St. Giles CE Primary School

Achieving Through Adventure

26th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely to see the children settle into school. I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting you all on the gate in the mornings.

As part of our INSET days we looked at our behaviour principles and discussed at length the principles we wanted to work with as a school. We came up with five key principles which are:

1. **Our children understand the power of reflection and are able to make better choices.**
2. **Our children feel loved, safe, valued and cared about; every day is a fresh start and we forgive when children make the wrong choice.**
3. **Our children are unique; they treat each other fairly with dignity and respect and understand the needs of others.**
4. **Our children are clear about what is expected and flourish in an environment that is designed to best meet their needs; they want to do well.**
5. **Our children are taught about dignity and respect; positive behaviour is praised and modelled and sanctions are swift and fair.**

With these ideas, as a staff, we developed a new behaviour policy which you can find attached. This has been implemented across school; you may have heard your children talking about this already.

We will be reviewing how this is going through some pupil voices from the school council once it has been in place for a few weeks to see how the children are finding the new system.

The first few weeks of the Autumn term have been busy and exciting at St Giles. Wider Opportunities music lessons have started in Class 3 with children learning the Ukulele. Class 3 have also begun their swimming sessions at the Arc which has been a huge success. Children in Class 4 are gearing up for their residential to Whitehall, which they are all really looking forward to! Children in Class 2 enjoyed a visit from The History Van; the lady showed the children what life was life for Victorian children and they were able to play with Victorian toys. Class 1 have made a great start to the year and settled brilliantly into school life.

There are many more exciting things to come this term: The Harvest Service on Friday 30th September at St Giles Church; KS2 Reading workshop, showcasing how reading is taught at St Giles on the 3rd October at 17:30; parents meetings on the 12th and 13th of October; as well as a Multiplication meeting detailing the importance of times tables, which is being held on the 20th of October at 17:30. Reminders of all these events can be found on the Calendar page on the website

T: 01629 56813
E: enquiries@st-giles-matlock.derbyshire.sch.uk
Starkholmes Road, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3DD
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Volunteers
Many thanks to those who have volunteered their time to help in school, the wheels are in motion to ensure DBS checks are in place so we will be able to welcome you into St Giles.

Safeguarding
Safeguarding remains of the up-most importance to us in school. We have an email address dedicated to safeguarding: safeguarding@st-giles-matlock.derbyshire.sch.uk please use this if you have any concerns.
Please take a look at the following link which contains advice on how best to keep your children safe online: https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/

Nursery
Governors and leaders are carefully considering whether to open a nursery at St. Giles CE Primary School. Please find below information regarding a consultation which we are running as we carefully consider whether to extend the age range at St. Giles.
We have also included some FAQs which can be found attached to this letter.

The Proposal
It is proposed to extend the age range of children admitted to St. Giles CE Primary School from 5 - 11 years to 3 – 11 years. There would be 15 places available for 3 – 4 year-old children, for up to 30 hours per week. We are proposing that the children would be taught within one of our large classrooms, located on our current site, shared with an equal number of Reception children. The unit would be led by a full- time teacher together with excellent support staff.

The Benefits
✓ The children would benefit from experiencing early educational activities to support their learning and development, as part of a wider school curriculum. This would be led by a qualified teacher and supported by our trained teaching assistants.
✓ Research has shown that where schools provide Early Years education, pupils benefit from settled transitions as they move between the early stages of learning. School staff are able to share their expertise between Early Years and Key Stage 1 and this is critical to consistent progress.
✓ Where children go on to attend our school here at St. Giles, they would benefit from a transition which would be smooth and effective, allowing the children to settle more quickly. It would provide continuity of education and provision through a single leadership team and governing body
✓ It would support parents/carers in finding high quality, flexible child care in the local area and offer a wider parental choice.
✓ A wider range of resources and expertise could be shared across the age range of the school. This flexibility can be particularly useful for children with special needs or vulnerabilities.
✓ It would provide opportunity for children to attend provision on the same site as their older siblings. This should impact positively on parents' time and logistics of using different childcare providers.

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It is hoped that these arrangements will be in place ready for September 2023.

How to make your views known

We are currently consulting on the proposal outlined above and would be happy to receive your comments by email to enquiries@st-giles-matlock.derbyshire.sch.uk or by letter to the school addressed as follows: FAO Mr B O'Connell St. Giles CE Primary school Starkholmes Road, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3DD.
We have also provided an online survey where you can make your views known: https://forms.office.com/r/EfFKe0bKdP

All comments must be received by 9.00 a.m. on 14th October 2022.

We look forward to continued success in school, seeing the children working hard and achieving to the best of their abilities.

Please also remember to use Class Dojo to send and receive messages from your child's teacher.

Thank you for your support.

Kind regards

Mr D Williams
Head of School