



**THE
GILES NURSERY
AND
INFANTS' SCHOOL**



Headteacher: Mrs Rouane Mendel
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Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Giles,

I am pleased to report it's been another successful year at the Giles Nursery and Infants' School. The school is in a strong financial position; there is minimal staff turnover and the premises look fabulous!

All credit to Mrs Mendel and her staff.

As a governor, I have oversight of the maths and geography curriculum and this year I had the pleasure of attending school to deliver a session on rocks, fossils and minerals to Year 1 and sitting in on a workshop for maths week for years 1 and 2. On both occasions I was reminded of the vibrant learning environment the school provides for your children, not only in their everyday lessons but the additional experiences on offer that enrich their learning. I was deeply impressed by their inquisitiveness, interest and the joy they took in learning new things.

This view of the school is backed up by independent evidence from regular visits by the School Effectiveness Adviser from Hertfordshire Education Authority. On their two visits this year, and with a new SEA involved, they focussed on the school's provision in phonics and oracy and found that both were outstanding (to use OFSTED's terminology). This is a further endorsement of the quality of the learning environment provided by Mrs Mendel and all the staff and is particularly pleasing as oracy has only this year been introduced to the curriculum. Oracy is the ability to articulate ideas fluently, listen actively, and engage in meaningful spoken communication. Such skills are increasingly important in a world dominated by social media and it's good to see them being developed amongst the Giles pupils. It is therefore no surprise that the school's reputation as a welcoming, engaging and nurturing place has spread to most corners of Stevenage. As a result, the school continues to attract pupils from outside the catchment area, maintaining a full pupil roll and bucking the demographic trend of declining pupil numbers.

I am pleased to say that the budget continues to run with a small surplus (a rare thing in state schools today) which is invested in maintaining and developing the equipment and resources available to both staff and pupils. Furthermore, the installation of solar panels on



the school roof last year is already proving its worth. The combined savings on energy plus earnings from the feed-in tariff over the first 8 months following installation amount to over £10k! Again, this all helps to maintain and improve the school. Just to note, the installation is the largest of its type on a public building in Hertfordshire.

Finally, and on behalf of the whole governing board, I would like to thank Mrs Mendel and all the teaching and support staff for the hard work they do in maintaining the high standards across the school, and wish them, and you and your children a happy summer break.

Nick Rogers Chair of Governors

