St. Giles CE Primary

Achieving through adventure

A Parent's Guide to Starting School

September 2023



Welcome to Reception

When your child starts school we take special care to make sure each individual is settled and happy. In order to ensure that your child settles well we have a staggered start into their Reception year. This enables staff and children to get to know each other well and your child to feel safe and secure at St. Giles.

First week of term

Wednesday 6th September: 9.00am – 9.15am arrival. You are welcome to bring your child into school and help them find their peg and their drawer. Children will stay for lunch. There will be an opportunity to stay for "Tea and Tissues" in the hall once you have dropped your child off. **Collect** at **1pm**

Thursday 7th September: 8.40am-8.50am arrival. Children will stay for lunch. **Collect** at **1pm**.

Friday 8th September: 8.40am-8.50am arrival, **collect** at **3.15pm (stay all day)**
2.45pm: Phonics workshop for parents. You are invited to a short session explaining how we teach phonics at St. Giles and how you can support your child.

Children should arrive and be collected from the gate at the right of the main school building, which is the entrance to the Reception outdoor area, where staff will greet you each day.

Who will look after your child?
During their time in Reception, your child will work with all of our teachers and teaching assistants within Class 1 and Class 2.

Teachers	**Teaching Assistants**
Mrs Doyle	Mrs Eyley-Jones
Miss Simpson	Mrs Rodgers
Mrs Taylor	

Coming into school
School starts at 8.50am but the doors are open from 8.40am. For security reasons the gates will be locked at 8.50am. If you arrive after this time please report to the school office to sign your child in.

The Reception Classroom

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (EYFS) and our curriculum is tailored to the learning needs of our children. Our curriculum is based upon four themes and principles:

The Unique Child – We understand that every child is an individual who is capable in their own right.

Positive Relationships – Social interaction is key to children's development. Children become strong, independent learners; as well as scaffolding their learning through positive social interaction.

Enabling Environments – Providing a safe, secure and stimulating base for your child is key to their development. The framework allows for experiences that respond to the child's individual needs/interests; as well as developing a strong partnership between practitioners, parents and carers.

Learning and Development – Children develop and learn in different ways. The curriculum covers the education and care of all children in early years' provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities.

During the reception year your child will be working towards, and beyond, the Early Learning Goals (ELGs). The seven areas of learning are:

- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**
- **Communication and Language Development**
- **Physical Development**
- **Literacy**
- **Mathematics**
- **Understanding the World**
- **Expressive Arts, Designing and making**

Your child will be involved in a wide range of activities every day, developing their skills in many different areas. Activities are designed to follow the interests of the children and move their learning forward. The foundation stage year is about well-planned play activities to develop the children's strength in all areas of the curriculum. We will help children learn to:

- Become creative and imaginative
- Work alongside or co-operate with other children
- Communicate – be confident speakers
- Investigate and discover
- Express feelings

- Extend their experiences in a safe environment
- Care for others
- Develop and express new ideas
- Explore
- Develop concentration
- Learn
- Share
- Make sense of the world
- Practise and develop skills
- Take risks
- Learn self-control
- Be happy
- Understand the need for rules

Throughout the year, staff spend time observing and assessing children's development in order to plan for each child to develop at their own pace and according to their interests. Key learning moments are recorded in their Online Learning Journal (Tapestry) which parents will have access to in the autumn term.

During the day in Reception

Each day, your child will take part in a variety of adult-led activities linked to the areas of learning. Our Early Years curriculum outlines in detail the progression of learning through each term and can be found on our website.

Each term, we base our learning around a theme. Often, books are used as stimulus and learning will be linked to this. Adult – led activities take place in groups or individually and are organised to meet the needs of all our pupils. When the children are not working on adult-led activities, they are able to develop their learning according to their interests and needs.

Phonics: We teach phonics daily, from the very first day,
and follow the 'Little Wandle' phonics scheme. This is a complete systematic, synthetic phonics programme. It is based on the original Letters and Sounds, but has been extensively revised to provide a complete teaching programme which meets all the expectations of the National Curriculum.

The children learn to recognise and say the sound for a new letter (grapheme) each day, together with blending to read words that contain this grapheme. They also learn to recognise and read words by sight.

You can access lots of additional resources, including useful guides on the pronunciation of sounds, on our school website: Phonics | St Giles C E Primary School (stgilesceprimarymatlock.co.uk)

Three times a week all children will have **reading practice sessions**. During each session they will focus on:
Decoding: learn to decode words using their phonic knowledge
Prosody: learn to use expression and intonation in their voice
Comprehension: show understanding of what they have read

Maths: The learning is fun, practical, enjoyable and varied and helps our children to develop a love of learning and work towards mastery. We aim for all children to build a deep understanding of maths concepts and key skills such as:

- A deep understanding of number to ten
- exploring patterns of numbers within 10
- Subitising (recognising a quantity without counting)
- Recall of double facts, number bonds to 5 and 10
- explaining how they know an answer is correct
- recognising patterns of numbers and the counting system
- comparing numbers
- composition of number

All children benefit from a daily maths lesson, led by a teacher.

Collective Worship
As a Church School, we plan our Collective Worship around Christian Values, which this year include courage, hope, service, creativity, friendship and humility. Whole school worship takes place at the end of the school day in which we discuss our value of the term and share a quiet reflective time. We celebrate all Christian Festivals and visit St Giles Church at Christmas and Easter. We also celebrate Festivals from other faiths.

R.E.
We have a weekly R.E. lesson where children learn about a range of faiths in a way that is appropriate to their understanding.

Physical Development
In Reception, there is a regular PE lesson each week. The children are expected to come to school in PE uniform on the day they will be having PE - we will let you know at the start of the term which day that will be. During class time, the children will experience a range of activities to develop their gross and fine motor control and arm strength. Once a week the children take part in Balanceability sessions. This is a programme of fun activities that build core strength, confidence, spatial awareness and balance skills enabling children to cycle without ever needing stabilisers.

Achievements

We encourage and praise children for persevering and trying their best as well as achieving. This applies to all areas of school life. It may be about listening carefully, being kind to another child, persevering, or doing a special drawing. As a school, we use ClassDojo. This is an online communication platform enabling communication between teachers and parents. This is both for messages and for sharing experiences. It also enables us to reward children with 'Dojo points', and you are able to see when and why they have been awarded. Children are also awarded certificates for special achievements observed over that week. These are presented during our celebration collective worship each Friday.

Snack Time

Fruit is provided every day at morning break time for children in the infants. Please supply your child with a named drinks bottle containing only water. Children have access throughout the day to fresh water.

Lunch

Lunch is from 12.00 noon – 1.00pm.

Children eat together in the hall and all children up to the end of Key Stage One receive a free school meal, (Universal Infant Free School Meal.) The midday supervisors will help children having a school dinner to choose their lunch and will cut up food for children if necessary. Please let us know if your child has any special dietary requirements or allergies. The menu can be found on the school website or by clicking on the link below.
https://www2.myschoollunch.co.uk/media/1956098/digital20menu20leaflet20-20standard.pdf

Home time

We finish school at 3.15pm. We ask you to wait outside the EYFS gate and, once the teacher sees you, your child will be allowed to leave. Please make sure staff know if you have arranged for another person to collect your child and ideally introduce them to a member of staff.

Personal Hygiene

There are toilets for boys and girls adjacent to the cloakroom. Children are encouraged to go to the toilet at break time and before lunch but, of course, can go whenever they need to as long as they ask the adult in charge. Children wash their hands frequently during the day: on arrival at school, after a visit to the toilet, before lunch and before and after play time.

Any 'accidents' will always be dealt with sympathetically. Supplying a full change of your child's clothing (including underwear!) in your child's school bag can really help if any accidents occur. Please wash and return any clothes that are borrowed as soon as possible.

Also, to save confusion, please make sure that **all clothes** are labelled before the children start school.

Attendance, Absence and Illness

There is a high expectation at St Giles that all children will attend school daily. Our attendance target is 97%.

Please telephone or email school **before 9.30am** if your child is absent giving the reason. By law we have to record this information. If your child suffers from sickness and/or diarrhoea they must not return to school for 48 hours after the last episode.

Please tell us if your child develops a medical problem so that we can keep our records up-to-date. It would be appreciated if you could notify us if your child has been unwell overnight so that we can monitor their well-being during the day. We will contact you if your child ever becomes ill so it is vital that you inform us if you change your contact arrangements. We can administer prescribed medication if required. You will need to complete a permission form from the office if you would like us to do this. If your child has an inhaler and/or has been diagnosed with Asthma please let us know.

Term time Holiday Requests

You may be aware that since September 2013 the government states that "*Headteachers may not grant any leave during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. All exceptional circumstances must be authorised by the Head Teacher and in conjunction with school governors".* If you wish to request to take your child out of school during term time please ask for a form from the school office. Holiday requests can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. For example: Family illness, bereavement or restricted holiday times for members of the armed forces.

Communication

We encourage parents to talk to staff about any concerns they may have before they become problems. If you are worried please talk to the class teacher in the first instance but if you remain concerned please make an appointment to see Miss Simpson, via the school office.

School Office: enquiries@st-giles-matlock.derbyshire.sch.uk

Uniform (*Please ensure everything is labelled)*

Boys- Black or Grey trousers or shorts, white polo shirt, red sweatshirt or fleece
Girls – Black or grey skirt or pinafore, white blouse or polo shirt, red cardigan or fleece
Most girls wear a red gingham dress in summer.
Footwear – Black school shoes or boots with white or black/grey socks or tights

P.E. Uniform

Red T shirt and black or navy shorts/jogging bottoms, school sweatshirt and black pumps or trainers.

Uniform items with the school logo (including P.E. T shirts) can be purchased from Kick Off Sports in Matlock.
https://www.kickoffsport.co.uk/primary-schools/st-giles-cofe.html

We do not insist on items having the school logo on and plain red jumpers, cardigans and t-shirts etc. can be purchased elsewhere.

Outdoor learning

Outdoor learning is a large part of our curriculum and the children can spend a long time outside each day. Please make sure they are adequately protected from the weather; both hot and cold. We ask that you provide a pair of named wellies to be kept in school. They also need a warm waterproof coat, hat and gloves for the colder weather and sun hat and cream for hot weather.



Outside covered area



Mud kitchen

After School Club

There is no separate registration, and children can attend on a regular basis or as required. If you need to use After School Club at short notice please ring the school office before 3.00pm.

After School Club runs daily from 3.20pm – 5.30pm.

The cost is:

Up to 4.30pm £7.00 Up to 5.30pm £9.00

Breakfast Club

Runs daily from 8.00am. Children are offered a choice of cereal, wholemeal toast, yogurts and fruit juice.

The cost is £3.00 per day.

Attendance for both After School and Breakfast Club is recorded on ParentPay at the end of each week which is the online payment system we use in school. Login details will be issued shortly after your child has started school.

Preparing your child for school

Your child will be in a class of up to 15 children. It will make starting school much easier and happier if they have some independence and can do many things for themselves. We understand that all children are at different stages of development. Some useful things to practice are:

Can they…

- Dress and undress themselves?
- Use the toilet independently and ask to go there?
- Wash and dry their hands?
- Tidy up after himself/herself?
- Recognise their own name? Please tell us if their name is abbreviated in any way.
- Feed himself/herself?
- Share toys and equipment?
- Sing some nursery rhymes?
- Practise counting to 10?
- Listen well and follow simple instructions?

Additionally you can……

- Encourage your child to be as independent as possible even if it takes longer for them to get ready
- Get them used to a routine of a reasonably early bed time and up early enough for you and your child to have a stress free time to get ready for school
- Never threaten them with school! Be positive. Show it to them as an enjoyable experience
- Give your child as many varied experiences as possible: drawing, painting, cooking singing, making models, playing games, jigsaws etc.
- Get them used to pencils, crayons, felt pens, chalks, paints, play dough, scissors
- Share stories, books, rhymes. Read to them. https://www.booktrust.org.uk/ is a good place to find good quality texts to share with your child. They choose their favourite books each month and sort them into age ranges.
- Count everything and share things out.
- Use lots of one to one correspondence – cup, plate, knife, fork and spoon for each person
- Talk to them all the time. Name familiar things and discuss what they see around them and what things are for. Talk about what you see when you are out and about. Watch people work and discuss what they are doing.
- "Play" schools at home – role play is a very effective way of helping your child to understand what will happen.

There are a couple of helpful documents on the Early Years page of school website and https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2015/03/4Children_ParentsGuide_2015_WEB.pdf is a helpful document.

