St Giles CE Primary School

Friday 8th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

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 of 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.

Vision and logo







Thank you for all your contributions during the previous school year as staff, children, governors and our parents considered our school vision. After much work, we have settled on a refreshed vision:

*Achieving through kindness, compassion and perseverance***.**

As a church school, we looked to see that our vision was rooted within the Bible. Our staff and children very much liked the following passage:

Let us run the race before us and never give up.

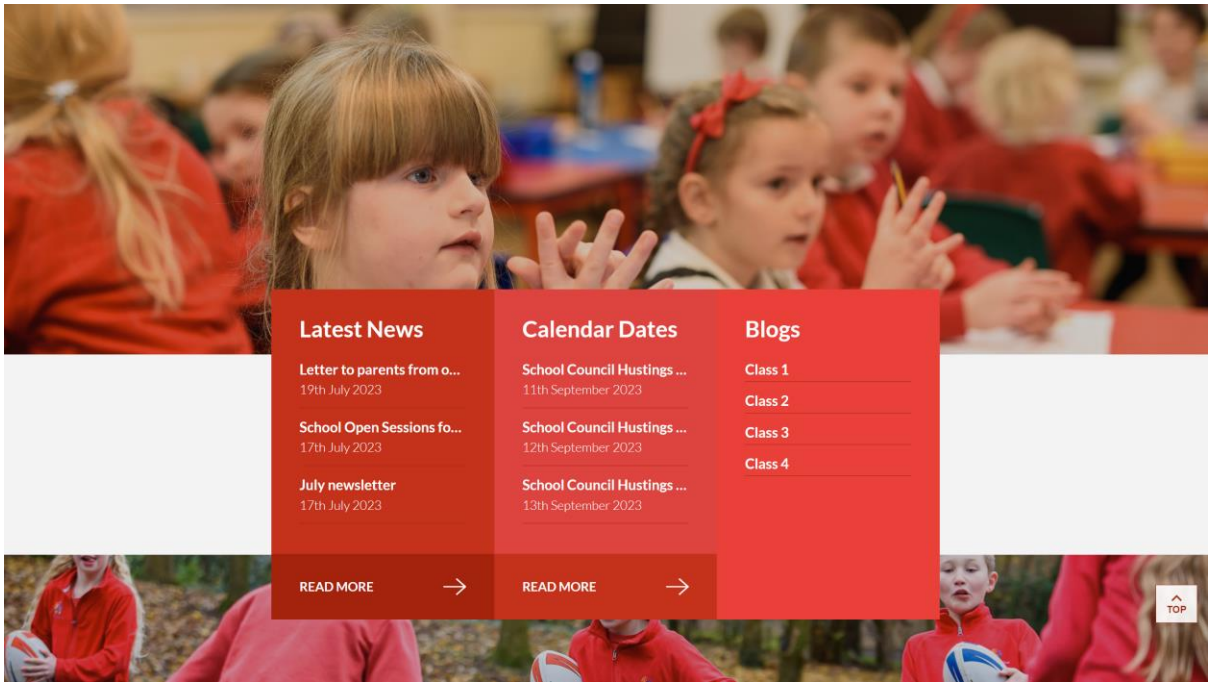
We've shared these with a graphic designer to add to our school logo and he has come up with several options. Which of these do you prefer? We'd very much welcome your views! You can vote for your preferred option online: https://forms.office.com/e/7TGgQuf2WL

Communication with home

New parents need to note that we have many ways in which you can follow what happens at our school as well as the traditional letters that come home.

- The best way to stay in touch is via our web site: www.st-giles-matlock.derbyshire.sch.uk. Our website has an up to date calendar and information on all aspects of school life.

- Our *class blogs* are a wonderful way to see what the children in each year group have been getting up to. You can find a link for the blogs on our school's website. See the image below:



- Our blogs and website also feed through to our Facebook page. You can find our FaceBook page @stgilescematlock

- We send home a monthly newsletter to all families with all the information that you need. These are always sent via e-mail but can also be downloaded from our website, should you want more than one copy or to refer to previous letters.

- Class teachers prepare half termly newsletters to keep families up to date with what the children are learning. You will receive your first one, for the Autumn term, later this week. Like all newsletters, they are sent via e-mail so parents can view and/or download from our website.

- Talk to us. Where parents contact the school, we always make time to talk. The children, staff and I are very lucky as we have a talented group of staff who are happy to work directly with you.

- Class teachers are also often available for brief conversations at the end of the school day via telephone. Please be aware that we have our weekly staff meetings after school on Wednesday, so staff are unfortunately not available on this day.

How to keep in touch

- If you would like to speak to a staff member, then please e-mail school via the school office: enquiries@st-giles-matlock.derbyshire.sch.uk

  Please use the enquiries e-mail to get in contact with any staff member (including teachers, our SENCO or a senior leader) rather than via Class Dojo. Thank you.

- Please call the school office which is staffed from 8:15 – 4:15 on a daily basis.

Inclusion Team

Our Inclusion Team is:

SENCo – Sian Arnold

Deputy SENCo – Shauna Bridges

Pastoral Manager – Beth Lloyd

Our inclusion team will be based at St Giles on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings. However, we work across the partnership of schools so please feel free to contact us at any time either through the school office or you can contact the SENCo directly on:

senco@matlockanddales.derbyshire.sch.uk

We are available to support parents and children who may need some additional pastoral support or academic support. Please refer to our school website for further information.

Thank you

Volunteers: are you able to help?

I'm delighted to say that we're able to welcome volunteers back into school. The children and staff really benefit from the help, support and expertise of our volunteers.

Please take the time to read the attached letter if you would like to know more. Please then get in contact with us via the online form available via this link: Volunteer form.

Parents' Forum

Once again this Autumn we will be running our Parents' Forum. Our Parent Forum is an important partnership between parents and school. It is a valuable way to share ideas, views and to make suggestions for improvement.

The first meetings will be on Monday 2nd October. To help enable as many parents as possible to take part, we'll be running two meetings: 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

This year we would like to work with parents to further improve the following areas:

- Homework
- Online Safety

Please come along and join us at either meeting. We will share notes from each via our website. You can find previous notes and the work which we have completed online:

Annual calendar for parents

We have an annual calendar to share with parents. All of the dates are also available on the school website. Please find attached dates for the Autumn term.

It will come as no surprise to many to read that we're once again all set for a busy year! There's lots to look out for but I'm particularly looking forward to:

- *Forest Schools*: We're looking forward to seeing Forest Schools start on Friday 22nd September. This will be led by a teacher in our revamped Forest School site. Our children will take part in year groups so that they enjoy smaller group sizes.



- *After school sports clubs*: This September we have plenty of sporting opportunities available to the children.

  We are really looking forward to welcoming Qualitas into school from Monday 18th September to deliver high-quality after school sports clubs. We will be providing not one, or two but three after school clubs with one solely for our younger children in Key Stage 1. We have worked with our children before the summer who have helped choose the sports on offer.

  Details of the clubs will be sent out by our office early next week.

- Furthermore, our Matlock and Dales Primary Football League campaign starts again this month. We have several games this month; the first is away vs All Saints on Tuesday 19th September.

- Key Stage 1 sporting challenges: Mr. Green and Qualitas are organising half termly sporting challenges just for our children in Key Stage 1. This will allow our younger children to take part in a range of activities alongside their peers from schools across the partnership.

- Little Smiles: We have been receiving order after order over the summer period as all our nursery and pre-school resources have arrived. We're very much looking forward

to starting our parent and toddler group (Little Smiles) on Thursday 21st September! Further details will be shared by the office early next week.



Phew! Thank you in advance to all the staff who make all of this (and so much more) happen.

Online Safety: tips to help keep our children safe



Another term means new friends to make, different things to learn, fresh online trends and exciting new games to play.

We've attached a list of top tips from the National Online Safety Centre to help ensure that – whether your children are online chatting, research things or just to have fun – they can do it safely.

Uniform

Thank you to all our families for providing your children with the correct school uniform for the beginning of a new school year. The children look very smart and proud to be part of our school. Our school uniform, which is to be worn by all children daily, comprises of:

- Red sweatshirt or Cardigan
- White Polo Shirt
- Grey Trousers, Skirt or Pinafore
- Grey or Black Socks or Tights
- Black Shoes

Please can our children bring in their PE kit so that they can change for PE in school. We look forward to seeing all of our children arrive in their uniform every day. Thank you.

Please remember that we have a 'nearly new' school uniform offer within our school reception. Please come in and help yourself to this uniform and help it find a new home!

You can find further details about our uniform on our website (Parents/Uniform):
www.stgilesceprimarymatlock.co.uk/uniform-information/

Thank you for your continued support.

Ben O'Connell
Headteacher

Bethany Simpson
Key Stage 1 Phase Leader

Autumn Term Dates

September

Tuesday 12th September – Language and Oracy – EYFS Parents – 3:30pm
Wednesday 13th September – PTFA Meeting 7.00pm in school. Everyone Welcome
Friday 15th September – Forest School Y5
Tuesday 19th September – Football after school All Saints v St Giles
Thursday 21st September – First swimming for Year 3 and 4
Thursday 21st September – Little Smiles – Parent and Toddlers
Friday 22nd September – OPEN AFTERNOON
Friday 22nd September – Forest School Y5
Tuesday 26th September – OPEN MORNING
Thursday 28th September – Swimming for Year 3 and 4
Friday 29th September – Forest School Y5

October

Monday 2nd October – Parent Forum – 9.00am and 6.00pm
Thursday 5th October – Swimming for Year 3 and 4
Friday 6th October – Forest School Y5
Thursday 12th October – Swimming for Year 3 and 4
Friday 13th October – Forest School Y5
Monday 16th October – Individual School Photographs
Monday 16th October – Parent Evenings this week
Tuesday 17th October – Class 4 trip to Eyam
Thursday 19th October – Swimming for Year 3 and 4
Friday 20th October – Forest School Y5
Monday 23rd October – Pupil flu immunisations
Thursday 26th October – Swimming for Year 3 and 4
Friday 27th October – Forest School Y5
Friday 27th October – Break up for half term

November

Monday 6th November – INSET DAY – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 7th November – Back to school
Thursday 9th November – Swimming for Year 3 and 4
Friday 10th November – Forest School Y4
Thursday 16th November – Swimming for Year 3 and 4
Friday 17th November – Forest School Y4
Thursday 23rd November – Swimming for Year 3 and 4
Friday 24th November – Forest School Y4
Thursday 30th November – last swimming for Year 3 and 4 until 18th Jan 2024

December

Friday 1st December – Forest School Y4
Thursday 7th December – Aladdin at the Winding Wheel for EYFS and Year 1
Friday 8th December – Forest School Y4
Wednesday 13th December – INFANT NATIVITY PLAY – Class 1 and Class 2
Friday 15th December – Mother Goose at Derby Arena for Years 2 – 6
Friday 22nd December – Break up for Christmas
Monday 8th January – Back to school