



**William Gilbert Endowed
(Church of England)
Primary School & Nursery**

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Headteacher: Mrs E H Britten



NEWSLETTER

14th May 2024

No. 610

Dear Parents

Class Photographs – Date Change

We have had to change the date of the class and sports team photographs which had been scheduled for the 13th June. The new date is now **Thursday 20th June**, so please ensure your child has smart, clean uniform on this day.

School Uniform

As the weather turns warmer, may I draw your attention to our school uniform policy summer options.

Girls may wear a blue gingham dress, which is the only option: shorts and culottes are not allowed. Dresses can be worn with a navy cardigan and white knee or ankle socks. Coloured tights and coloured socks are not allowed with school dresses.

Open toed or open heeled sandals are NOT permissible.

Boys may wear grey school shorts, with plain dark socks and the usual shirt and tie.

Please also remember to send your child with a sun hat, full water bottle and sun cream applied.

School site maintenance and safeguarding

As part of our annual site inspection by DDAT, our multi academy trust, a recent site visit was completed. This has resulted in the school being granted the funds to replace the school boilers. This essential maintenance will start during May half term. As part of the site visit, all safeguarding measures have been reviewed. Safeguarding at William Gilbert School remains robust and effective. It was agreed that an added level of screening is to be implemented to bring our school site in line with other DDAT schools by installing electronic gates at the main entrance. Until such time that these can be fitted, you may have noticed that the gate is padlocked, and visitors must phone the school office to alert us to their presence. These gates will be installed in the coming weeks.

Summer Fayre – Diary Date

We look forward to welcoming you to the Summer Fayre on Friday 17th May, and hope as many family members and friends of the school as possible will support the event. The Fayre will be open from 5.00-7.00pm. Contributions from the PTA fundraising event to the school budget provide much needed support which will benefit all pupils. This is everyone's PTA, and I know that all the committee members need the support of as many volunteers as possible to make this event successful.

Your support and contributions to this annual event would be much appreciated.

KS1 & KS2 Sports Day

Weather permitting, Key Stage 1 Sports Day is scheduled for Monday 10th June (reserve date 17th June) and Key Stage 2 Sports Day is scheduled for Tuesday 11th June (reserve date 18th June).

Both events will be held on Gray's Recreational field beginning at 1.30 p.m. We warmly welcome parents and friends of the school to be spectators. Please bring your chairs and picnic baskets.

Children will wear their normal PE kit with plimsolls/trainers and we will provide coloured bibs to represent the team colours. Please send your child with a full water bottle and a sun hat. If the forecast is good, please ensure that your child has had an application of sun cream before they come to school.

Children will be dismissed from the field at normal home time (3.20/3.30 pm). Please ensure your child is clear about their going home arrangements. If the weather is inclement, we will send a message via Weduc to notify you that the afternoon is postponed.

Parent gifts for Father's Day

The PTA will be in school selling gifts on Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th June. Further details to follow.

PTA AGM

The PTA AGM meeting will take place in school on Friday 28th June at 2.15pm. All parents and carers are warmly invited to attend.

Travel Smart Week – Monday 20th May – Friday 24th May

It will soon be the May 'Team Travel Smart' week initiative led by Derbyshire County Council during week commencing Monday 20th May. Details will be sent home with your child later this week, and we hope parents will support this activity. It is wonderful to see the scooter pods fully utilised each day. Please support your child, and the environment, by walking, scooting, or cycling to school. I recognise that the lack of safe and designated cycle lanes on the roads within Duffield and those surrounding school make cycling a non-viable option for many families. A small minority of families do cycle with their KS2 child and closely supervise them on the journey. This is a decision for each family to make. As a school we continue to work with the local and Parish Councils to request improvements in these areas.

Tuesday 21st May is Traffic free Tuesday. As part of the above initiative we encourage families to park away from Vicarage Lane and St Alkmunds Close and keep the road nearest to school traffic free at school drop off and pick up times.

Parking issues on Castle Hill

There have been concerns raised to me by residents and parents that the bottom of Castle Hill closest to the A6 intersection is being used to park cars. Although none of the cars I have observed are parking illegally, parking on the bend reduces visibility for other road users and crossing pedestrians on their way to school. Therefore, can I ask everyone who insist on driving and parking on Castle Hill to be mindful of this issue and perhaps consider parking further away at Avenue Road, where the road is far wider, and walk the remaining distance to school.

Hair and headlice

All pupils with collar length hair **must** wear their hair **tied back**. There have been a number of reported incidences of head lice. This 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 to kill lice which had not hatched at the first treatment.

Change of Date – KS2 Summer Performance

The schedule for the UEFA EURO 2024 match schedule has been announced and we notice that the semi-final falls on 10th July 2024 at 9pm, which is the same night as one of our KS2 performance evenings. Whilst I appreciate not everyone will be following the competition, at the same time we did not want to go ahead knowing we could have a conflict of interests for the football fans amongst us. We therefore are giving notice that we will be bringing the performance time forward to 4pm and will run with no interval.

Further information will come nearer the time but here are the updated times for your diary.

Tuesday 9th July at 1:30pm (afternoon performance with no interval)

Wednesday 10th July at 4pm (matinee performance with no interval)

Thursday 11th July at 6pm (evening performance with an interval)

Nursery has a Wigloo!

I would like to take the opportunity to share the exciting developments in our nursery garden and thank one of our parents who has given generously of her time and talent to create this amazing wigloo! Mrs Maddison responded to one of my pleas for support and donations to enhance our outdoor areas in school. The wigloo is made from living willow and creates a place for our youngest children to play in nature and enjoy a story, or be the storyteller, sitting on the storytelling chair. The children and staff love it! Thank you, Mrs Maddison.



Before



After



In full leaf

Half Term

School closes for the half term holiday on Friday 24th May, and re-opens to pupils on Monday 3rd June.

I hope the sun continues to shine and that you enjoy the Bank Holiday weekend and a restful half term holiday.

Yours sincerely

E H Britten
Headteacher