St. Giles CE Primary School

Achieving Through Adventure

Wednesday 19th July 2023

Letter from our school's governors

To all parents,

Wow, what a year it has been this year at St Giles CE Primary School. With becoming part of the Matlock & Dales partnership under the steady hand of an extremely seasoned head, Mr Ben O'Connell, the school has made great inroads in providing the very best of educational experiences for all our children here at school.

The introduction of a new phonics scheme coupled with a real focus on reading development and resource provision has made a huge impact to the diet of reading education children have received this year. Not only have the staff focused on reading and phonics, but they have also created a spiral curriculum for all foundation subjects making sure that knowledge and skill development for all children in all subjects has become a real priority. The curriculum is based on supporting children to build in knowledge whilst making links with prior learning to ensure that nothing in terms of learning is forgotten or lost. The approach taken by the school is one that ensures children build on their cognitive abilities through a carefully planned and well-structured curriculum.

The school has benefitted greatly from being part of the Matlock and Dales partnership in terms of being part of a larger family. The introduction of Power Mathematics through school whilst having access to expert practitioners (from All Saints CE Junior school) to coach staff in its use has seen a real positive impact on how maths is delivered in KS1 & KS2.

However, the proof of how effective our year has been, apart from the happy atmosphere I have encountered in classes throughout school, during every visit, is in the rising of percentages of children reaching age related expectations in all year groups in all core subjects. Without going into too much detail I have signposted how well the children have achieved in the EYFS, Year 2 and Year 6 classrooms. The reason for these year group choices being that these are statutory assessment points that are measured nationally.

T: 01629 56813
E: enquiries@st-giles-matlock.derbyshire.sch.uk
Starkholmes Road, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3DD
Part of the Derby Diocesan Academy Trust – Company Registration Number 09442311

EYFS	St Giles Last Year 2022	St Giles This Year 2023	National 2022	+/- on year previous
GLD Good Level of Development (all children)	All Areas 55%	All Areas 66% Comprehension & Word Reading 100%	All Areas 65.2%	+11%
KS1 (Year 2)	Age Related Expectations 2022	Age Related Expectations 2023	National 2022	+/- on year previous
Reading	37.5%	57%	67%	+19.5%
Writing	19%	67%	68%	+48%
Mathematics	56.25%	67%	68%	+10.75%
KS2 (Year 6)	Age Related Expectations 2022	Age Related Expectations 2023	National 2022	+/- on year previous
Reading	67%	100%	73%	+33%
Writing	47%	64%	69%	+17%
Mathematics	60%	64%	73%	+4%
EGPs (Grammar/ Punctuation	67%	72%	72%	+5%

As the brief picture of results above demonstrates, all core curriculum areas of reading, maths, writing and punctuation and grammar scores have increased this year from the previous year. More pleasing though is the proximity to national figures which this year puts our school broadly inline or above in terms of children reaching age related expectations.

Before I move on from results there are two more areas that need highlighting as areas of great success and improvement promoted through strong teaching and a systematic approach to this teaching.

In phonics last year we had a lower percentage of children meeting an expected standard of where children should be nationally. This figure was 25% of children (St Giles) reaching an expected standard in phonics attainment. For the 75% of children who did not reach this standard I am extremely pleased to report that they have all now reached (100%) the national standard in year 2. This has been achieved through the implementation of a new phonics programme 'Little Wandle' and our teachers drive to take on board a systematic teaching approach delivering with fidelity the schemes aims. This year 67% of our children in Year 1 have made the

Phonics KS1	Year 1 2022	Year 1 2023	Year 2 (repeated from 2022)
	25%	67% (+42%)	100% (+75%)

expected standard nationally. This is an increase from last year of 42%

My final mention of results refers to the huge efforts made by teachers and children to prepare for the national multiplication test in year 4. The average score nationally for this exam is 20 points for all children. Last year in 2022 we scored, as an average, 17 points for all children in the multiplication exam. This year staff implemented a times table curriculum strategy (as part of the school improvement plan) which through systematic teaching and great effort enabled our children to score much higher. This year the average score for our children was 21.8 points which puts us firmly above what children are attaining nationally.

All the above is to show how well children at St Giles CE Primary School have achieved this year in terms of reading, writing and mathematics. Teachers have made extraordinary strides to take on board new initiatives, new curriculum programmes whilst implementing effective teaching of new schemes. There efforts and approach have seen standards rise throughout the school with vigour.

However, education is not just about results and average point scores. Education is much more and this is reflected constantly at St Giles school. In all my visits this year to school, I have been truly amazed at the love, care and compassion dedicated by teachers to the children in their care. On walking into classrooms there is an air of calm and productivity. Children and teachers have smiles on their face and there is a vibrancy to the delivery of topics and the way discussions are held including the answering and asking of questions by the children. Children are well behaved and where challenges may occur these are dealt with professionally but more importantly sensitively.

As all of you will understand, in workplaces there is accountability for the actions we take, often this is through management review or personnel discussion. We are no different as a school. Every term we receive visits from a school development team who review our practices as a school. I would just like to emphasise the last reviews findings on classroom environment made by a senior school improvement officer:

- *Throughout school, during the visit, the atmosphere was calm, purposeful and pupils industrious.*
- *Those experiencing challenges receive love and care and bespoke adaptations are made to secure their learning.*
- *The benefits of identifying and sticking rigorously and consistently to clearly defined expectations, rewards and sanctions in order to promote positive behaviours are palpable.*
- *Relations are clearly far more respectful and positive as a result of this work.*
- *Leaders recognise the importance of sustaining this consistent approach at a time of staffing changes.*

Jo Harvey 28th June 2023

As we move towards the summer holidays I would like to finish by acknowledging how productive the year has been at St Giles. Children in school have worked extremely hard taking on board and developing quickly their skills and knowledge of all curriculum areas through renewed structure of teaching programmes, and coherent teaching approaches across the whole school. With a new revised and updated curriculum, the school is providing for children the very best of an educational diet whilst providing fully for their physical, emotional, and social needs.

Next year we will continue to build on our successes whilst continuing to address the needs of all the children in our care. With all staffing in place and a wealth of expertise on which to draw from being part of the Matlock and Dales partnerships I know that we will provide the very best opportunities for the children in our care.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the children, all staff, governors and Mr O'Connell for their gargantuan efforts this year but more importantly I would like to thank you our parent body for always supporting and being there for us as a school.

Kindest regards

John Bolton
(Chair of Governors)