# St. Giles CE Primary School

Achieving Through Adventure

Wednesday 1st February 2023

Dear parents/carers,

I hope this letter finds you all safe and well. I am sure you will join me in welcoming Mr. Williams back after his paternity leave at the start of the year. Many thanks for continuing to make me feel welcome at St. Giles. It is lovely to see the school continue to develop as we all work to help all of our children and staff '*achieve through adventure*'.

**Healthy habits at St. Giles: www.stgilesceprimarymatlock.co.uk/lunch-menu/**

This year many of us have returned to work with a resolve to eat more healthily, especially throughout the day. So far, so good!

All of our staff are very keen to help our children adopt a healthy lifestyle too. Children in our Early Years and in Years 1 and 2 do not need to bring in snacks for the morning break as a range of fruit or vegetable sticks are provided free of charge.

Children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 can also bring in a *healthy snack* for break. This could be vegetable sticks or dried or fresh fruit. Going forwards, Mr. Williams and I will be working with our children to make sure that all children benefit from *healthy snacks* every day.

Please don't forget: we welcome children bringing in a bottle that can be refilled with fresh water throughout the day as this helps our children stay hydrated. Each classroom has the facilities to enable this.

**New website: www.stgilesceprimarymatlock.co.uk**

It has been lovely to hear the positive feedback from parents and staff regarding our new website. We hope that our website actively promotes our school and also provides parents with all the information you may need if you have a question. Have you seen and visited our:

- *School calendar*: we have planned and scheduled dates for the remainder of the academic year and including parents' evenings, sports day and training days. This is the best place to check if you have a question about dates.
- *Curriculum*: staff at St. Giles have been working with colleagues across the Matlock and Dales Primary Partnership to further strengthen our curriculum plans. You can view these, along with helpful resources (noticeably for phonics) on our website.
- *Online safety for children*: We continue to work with our children to ensure that they are able to make safe choices when they online, including:
    - How to safely *communicate* with others;
    - How to safely access *content* online;
    - How to safely *conduct* ourselves when online;

T: 01629 56813
E: enquiries@st-giles-matlock.derbyshire.sch.uk
Starkholmes Road, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3DD
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- Our website has direct links for the children to access age appropriate online interactive advice from CEOP: www.stgilesceprimarymatlock.co.uk/keeping-safe/
- Online safety tips for parents: We have a series of useful links and advice for adults available under: Parents/Online safety. This is where you can find some useful information which was shared several weeks ago following the online safety workshop for parents.

The website is packed full of additional information, ranging from the work of our governors through to our latest school improvement plan and summary. Please let Mr. Williams or I know if there is something which you feel should be available to all online.

**Vision for our school: www.stgilesceprimarymatlock.co.uk/vision-and-values/**

I have greatly enjoyed spending time at St. Giles, working alongside our children, staff, parents and governors. During the past few months I have been considering the school's established vision: *achieve through adventure*.

I would like to better understand what our school means to you and so would like parents, staff and governors to contribute. *What are the important values which you want our children and staff to learn and experience whilst at St. Giles?*

Please can you spare a minute or two to contribute by following the link below and adding 5 values which you want our children and staff to experience? Your contributions will form a useful word map which we can discuss as a staff and governing body. Thank you in advance.

www.menti.com/alpjjkabxgmm



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**Relationship and Sex Education**

Many thanks to parents who have contributed to our review of our RSE policy and curriculum (either via our surveys or via our Parents' Forums). All of the responses were supportive and so we will be taking our revised policy and curriculum to the next governors' meeting on Tuesday 7th February.

Please remember that all of the work we have undertaken this year (including the outcomes of all surveys) is available on our website:
www.stgilesceprimarymatlock.co.uk/relationship-sex-education/

**Dates for the year ahead**

Finally, please find attached a series of planned dates for the remainder of the academic year (and the start of the next). All of these are also on our website.

Phew! It looks like we're all set for a busy and happy time here at St. Giles as we all work to help our children 'achieve through adventure'.

Many thanks for your continued support,



Ben O'Connell

Head Teacher

T: 01629 56813
E: enquiries@st-giles-matlock.derbyshire.sch.uk
Starkholmes Road, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3DD
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| FURTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY | |
|---|---|
| **Thurs 2nd February 2023** | Young Voices: all children in Y5 & Y6 trip to Sheffield Arena |
| **Fri 17th February 2023** | LAST DAY OF SCHOOL BEFORE HALF TERM BREAK |
| **Mon 27th February 2023** | SCHOOL REOPENS AFTER HALF TERM BREAK |
| **Week com: 27th February 2023** | Spring parents' evening: opportunity to discuss learning building upon January report cards. |
| **Thurs 2nd March 2023** | World Book Day |
| **Fri 17th March 2023** | Red Nose Day |
| **Fri 31st March 2023** | LAST DAY OF TERM BEFORE EASTER BREAK |
| **Mon 17th April 2023** | SCHOOL REOPENS AFTER EASTER BREAK |
| **Mon 1st May 2023** | EARLY MAY BANK HOLIDAY: School closed |
| **Mon 8th May 2023** | BANK HOLIDAY FOR CORONATION: School closed |
| **Tuesday 9th – Friday 12th May 2023** | Year 6 SATs: GAPS, reading and maths statutory assessments |
| **Thurs 25th May 2023** | Bunting Cup |
| **Fri 26th May 2023** | LAST DAY OF SCHOOL BEFORE HALF TERM BREAK |
| **Mon 5th June 2023** | SCHOOL REOPENS AFTER HALF TERM BREAK |
| **Thurs 15th June 2023** | SOUTH PEAK SPORTS |
| **Fri 30th June 2023** | Whole school Sports Day from 1:30 p.m.<br>*Reserve day: Friday 7th July* |
| **Friday 7th July 2023** | End of Year reports |
| **Tuesday 11th July 2023** | Class 4 performance (Y5 & Y6) at 6 p.m. |
| **Thurs 20th July 2023** | LAST DAY OF SCHOOL BEFORE SUMMER BREAK |
| **Thurs 20th July 2023** | Year 6 Leavers' service at 11 am (all parents welcomed) |
| **Friday 21st July 2023** | INSET – School Closed for staff training |
| | |
| **Mon 4th September 2023** | INSET – School Closed for staff training |
| **Tues 5th September 2023** | INSET – School Closed for staff training |
| **Wed 6th September 2023** | SCHOOL REOPENS FOR PUPILS FOR 2023 – 2024 academic year |

**Please note**

Dates for services to be confirmed

Dates for transition visits to be confirmed