



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

## NEWSLETTER

18<sup>th</sup> January 2024

No. 605

Dear Parents/carers

Although the start of term and the new year has been a particularly cold one, it has been wonderful to welcome pupils back to school. As I visit classrooms the children are happy and engaged in their learning.

### Measles

Following on from my previous letter regarding childhood illnesses during the winter season, I must start by sharing that we have a confirmed case of measles in school. Measles usually starts with cold-like symptoms, followed by a rash a few days later. Some people may also get small spots in their mouth.

The first symptoms of measles include:

- \* a high temperature
- \* a runny or blocked nose
- \* sneezing
- \* a cough
- \* red, sore, watery eyes

If you are concerned that your child may have measles or would like to read more detailed information about signs and symptoms, follow the link here to the NHS website <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/>

If you suspect your child has measles you must ask for an urgent GP appointment or get help from NHS 111. It is also important to stay off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. To avoid spreading or catching measles, the NHS advises; regular handwashing, using tissues to catch coughs and sneezes which are then disposed of and not sharing cutlery, cups, towels, clothes, or bedding. To protect other pupils and staff that are vulnerable or with weakened immune systems, please could parents contact the school office with any further confirmed cases of measles in order to put appropriate measures in place.

### Christmas Jumper Day

Thank you for supporting the Christmas Jumper Day last term. I am pleased to announce that we raised £167 for this worthwhile charity.

### Inset Day

We have one final inset day for this academic year. Please note that school will be closed to children on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March**.

### Schools Out Club

Please find the link to Schools Out Club <https://www.schoolsoutclub.com/register/> Wrap around care places available Monday-Friday. Don't forget, pancakes are served at our fabulous breakfast club once a week as a treat to our lovely children. Schools Out Club are open for full day care on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024 to cover the William Gilbert inset day, subject to there being sufficient numbers registered.

## **Snow**

At this time of year there is always a possibility of snow. In the event of a substantial snow fall that necessitates the school to be closed, this will be put out on BBC Radio Derby and their website, and as soon as practically possible this will be followed up with the text messaging service and put on our school website. A decision on closure will be made by 8.00 a.m. In the event of snow, we will do our best to keep the school open. We take our responsibilities seriously and are aware of the impact on parents and carers if the school is closed at short notice. Local staff will take over while staff travelling further distances arrive as soon as they can. If substantial snow arrives during the day we will assess the conditions and make a decision based on:-

- The severity of the weather at the time
- The forecast and likelihood of an improvement or deterioration in the weather
- Access to and from school for parents, pupils and staff

If we are forced to close during the school day we will try to provide parents with as much notice as possible via the text messaging service and the Radio and websites detailed above.

## **Up to date Contact Details**

In view of the above and/or emergency medical calls, it is vital that you keep the school informed of any changes to your contact details. Please send any changes in writing to the School Office.

## **WEDUC Update**

Further to our previous communication, I am pleased to confirm that ALL communication from school will now be via the Weduc App, and has been since the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024. It is therefore crucial that all parents ensure that they have access via a mobile phone or other device.

Please contact the school office with any queries or for support in getting onto this system.

## **Car Parking on Vicarage Lane**

I have received a number of complaints about cars parking across resident/neighbouring driveways at drop off and pick up times. Can you please respect the local community and park respectfully. We have been provided with a number of car registrations and will be contacting parents to discuss if this continues.

I have also received complaints from residents about the number of cars waiting on Vicarage Lane with their engines running. I appreciate the weather is cold but may I remind you that:

- engine idling is illegal
- car fumes are toxic and have a negative impact on the human body and health

Please do not sit waiting in cars outside the houses of local residents with your engine running.

We continue to request, that wherever possible families park away from Vicarage Lane and St Alkmunds close and walk, scoot or cycle to school. Thank you to all the families that promote healthier and more sustainable methods of travel to school by walking their children to school.

## **Pupil safety**

Can I politely request that parents closely supervise their children whilst waiting for the infant gate to open at 8:40am. Although we have spoken to children, we do still have some children playing on the steps and balcony outside the main entrance between 8:30am and 8:40am. Any accidents on school property are the responsibility of the school so I must ask parents to ensure that children are not playing on the steps or climbing on the walls beneath the railings. Thank you.

### **Height & Weight Check for Reception & Year 6**

Parents will have recently been contacted by the National Child Measurement Team with details of the height and weight checking programme. The nursing team will be visiting school on the morning of Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January to carry out these checks. Please note that only children where parents have given consent will be included in these checks.

### **First Aid Training**

Please note that the children will be receiving basic, age related, First Aid Training tomorrow in school. Mrs Banks from YMD Boons, our Health & Safety Advisors, will deliver this training to all children from Reception – Year 6 throughout the day, so your child may want to share what they have heard and learnt when they see you after school.

### **Term Dates for next Academic Year 2024/2025**

#### **Derbyshire Term Dates**

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July

The school will have 5 days when it is closed to pupils for staff training days. One of these days will be at the beginning of term on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September which means the children will begin the new academic year on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

Best wishes to you all for a happy and healthy 2024.

Yours sincerely

E H Britten  
Headteacher