



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

14th December 2023

No. 605

Dear Parents

Thank you to all parents who attended the Infant concert 'The Inn-spectors'. Your support and kind comments were very much appreciated by the staff and children. Can I remind you that if you would like to purchase a link to view the recording of the concert, please log onto your Scopay account and make the £5 payment by Wednesday 20th December.

Non-Uniform /Christmas Jumper Day – Thursday 14th December

Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Jumper day today. It was lovely to see all the children in their outfits. If you have not done so already, please log onto Scopay and pay £2 to support the Save The Children charity. This will be removed from Scopay next Friday.

Carol Service

Further to my previous letter, may I remind you that our Carol Service is next Tuesday, 19th December at St Alkmund's Church at 2.00pm.

Parking at the Bridge Inn is welcomed and has the kind permission of the Landlord. However, if you are using the pub car park, please park away from the entrance area. Where possible, please walk or share lifts. **Please do not park on the narrow drive leading down to the church car park area.** Your support would be greatly appreciated and I would be grateful if you could share this information with Grandparents and others who are likely to attend.

All children are to go home directly from the Church at approximately 3.00pm if you are attending the service, and 3.10pm if you are not. Therefore, on Tuesday afternoon, all children need to be picked up at the Church, or be clear about their going home arrangements. Unless I am informed in writing that your child is to return to school to be dismissed at 3.30pm, it will be assumed that your child will go home from Church and will understand their arrangements.

It will be easier to bring as few bags as possible on Tuesday, so there is less to carry to Church, with packed lunches in disposable packaging and infant children not requiring their book bags.

GOING HOME ARRANGEMENTS

PARENTS ATTENDING THE SERVICE – 3.00PM

Once the Year 5 and 6 children have left the Church and walked to the Church hall, parents who are attending the service will be able to collect their child from:-

- Reception – The choir stalls
- Year 1 & 2 – The pews near the Vestry door
- Year 3 & 4 – The chairs near the organ
- Year 5 & 6 – The Church Hall – wait in the Vestibule near the toilets and kitchen

Parents attending the service need to leave as swiftly as possible from the Church site, so that we can then reunite children with parents who have not attended. Parents who are not attending the service, and are waiting outside, can then come into collect their child/children from the designated areas detailed above at **3:10pm.**

Christmas Parties – Wednesday 20th December

A reminder that children may wear their own clothes rather than uniform on Christmas Party day, which is next Wednesday 20th December for Nursery, KS1 and KS2.

Non-Uniform Day / Christmas / Festive Dress

For our final day of this Autumn term, children are invited to dress up in Christmas festive outfits. This is optional, and children can just come in their own clothes if they do not want to dress up. Please note that the PTA will be awarding prizes for the best dressed!

School Uniform

All PE bags will be sent home with the children next Monday. Can you please take the opportunity to check the contents of your child's PE bag to ensure it has all the correct items, including trainers AND black PE pumps, and that they are clearly labelled. As part of our PE uniform list, we do ask that children have a pair of white PE socks in their PE bags. This is essential for good foot hygiene. Please could you ensure that these socks are in their PE kits for the start of the new term.

Attendance

As a school we are duty bound by the DfE and our academy trust, DDAT, to monitor pupil attendance. As part of this monitoring and in line with our attendance policy, when attendance levels fall below 95% of the available school sessions, internal monitoring commences, and we will write to parents to inform them of this. Any absences early in the school year have a much greater impact on the percentages, and with this in mind, we have waited until the end of the autumn term to send our attendance letters to those families this relates to. It also has allowed time for attendance levels to increase following illness early in the school year.

We are mindful that for many families there are genuine illnesses behind the falling attendance levels, and we thank those families for keeping the children at home when they are too ill to be in school, especially when the illness will have an impact on other children's health. As per our medication policy, it is the parents' responsibility to assess whether their child is fit to attend school. Every family can access their child's individual attendance figures via their child's profile on the WeDuc app. Early next week, attendance monitoring letters will be sent to the affected families. It is always our aim to listen to families and understand the barriers to attendance and work together to remove them. Please bear this in mind, if you receive a letter and know we are here to support you if needed. Internal attendance monitoring will continue until we see attendance levels rise and are above 95%.

After School Clubs

After School Clubs will restart week commencing 8th January. Please complete the link that has been previously communicated by Friday 15th December, so Mrs Manners has time to confirm attendance.

Healthy Cookery and Computer Club – letters with dates/groups were sent out at the beginning of the academic year.

If you have any queries regarding the after school clubs, please contact the school office.

Weduc

A reminder that all communication will be via the Weduc App platform from January 2024. Please ensure you have downloaded the App so you do not miss out on messages from school. If anyone has problems accessing the Weduc App please contact the school office.

Other News!

On Sunday 10th December 30 KS2 pupils from our school choir took to the stage at St Peter's Church in Belper to perform alongside Karen England in her 'Magical Family Christmas Concert.' It was a truly special afternoon with Karen praising William Gilbert pupils for their exemplary conduct and musicality as they performed four Christmas songs to a crowded church. 'All I want for Christmas is a Hippopotamus' was a firm favourite again!

Energy Wall – We are delighted to share that the energy wall has been installed in the KS2 playground and is already causing a flurry of excitement within the children. The winning design by Erin Bairstow in Y6 looks fabulous and brightens up our playground. Thank you, Erin.

Artist of the Month – This month’s winners are Iona Snodin (Y5), Harriet Malkin (Y6) and Sofia Steventon (Reception). Thank you for supporting this initiative and getting creative. A new artist for January will be selected by our new ‘headteacher for the day’ Poppy Lathbury in Year 3 who won this prize at the school fayre. She will be in role for the day in January so save all your tricky questions and tasks for that day please!

Dogs

A reminder that for Health & Safety reasons, dogs are not allowed on the school premises. Can parents please refrain from bringing dogs onto the infant ramp when they are dropping off or collecting children? Although I cannot stop dogs from being walked along Vicarage Lane, can I politely ask that they are kept on a tight lead and be supervised at all times. We have witnessed, and some parents have shared their concerns about dogs jumping up on children or approaching children, who may be nervous of dogs.

Traffic

We continue to promote safe, sustainable and healthy journeys to school by walking, scooting or cycling or asking that parents park away from Vicarage Lane and St Alkmunds Close and walk the remaining distance. Progress continues to be made in achieving a ‘School Street’ for Vicarage Lane and I will be attending a meeting about this early in the new year.

Driving too fast

I have received communication from concerned parents about the speed of cars driving along Vicarage Lane. If you choose not to park away from the school, can I please remind all parents and carers of our pupils to drive with extreme caution and care on the approach to and departure from school.

Christmas Vacation

School closes for the Christmas vacation on Friday 22nd December at the usual time, and reopens on Monday 8th January.

On behalf of all the Staff and Governors, I wish you all the joys of the festive season, and good health and happiness in 2024.

Happy Christmas everyone.

E H Britten
Headteacher