestions for improvement. I have enjoyed welcoming in a few parents but the staff and I would like to extend this offer wider – we want to hear from all of you!

After listening to feedback from parents, we have scheduled our next meeting to take place on *Friday 10th November*. We will run two meetings to help enable as many parents as possible to take part:

- Straight after drop off: 9 a.m.
- Just before collection: 2:45 p.m.

We're continuing to focus on homework but would also like to gather your views on the wider trips which we offer for the children.

Looking ahead: www.stgilesceprimarymatlock.co.uk/diary/

Hopefully you have been able to catch up with your children's learning via the blogs which are available either via our website or on our Facebook page. These continue to be regularly updated and show the latest exciting activities that are happening in and around school. Look out for upcoming exciting events, such as sporting events over at All Saints Juniors for our Year 1 and 2 children, as well as friendship week, odd sock day, visits to the pantomime and much more!

Look out for the class newsletters which will be coming home at the end of this week. They will provide you with an overview of the children's learning this term.

Please can I draw your attention to a few important dates over the next few weeks:

- Friendship week: week commencing Monday 13th November 2023 until Friday 17th November.
- Odd Socks Day: Monday 13th November 2023
- Children in Need Day: Friday 17th November 2023. Children can wear their own clothes and we ask for a voluntary contribution (suggested minimum donation of £1) which will be sent to Children in Need.

Christmas at St Giles

Yep. It really is that time of year already!

We are already looking ahead and planning for the Christmas festivities which will start before we know it. We have a planned programme of exciting events which are listed below:

- **Monday 4th December**: Christmas Crafts for September 2024 starters
- **Thursday 7th December:** Early Years and Year 1 visit to Chesterfield Winding Wheel to watch Aladdin with their peers from All Saints CE Infants and Darley Churchtown.
- **Friday 8th December:** Whole School Christmas Craft and Jumper Day! The children can come into school wearing a Christmas jumper or something Christmassy! Throughout the day the children will be working in their houses making different Christmas crafts to decorate their school.
- **Wednesday 13th December:** Class 1 and class 2 Christmas Nativity. Performance will be at 14:00pm and 17:30pm. (further details to follow)
- **Friday 15th December:** Year 2 – Year 6 visit to Derby Arena to watch Mother Goose with their peers from All Saints CE Infants, Darley Churchtown and All Saints CE Junior schools.
- **Monday 18th December** – PTFA Secret Santa
- **Tuesday 19th December** – Christingle service at St Giles Church at 14:30pm. All parents and carers welcome.
- **Wednesday 20th December** – Christmas Dinner – If your child would like a Christmas Dinner and they normally have a packed lunch please email the

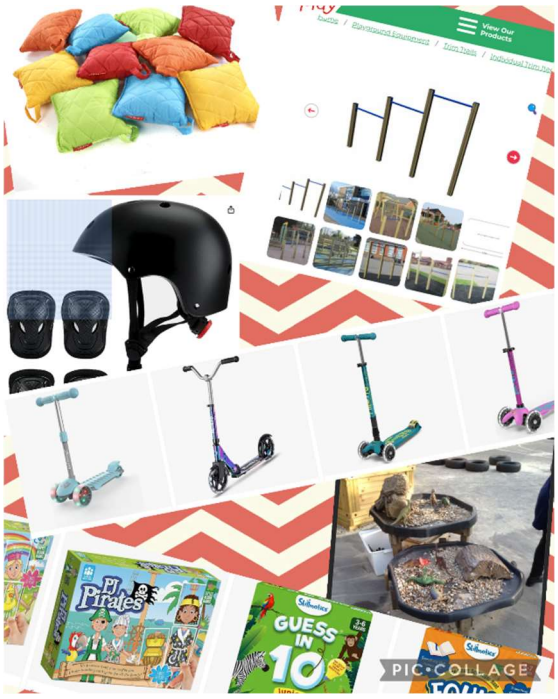
school office before 8th December. The cost is £3.25 which will be added to your Parent Pay account

- **Friday 22nd December** - Final day of the autumn term!

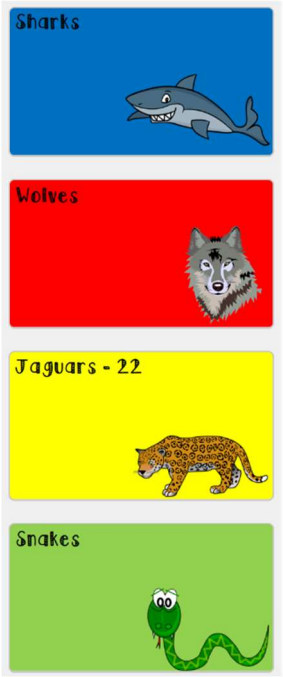
School Council www.stgilesceprimarymatlock.co.uk/school-council/

The School Council ambassadors have worked extremely hard since the start of the school year. They have worked with Miss. Simpson and I following key areas which we wanted to strengthen and further improve:

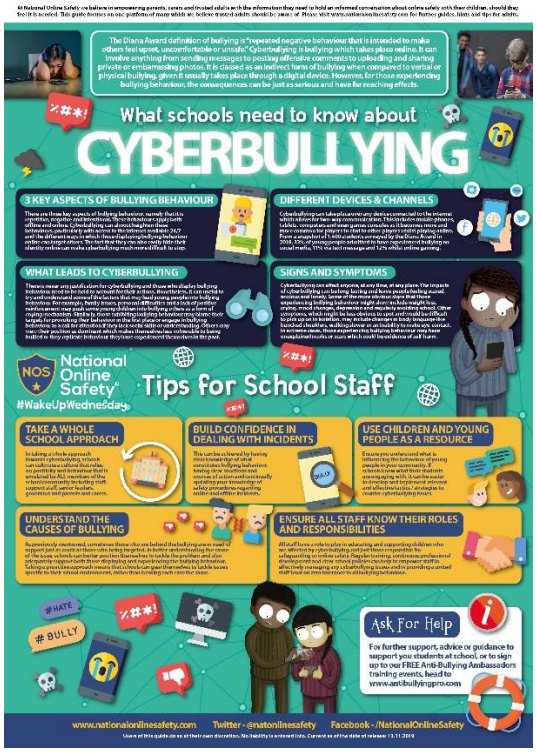
- **Use of our school houses** - We now have 4 different houses: Blue Sharks, Green Snakes, Yellow Jaguars and Red Wolves. Throughout the year, the children will have the chance to participate in various activities and competitions within their houses and earn house points.
- **Equipment to improve our playground** – All children voted for additional equipment to be added to the trim trial, scooters, gazebo with crafts, boardgames and stories. A big thank you to our PTFA who have agreed to spend £3,000 on improving our playground provision! Thank you so much!
- **Our behaviour system** now reflects our agreed principles. We no longer have the raincloud or thunder cloud and have introduced the shooting star and diamond award to recognise and celebrate exceptional behaviour.







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



We know that our children have access to many different devices at home and we want to help all children use these safely.

Many games now allow for children to communicate with each other and we also know that some children, despite the age ratings, have access to messaging apps including WhatsApp.

Please find attached guidance which we hope supports you at home to help reduce bullying taking place when your child/ren are online. You can find more advice on our website.

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

Communication: www.stgilesceprimarymatlock.co.uk

Following our last newsletter, our office team have started to provide a short summary of the week ahead. We hope that this weekly update, combined with our website, provides you with all you need to keep up to date! As always, we welcome your feedback.

Please pop into the office if you still need to sign up for Parent Pay where our team will happily support you logging on to this.

Thank you for your continued support.

Ben O'Connell

Headteacher

BM Simpson

Bethany Simpson

Senior Teacher

Autumn Dates

November

- Monday 6th November – INSET DAY – school closed to pupils
- Tuesday 7th November – Back to school
- Tuesday 7th November – Year 1 and 2 Sports Event
- Thursday 9th November – Swimming for Year 3 and 4
- Thursday 9th November - Little Smiles at St Giles
- Friday 10th November – Forest School Y4
- Friday 10th November – Remembrance Day Events
- Monday 13th – Friday 17th November – Anti-bullying/friendship week
- Thursday 16th November – Swimming for Year 3 and 4
- Thursday 16th November - Little Smiles at St Giles
- Friday 17th November – Forest School Y4
- Friday 17th November – Children in Need Day
- Thursday 23rd November – Swimming for Year 3 and 4
- Thursday 23rd November - Little Smiles at St Giles
- Friday 24th November – Forest School Y4
- Thursday 30th November – last swimming for Year 3 and 4 until 18th Jan 2024
- Thursday 30th November - Little Smiles at St Giles

December

- Friday 1st December – Forest School Y4
- Monday 4th December – Christmas Crafts for September 2024 Starters and parents/carers
- Thursday 7th December – Aladdin at the Winding Wheel for EYFS and Year 1
- Friday 8th December – Whole school Christmas craft and jumper day!
- Friday 8th December – Forest School Y4
- Wednesday 13th December – INFANT NATIVITY PLAY – Class 1 and Class 2 14:30pm and 5:30pm
- Friday 15th December – Mother Goose at Derby Arena for Years 2 – 6
- Monday 18th December – PTFA Secret Santa
- Tuesday 19th December – Whole school Christingle service14:30pm in St Giles Church. Everyone Welcome.
- Wednesday 20th December – Christmas Dinner
- Friday 22nd December – Break up for Christmas