St. Giles CE Primary School

Achieving Through Adventure

Thursday 12th January 2023

Dear parents/carers,

Welcome back to school and I hope you all enjoyed a happy Christmas and New Year. It has been lovely to welcome all of our children and staff back into school.

Online safety for our children

It sounds as if many of our children were delighted to have torn the wrapping paper off various smartphones, consoles, tablets and other internet-enabled devices over the past couple of weeks – and I've no doubt that they couldn't wait to start their exciting journeys into previously undiscovered corners of the online universe.



Staff at school teach our children how to stay safe online as part of our computing and PSHE curriculum and also model the safe use of the Internet on a daily basis.

We also like to share further advice and we have attached the latest guidance from the National Online Safety website. This focuses on staying safe on new devices. It highlights a number of tips such as double-checking your news sources, taking breaks from being online and not sharing personal information.

You can find a copy of this guidance, along with further suggestions and links, on our school website: www.stgilesceprimarymatlock.co.uk/online-safety/

Online safety parent workshop: Thursday 19th January at 5:30 p.m.

With digital technologies becoming present in our homes, it's never been more important for parents and carers to remain up-to-date with the potential risks and dangers. However, we appreciate it's hard to keep up to date with all the latest apps and technology.

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We have arranged for a parent workshop to provide further advice regarding online safety. This will be delivered by Traci Good, a trusted expert.

The workshop will provide essential insight across a broad range of issues such as: general online safety, bullying, gaming, social media, wellbeing, sexting and privacy. Previous workshops have been very well received an typically last an hour.

This workshop is available for all parents across the partnership and it is being hosted at All Saints' Junior (as our hall space at St. Giles is in use).

We hope that you will be able to join Traci at All Saints Junior to find out more online safety tips.

Relationship and Sex Education

Thank you to the parents who have contributed to the redevelopment of our Relationship and Sex Education policy. Staff have continued to work closely on the curriculum and ensure there is real clarity in what content (including specific vocabulary) is being taught to which year groups.

We have attached our proposed new policy which also includes a simple summary of our proposed RSE curriculum. Staff and leaders have used the advice from Derbyshire's Health and Wellbeing team and have also referred to the Church of England's principle and charter on RSE in developing our draft policy and curriculum.

As you will see, we have suggested a programme of sex education which we feel is both age appropriate and sensitive. These additional elements are highlighted in yellow. It goes without saying that we would welcome your thoughts!

We would be grateful if all parents could take the time to:

- ✓ Read the policy (including the attached curriculum/vocabulary progression).
- ✓ Respond to the short survey (which has just two questions): https://forms.office.com/e/qp77xK0Zdc

When does the survey close?

- ✓ The RSE survey closes on Sunday 29th January 2023.

What happens after the survey closes?

- ✓ Staff at school will review the outcome of the survey and use this to finalise a policy and curriculum to take to governors for their consideration.

When with Relationship and Sex Education be taught?

- ✓ We will aim to teach Relationship and Sex Education in the summer term. Parents will be made aware well in advance.
- ✓ Parents will be invited into school to review the books and materials which staff will be using.

You can find further information, including our current policy which includes vocabulary, on our website (Curriculum/Relationship & Sex Education).

Report cards

This week we will be sending home new, brief report cards. These are designed to provide a summary about how your child is attaining and how they are contributing in class and to their learning.

We hope that you will find this information useful and help you understand more about the progress that your child is making at school. We will send these in January and in April, before a final end of year report in July.

Parents' Forum on Thursday 26th January at 5:30 p.m.

We will be holding our second parent forum in late January. We hope to welcome as many parents as possible where we will discuss:

- Homework: how you can best support children at home, what expectations might be and the amount children complete.
- the report cards which you will have received.

The date for our second meeting will be Thursday 26th January at 5:30 p.m.

Arrangements for bad weather

With the weather turning colder (and another bout of cold of weather set for next week), I thought it would be useful to remind parents of arrangements for bad weather.

It is the aim of all of the schools within our partnership in Matlock to remain open during adverse weather conditions, *when practically possible*. This is dependent on each school having enough staff to safely open (teaching staff as well as catering).

In the unlikely event of a school closure the following steps will be taken to notify parents and carers:

- ✓ A message will be sent to inform staff, parents and carers via e-mail no later than 7:30 a.m.
- ✓ A message will also be displayed on the homepage of our school website.
- ✓ Our school will contact the School Closure page of the DCC website: School closures (derbyshire.gov.uk)
- ✓ We will provide an update via our school Facebook page.

You can find further information on our website, including St. Giles' current 'adverse weather' policy. Please can you take the time to let our school office know if you

have changed your contact details recently so that we can ensure that you are able to receive information sent via e-mail.

Exciting times ahead

Keep your eyes peeled for further exciting developments over the next terms as we:

- ✓ Plan to redevelop our outdoor environment for Early Years and Key Stage 1;
- ✓ Further improve the range of play opportuntities on our playground so our children benefit from happy and active playtimes;
- ✓ Trialling of Forest Schools (led by two staff members from Darley Churchtown);
- ✓ We've just launched our new website to help keep parents better informed.

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