



William Gilbert Endowed
(Church of England)
Primary School & Nursery
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Headteacher: Mrs E H Britten



NEWSLETTER

6th September 2023

No. 613

Dear Parents

STUDENT INFORMATION

At the end of last academic year, you will have received a Student Update Form. This needs checking very carefully and amending accordingly. Please make sure you complete and return the form as soon as possible, if you have not already done so. The Parental Consent section asks for permission to take images or photographs for display and the website (including our Sports Twitter page), for local off-site visits to swimming, Grays Rec, around Duffield and St Alkmunds Church to rehearse and attend Church Services, and for medical treatment, so it important that these forms are returned.

'DAN THE SKIPPING MAN' – WEDNESDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER

Dan visited our school a few years ago and the ripple effect at playtimes was impressive. We are always looking for ways to enhance pupils' physical and mental health, as well as making playtimes enjoyable. Beyond the physical benefits, skipping can boost children's concentration and cognitive skills as they learn to coordinate rhythm and movement. Skipping is an enjoyable and engaging activity that helps children stay active, healthy, and confident. It is for these reasons we have invited Dan back to school for the day on Wednesday 11th September. As mentioned in a previous newsletter – **pupils should all come to school in PE kits on this day for their skipping workshop**. At the end of the day there will be a 'pop-up shop' on the junior playground where, if you wish, you can buy a DTSM speed rope or solar skip. See the attached flyer for payment details. School does have several skipping ropes that will be accessible to children after the workshops to continue the fun of skipping at break times once Dan has left. Further information about Dan The Skipping Man can be found at www.dantheskippingman.com

ABSENCE

If your child is absent due to illness, please can you phone the school office on the 1st day of absence and leave a voice mail, which should be followed by a letter upon return. You will be contacted by the office if you have not contacted the school to inform them of the reason for absence.

Please note that for sickness/diarrhoea illness, children need to be clear of any symptoms for **48 hours** before returning to school. Please see the attached 'Attendance Summary WGES' that outlines school and home actions on a page. Our updated attendance policy for 2024-2025, which reflects the updated government statutory guidance, is available to read on our website.

SCHOOL MENU / NUT FREE

We are firmly committed to healthy eating and meeting Governmental Standards for Nutrition and ensuring processed food is not on the menu. Staff will be encouraging children to try the variety of meals, vegetables and salads in order to ensure they eat sensibly.

We would appreciate your support in talking about the menu (which is available on the school website) with your child to also encourage them. If you are aware that your child has a food allergy and you have not already notified school, please contact the office.

If your child brings a packed lunch, we would appreciate your support towards our healthy eating and nut free policy and ask you **NOT** to send unhealthy foods such as chocolate, sweets, fizzy drinks, crisps or items containing nuts etc.

JEWELLERY

Pupils are allowed to wear a watch that only 'tells the time' from Year 2 upwards. No smart watches that have audio and visual recording capabilities or apps that may distract children from their learning are permitted in school. Earrings can prove to be a health and safety risk especially in PE lessons and playtimes.

Girls who have their ears pierced may wear a small, **plain stud** earring but no hoops or dangling earrings. Parents must accept responsibility for their child's safety if they wear earrings and must provide their child with surgical tape to cover their earrings in PE. In swimming lessons and other activities that risk assessments deem the wearing of earrings to be unsafe, they must be removed altogether.

HAIR & HEAD LICE

All pupils with collar length hair **must** wear their hair **tied back**. Head lice is a community problem, so I urge you to be rigorous in checking your child's hair regularly.

If we notice a child has head lice in their hair, we will contact you and ask you to collect and keep your child away from school until they have been treated and their hair is clear. It is important to remember to retreat your child 7 days after initial treatment in order to kill lice which had not hatched at the first treatment.

CONTACTING YOUR CHILD'S CLASS TEACHER

Messages can be shared with parental liaison officers that are at the infant and junior gates each morning. The quickest and easiest way to contact your child's class teacher is via enquiries@williamgilbertend.derbyshire.sch.uk, and Mrs Manners will pass on your details and message. The teacher will then respond to your enquiries.

PRIVACY NOTICE

We have a statutory duty to advise you about the school Privacy Notice, which informs you of the Data Protection Act and the information we hold on your child. Please see the school website for details.

SAFEGUARDING

Parents should be aware that the school is required to take any reasonable action to ensure the safety of its pupils. In cases where the school has reason to be concerned that a child may be subject to ill-treatment, neglect or any other forms of abuse, staff have a statutory duty of care to follow Child Protection procedures and inform Social Care. A copy of our DDAT Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy is available on the school website.

We will continue to send you a half termly Safeguarding Newsletter. Copies of previous documents are available on our website under 'Parenting Supporting' or 'Newsletters' menu.

COMPLAINTS

I am duty bound to annually remind you of the school's DDAT complaints procedure, which is available on the school website. In summary, day-to-day problems should be solved in conjunction with your child's class teacher. If you feel it is necessary to make a complaint, then in the first instance you should arrange an appointment to share your complaint with me.

If after investigation and discussion you are still not satisfied, then you are entitled to make your complaint in writing to the Chair of Governors, Mrs K Woods and deliver it to the Clerk to the Governors, Mrs E Mercer c/o the school office.

SCHOOL MILK

Under the age of 5, your child will receive free school milk as part of government funding. Once your child turns 5, and they would still like milk with their lunch, please log on to www.coolmilk.co.uk to register and pay.

TWITTER/SPORTS NEWS

We have two Twitter accounts, one for any curriculum enhancement which can be found at WilliamGilbert@WGES2022 and our Twitter page for Sport at WilliamGilbert@WGESsport.

Mrs Reed will share PE/Sport within school and all the sporting events that happen in association with the AVSSP (Amber Valley School Sport Partnership & RS Coaching).

For the pages to be a success, please follow us and feel free to 'like' any photos. I politely request that you keep comments (if any!) supportive and positive.

SCHOOL CLUBS

A separate letter detailing our after-school club provision for this academic year will be sent to you next week.

Yours sincerely

E H Britten
Headteacher