St. Giles CE Primary School

Achieving Through Adventure

Monday 10th July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope this letter finds you safe and well.

It was wonderful to welcome so many families to school on Friday for our Sports Day. The children, staff and I hope that you enjoyed the busy, busy, busy afternoon in the glorious sunshine. Well done to all of our children (and parents!) who took part in the wide range of events and congratulations to our Blue Team who scooped the House Trophy by the narrowest of margins!

School Vision: who are we and why are we here?

The children and staff have continued to consider our school vision and we are focusing on three areas which shone through: *achieve*; *kindness*; *perseverance*. As staff we have considered what each of these looks, feels and sounds like when we're in school.

Please can you take time to complete our short survey (3 questions only) as we look to draft our vision to discuss with governors when we meet on the 18th July? Our discussions with staff and children raised some interesting questions and we'd welcome your thoughts:

- Do you prefer the word kindness or compassion?
- Do you prefer the word perseverance or commitment?

You can access our short survey via this link: https://forms.office.com/e/1WfuZwJ0jb

Thank you for taking the time to respond and share your views.

Relationship and Sex Education

Staff have used training time over the past term to prepare for the teaching of relationship and sex education. All RSE learning objectives will be taught by the class teacher, where objectives are different the children will be split into their year groups. We have allocated these final two weeks to ensure that all RSE objectives are taught in depth to our children as well as creating a safe space for children to ask questions.

We would like to remind and reassure all that parents have the right to request that their child be excused from sex education within RSE only. Please contact the school office via enquiries@st-giles-matlock.derbyshire.sch.uk if you would like to discuss and/or request this.

Want to know more?

- ✓ You can find our full curriculum, for every year group, on our school website: www.stgilesceprimarymatlock.co.uk/relationship-sex-education/
- ✓ **There is a presentation for Key Stage 2 parents tonight at 5 p.m.**
- ✓ **There is a presentation for parents of children in Early Years and Key Stage 1 tomorrow at 5 p.m.**
- ✓ Both presentations are also available on our website.

T: 01629 56813
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Diary dates for the next school year

All of a sudden, we find ourselves close to the end of the school year. How did that happen?

Staff across the partnership have developed an annual calendar and the main dates for next year are set (and available on our website). Please find some important dates for the autumn term below:

- Monday September 4th: INSET 1. School closed whilst staff attend training.
- Tuesday 5th September: INSET 2. School closed whilst staff attend training.
- Wednesday 6th September: School open for the new school year.
- Wednesday 6th September: Meet the Teacher. Please join us in school from 5 p.m.
- Thursday 21st September: Individual photos
- Monday 23rd October: Partnership meeting for parents of children in Year 4 focusing on times tables.
- Week commencing 23rd October: Parents' Evenings
- Monday 6th November: INSET 3: School closed whilst staff attend training.
- Tuesday 7th November: School reopens after October half term
- Friday 22nd December: Final day of the autumn term
- Monday 8th January 2024: School reopens for the start of Spring term.
- Monday 26th February 2024: INSET 4: School closed whilst staff attend training.
- Monday 17th June 2024: School closed whilst staff attend training.

As always, you can find dates on the calendar on our school website:

www.stgilesceprimarymatlock.co.uk/diary/list/

Already looking forwards to September!

I know it's a strange thing to admit, but the staff and I are already looking forward to welcoming the children back into school on Wednesday 6th September. There's so much to look forward to including:

- **Meet the teacher:** our first staff meeting of the new school year will be an opportunity to come and meet your child/ren's new class teacher(s). We hope that you will be able join us on Wednesday 6th September from 5 p.m.

- **Forest Schools:** Our forest school area is finally ready, and we can't wait to use this area with our children. We have a wonderful shelter and seating area, and our Forest School site is set behind the new arch and handmade gateway.

  Forest schools will be taught by Miss. Parsons and Mrs. Tucker who are both teachers at Darley Churchtown. Each class will have the opportunity for forest schools throughout the year. We will be sending more information about forest school during the first week back in September.

- **Little Smiles:** It has been wonderful to see Mrs. Rodgers work with colleagues across the partnership as we look to establish a much-needed parent and toddler group here within our community. We've just completed our order of equipment (totalling over £7,000) and look forward to seeing our younger children (both pre-school and Early Years) benefit from this new equipment. It will also ensure that we are fully set for a nursery (we are still awaiting a final decision from the Dfe).

- **Sports clubs led by Qualitas:** Qualitas do a fantastic job at providing our children with sporting activities during lunch times (and they provided wonderful help during Sports Day on Friday). Please keep an eye out for the after school extra curriculum activities that will become available for your child/ren from September.

- **Maths Whizz:** Miss. Deering, the maths leader across the partnership, has been spending time here at St. Giles, trialling the use of Maths Whizz – you may well have heard the children talking about this. We are currently trialling this in Class 2 and Class 4.

  Maths Whizz is a programme, online, which identifies specific knowledge gaps in the children's maths understanding and it then automatically develops a learning journey to address these gaps. The early indications are very positive with the children enjoying being taught by an online maths tutor, playing the games and earning gems whilst their individual maths targets are being met. As of September, all children will have access to this programme so they can access this at home as well as at school.

- **Morning book with a grown up:** We are looking forward to welcoming you into school to read with your child/ren in the mornings. This will allow you and your child to change any reading books as well as the opportunity to take one of our new library books home. We will shortly be sending out a letter to explain this in further detail.

- **Inter-house Competitions:** Now we have our houses (just need names!), we are looking to organising inter-house competitions.

Many thanks for your continued support for the staff, children and each other. It goes without saying that I wish you all a wonderful summer and I hope you are able to enjoy time with your families.

Miss. Simpson, the staff and I look forward to welcoming the children back into our schools on Wednesday 6th September when our doors reopen from 8:45 a.m.

Yours faithfully

Ben O' Connell — Headteacher

Bethany Simpson — Key Stage 1 Phase Leader

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