



St Giles C of E Academy School News

End of Another Year.

Well, that's a wrap on another school year — and what a year it has been! There is far too much to fit into just one newsletter. As we look ahead, you will find the initial key dates for next year attached. Please add them to your diaries and calendars.

It has certainly felt like a long year, and the recent hot weather has made the final few weeks more challenging. However, the achievements of our children, the support of our families and the dedication of the amazing staff team I am fortunate to work alongside at St Giles have made every moment worthwhile.

From all the staff and governors at St Giles, thank you for your continued support throughout the 2025–2026 academic year. Have a wonderful summer, make special memories and enjoy time with your family and friends. We cannot wait to hear all about your adventures when we welcome everyone back on 3rd September.

Have a fantastic summer break and see you in September! - *Mr Grace*

To Our Year 6 .

Every year I say the same thing, but it genuinely becomes harder each time to say goodbye. For some reason, I have such clear memories of your very first days in Reception. I remember your little personalities, your smiles, your worries and, of course, how nervous some of your parents were when they left you at the school gates. They needn't have worried. You have grown into a resilient, hardworking and life-loving group of young people. Individually, each of you is unique and special. Together, you are an incredible year group.

That is one of the things I admire most about you; the way you accept one another for who you are. You do not expect people to change to fit in. As we often say, "If we were all the same, the world would be very boring!" I wish the rest of the world could be more Year 6!

Having just performed Peter Pan, you know that growing up is part of life's adventure. However, there is no need to grow up too quickly. You will be older for a very long time, so enjoy these carefree days, seize every opportunity and make the most of every experience that comes your way. We will miss every one of you. Your high schools are incredibly lucky to have such a fantastic group of young people joining them. Now go out there and change the world!



Value – Growing Together —

Friday 17th July 2026

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much! -Helen Keller



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Next Year's Class Teachers .

Today, we not only say goodbye to our Year 6 pupils, but also to some familiar faces from our staff team. Earlier in the term, we wished Mr Griffiths, Mrs Michie and Mrs Wilks a fond farewell and the very best of luck for the future. Today, it is with both sadness and excitement that we say goodbye to more valued members of staff as they begin their next adventures.

Miss Gibson is leaving us to take up a teaching role at a prestigious school in Dubai this September. Whilst we will miss her greatly, we are incredibly excited for her and cannot wait to hear all about this wonderful opportunity. It's been great to see her grow from being an ECT to where she is now.

Miss Gillespie also has an exciting journey ahead. She is getting married this summer and has several exciting projects on the horizon. We would like to thank her for the years of dedication, care and commitment she has given to St Giles. Her contribution to our school community has been greatly appreciated.

Miss Freeman is leaving us again. Thank you so much for returning to help us cover Miss Long's maternity leave. It's been so lovely to have you back with us for a while.

Finally, we say goodbye and good luck to **Miss England**. She too is getting married this summer and has made the difficult decision to focus on being a full-time mum, grandma, daughter and wife. Miss England has a unique connection with St Giles, having been a pupil, parent and dedicated member of staff. I know this decision has not been an easy one for her, but we wish her every success and happiness for the future.

Please keep all of these wonderful members of staff in your thoughts and prayers as they take their next exciting steps. They will always remain part of the St Giles family.

Useful Numbers.

The school holidays can be a tough time for many. Please find below some useful contact details:

Pontefract Food Bank : 07935 530583

Pontefract Community Kitchen: Horsefair Precinct, Pontefract — Opposite the Bus Station

Wednesday 10:30am - 12:30pm

Thursday 12pm - 2pm

4:30pm - 5:45pm

Sunday 9am - 10:45am

Help Through Hardship: 0808 208 2138

Hours: Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm



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Half-Term Subject Awards

At the end of each half-term, teachers select one pupil from each subject who has particularly impressed them with their outstanding effort and the quality of their work. Each nominated pupil receives **5 team points** in recognition of their achievement. Congratulations to all our well-deserving award winners!

UKS2

Subject	Class 5	Class 5/6	Class 6
English	Edith	Xiya	Jake
Maths	Elise	Antonia	Scarlett
Reading	George	Danny M	Tessa
Science	Henry S	Alex	Kal
Geography	Kyle	Leo / Emelia	Cooper
PE	Elliot	Martha	Kensa
RE	Henry A	Beau	Angela
PSHE	Coraline	Lily	Evan
Art	Harlie-Blu	Vinnie	Lily

LKS2

Subject	Class 3	Class 3/4	Class 4
English	Harrison	Bobbie	Piper
Maths	Emilia	Harry	Oliver C
Reading	Esmae	Polly	Jacob C
Science	Regge	Lydia	Will
Geography	Theo	Lucas H	Rory
PE	George	Zander	Lilah
RE	Indi-Lou	Isabelle	Alice
PSHE	Freddie M	Niamh	Eliza
Art	Brody	Isla T	Beau

KS1

Subject	Class 2	Class 1/2	Class 1
English	Tia	Eleanor	Alexsandra
Maths	Olivia-Rae	Tyler	Colt
Reading	Emma	George	Peggy
Science	Archie	Arthur W	Taylor-Jade
History	Owen	Corey	Roman
PE	Mason	Noah	Charlie
RE	Dolly	Eloise	Eliza
PSHE	Ivy-Rose	Lyla-Mae	Harry
DT	Logan	Nelly	Bethany



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This Term's 'Growing Together' Value Award Winners

Nursery – Mia D P

You have truly blossomed and flourished this year in Nursery, beyond all recognition. Your independence, ability, resilience, perseverance, confidence and so many other foundational skills have soared and your eagerness to learn and your desire to succeed to the best of your ability is a joy to see. Your knowledge, understanding and use of English has been absolutely remarkable and it has been a real privilege to have been your teachers. We are so proud of you Mia, keep on shining!

Reception 1– Dusan W

Dusan has made amazing progress across all areas of the curriculum, showing exceptional growth in both reading and writing. He is a good and kind friend, always ready to help others and brighten our classroom. This year, he has grown so much in confidence and independence skills, becoming someone who takes pride in his learning and tries his very best every day. We are so proud of you, Dusan.

Reception 2 – Adeline G

Adeline has grown beautifully in confidence, becoming a great role model for her classmates. She is always kind, helpful, and thoughtful, consistently putting others first. Her progress this year has been truly impressive, and she approaches every challenge with maturity and positivity.

We are super proud of you, Adeline.

The Ark - Jamie C

What a wonderful adventure awaits you! You have been such a special part of the St Giles family for so long, and we will miss your happy smile, caring nature, and your lovely little voice. We are so proud of you and know you will shine at your new school. We will miss you and your caring family very much. Have the best time, Jamie – and remember, "Zoo, ooh, ooh!" Lots of love, Your St Giles Family.

Class 1 – Rori T

Rori has grown so much this year, both in his learning and in his confidence. Our value of 'Growing Together' sums up his journey perfectly, as he has flourished alongside his classmates. He has worked hard, tried his best in all areas of the curriculum, and shown great enthusiasm for his learning. It has been wonderful to see him developing new skills and becoming more independent throughout the year. We are so proud of all he has achieved and the progress he has made. Well done, Rori! Keep up the fantastic work, continue to grow, and keep shining!

Class 1-2 - Isabelle C

Isabelle is everything Growing Together stands for. She has made so much progress this year, personally, socially and academically. The confidence she has now is amazing to see – she takes on anything that gets thrown her way because she knows she can do it! Her progress in phonics and reading has also blown me away. I am so proud of everything she has achieved. I can't wait to watch you continue to grow throughout your time at St Giles, Isabelle. Well done – you should be so proud of yourself!

Class 2 – Mabel M

Mabel has had a brilliant year. Every single day, she lives and breathes our school values, consistently demonstrating respect, love, hope, faith and confidence. She has been a fantastic role model for everyone in Class 2 and though her positive attitude, hard work and caring nature she has helped everyone grow together. We are very proud of you Mabel. Well done.

Class 3 – George R

If consistency was a person it'd be George. Not once throughout the whole of Year 3 or Year 1 have I seen this boy falter. He shows up day after day with the same enthusiasm for learning, the same values and fair morals. He is an incredible all-rounder; neat, polite, bright, athletic, kind, supportive competitive but to name a few. I would trust George with the future of this country, George for Prime Minister! But he'd probably prefer to be the next Bellingham or Lamine Yamal given recent events.



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This Term's 'Growing Together' Value Award Winners

Class 3/4 – Isla T

Wow, Isla what an incredible year you've had! From Miss Dale to Miss England, we couldn't be prouder of your progress. Your kindness, determination and hardworking attitude never go unnoticed. You always give 100%, and it's wonderful to see all your hard work paying off. Your progress in your times tables, English and across everything you do has been absolutely fantastic. Keep being the amazing person you are Isla- we are all so proud of you.

Class 4 – Oliver C

Oliver truly deserves this End of Year recognition. He is everything we strive for at St Giles – resilient, kind, caring and always willing to give his best. I couldn't be prouder of the progress he has made, both academically and personally. We've always said that the more you put in, the more you get out, and Oliver has certainly given his all this year! This really has been a fantastic year for him and I know he'll take these strengths into Year 5 and absolutely smash it! I'll be cheering you on from afar, Oliver. Keep being your wonderful self – you really are a very special young man.

Class 5 – Elise M

This award goes to a truly wonderful young lady who couldn't deserve it more. She gives 110% in everything she does and is always there to help and support others without ever asking for recognition or making a fuss. She is kind, reliable, hardworking and quietly gets on with doing her very best every single day. She is a fantastic role model and a valued member of our school community. It has been a real pleasure to see her grow and flourish. I have been privileged to get to know her this year.

Class 5/6 - Xiya B

Xiya has earned this award in recognition of how amazing she is. Xiya doesn't like to show off or make a big deal of how clever she is, so I'm doing it for her. I wanted Xiya to know that her attitude to learning, and quiet determination doesn't go un-noticed and I think she's going to do amazing things next year. I'm so proud of her and I know her family will be too.

Class 5/6 - Poppy-Leigh A

When Poppy told me she won her first ever Headteacher's Award in her first week at St Giles, it felt only right to present her final one on her last day here. From Poppy's first day to her last, she has shown herself to be the most wonderful child and I'm so pleased to be able to celebrate this full-circle moment with her today. Moments like this don't come around very often but when they do, they are special. Seeing Poppy and her peers grow together is what makes this school the place it is. It's the support of our families and the qualities of our children that makes saying goodbye such a difficult task. As the saying goes: don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened. I think we can all agree, today should be filled with smiles.

Class 6 – Tessa H

We have watched Tessa grow from tiny and squishy little bean to the mature, intelligent and caring young lady she is now. I think I can speak for everyone when I say Tessa is one of the kindest most authentic girls you'll meet. She keeps everyone together; she makes everyone smile and I genuinely think she is so blissfully unaware of these qualities in herself. If you've ever had the pleasure of teaching Tessa you'll know she's got it all. I know Tessa will shine in all she does and she fully deserves all the credit in the world. Well done

Tessa - you are amazing!

Growing together member of staff – Miss England, Miss Gibson and Miss Gillespie

Through your care, dedication and commitment, you have helped shape our children into the amazing young people they are today. Your impact on our school community will be felt for many years to come. We wish you all the very best for the future and every happiness in your next chapter. Good luck to you all— you will be greatly missed.



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St Giles C of E Academy Key Dates for 2026 – 2027



2026		
Autumn Term		
Date	Event	Year group
3rd September	Start of Autumn term (Thursday)	All pupils
16 th September	School Photos – siblings welcome @8.30am	All pupils
23 rd September	Meet the Teacher Afternoon (2.30 & 3.45)	All pupils
All October	Black History Month	All Pupils
13 th October	Harvest Festival KS1 9:30 – 9.50	Years 1 & 2
13 th October	Harvest Festival LKS2 10:00 – 10:20	Years 3 & 4
13 th October	Harvest Festival LKS2 10:30 – 10:50	Years 5 & 6
21 st October	Parents evening – KS1 Dining hall KS2 Sports Hall 2.00pm Start	All pupils
22 nd October	Break up for Autumn half term (Thursday)	All Pupils
3 rd November	Return to school (Tuesday)	All Pupils
TBC	Open Day for Reception	All Staff
16 th - 20 th November	Anti-Bulling Week	All Pupils
20 th November	Children in Need	All Pupils
2 nd December	Christmas Fair – 1:45pm – 3.30pm Quiet entry 1.30pm	All Pupils
10 th December Thursday	Christmas Production – Years 3 – 6 Year 3 & 4 - 9:30am & Year 5 & 6 - 10.00am Years 3 & 4 - 2:00pm & Year 5 & 6 - 2:30pm All KS2 Years 3- 4 - 5:30 pm	Years 3,4,5, & 6
15 th December	Christmas Production KS1 9:30am & 2:00pm	Years 1 & 2
16 th December	School and Staff Christmas dinner - Early Lunch	Staff and School
16 th December	EYFS Christmas Production 9:30am & 2:00pm	Nursery and Reception
17 th December	Christmas Service at St Giles KS1 & KS2 – 1:45pm (no parents)	
18 th December	Break up for Christmas (Friday) Wear a Christmas jumper to school	All pupils
2027		
Spring Term		
Date	Event	Year group
4 th January	Return to school (Monday)	All pupils
3 rd -9 th February	Children's Mental Health Week	All pupils



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St Giles C of E Academy Key Dates for 2026 – 2027



12 th February	Break up for Spring Half term	All pupils
22 nd February	Return to school	All pupils
4 th March (Thursday)	World Book Day	All pupils
17 th and 18 th March	Parents evening – 19 th 2.00pm – 6.30pm Parents evening – 19 th 2.00pm – 4.30pm	All pupils
TBC	Easter Service @ St Giles KS1 & KS2 1.45 pm (no parents)	KS2
25 th March	Break up for the Easter holiday (Thursday)	All pupils
12 th April	Return to school (Monday)	All pupils
16 th April	Year 6 Robin Wood Residential	Year 6
WC 10 th May	SATs Week – KS2 (Year 6)	Year 6
27 th May	Break up for Spring Bank Holiday	All pupils
Summer Term		
Date	Event	Year group
7 th June	Return to School	All pupils
WC 7 th June	Multiplication tables check (Year 4)	Year 4
WC 7 th June	Phonics screening check week (Year 1)	Years 1 & 2
9 th June	Ark Sports Day	Ark children
WC 14 th June	St Giles Sports week – more details to follow	All pupils
16 th June	Sports day Key Stage 1 - 9:30am (Refreshments available)	Years 1 & 2
16 th June	Sports day Key Stage 2 - 1:30pm (Refreshments available)	Years 3,4,5 & 6
23 rd June	Alternate Sports day Key Stage 1 - 9:30am	Years 1 & 2
23 rd June	Alternate Sports day Key Stage 2 - 1:30pm	Years 3,4,5 & 6
30 th June	Summer Fair – 1:30pm quiet entry 1.45pm Rest of School	All pupils
14 th July	Year 6 production 1.30pm & 5.30 pm Subject to High School Transition Days	Year 6
15 th July	Year 6 Leavers Party 5.00pm – 6.30pm	Year 6
16 th July	Year 6 leavers Service 1.45pm @ St Giles Subject to High School Transition Days	Year 6
21 st July	Leavers Assembly & Graduation 10:00am @ School	Year 6
21 st July	Break up for the Summer at regular times. (Wednesday)	All pupils
7 th September	Start of 2027 / 2028 School Year (Tuesday)	All pupils



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St Giles School attendance for this Year – 95.3%

Reception –1	92.4%	Class 3/4	95.6%
Reception –2	93.8%	Class 4	95.2%
Class 1	96.6%	Class 5	96.2%
Class 1/2	95.6%	Class 5/6	95.8%
Class 2	94.5%	Class 6	95.9%
Class 3	95.5%	Target	96%

Class 1
96.6%

Excellent Attendance Award Winners

6 lucky students were drawn in our attendance prize draw to win a £15 voucher. Well done to:

Frankie P - Class 4 Danny M - Class 5/6

Vinnie Lea - Class 5/6 Corey R - Class 1/2

Emelia F - Class 5/6 Phoebe M - Class 1/2



100% Attendance Award Winners

Ronnie	Reception 1	Oliver	Class 5
Isla	Reception 2	Harlie Blu	Class 5
Evie	Reception 2	Arit	Class 5
Farrah	Class 1	Nancy-Jo	Class 5
Jacob	Class 1/2	George	Class 5/6
Isabelle	Class 1/2	Emelia	Class 5/6
Jasmine	Class 2	Beau	Class 5/6
Archie	Class 2	Martha	Class 5/6
Esmee	Class 3	Ava	Class 5/6
Thomas	Class 3	Samuel	Class 6
Charlotte	Class 5	Ivy	Class 6
Elise	Class 5	Oliver	Class 5



Value – Growing Together –

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