



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

## NEWSLETTER

No. 647

2<sup>nd</sup> October 2026

Dear Parents

### **HARVEST CELEBRATIONS – THURSDAY 8<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2026**

We are once again supporting *Hope for Belper*, and their Food and Community Hub and will be donating to them with the goods from our Harvest Festival. This year, *Hope for Belper* have asked our families to focus on providing specific items, so could you please be thinking about preparing a plate, small box or basket, a carrier or gift bag with non-perishable items and/or toiletries as per the attached list.

We look forward to receiving your harvest donations in school from next Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October. Our Harvest service will be held in school next Thursday morning starting at 9.30am and parents and carers are welcome to join us for this celebration. Volunteers from *Hope for Belper* will be visiting school on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October to collect all our donations.

Year 6 will be visiting *Hope for Belper*, as they have in the past, on 14<sup>th</sup> October. They will help the volunteers sort and arrange the produce ready for delivery, a valuable act of service for the benefit of others.

### **MRS OWEN – RETIREMENT**

As previously communicated, Mrs Owen is leaving, after 36 years of dedicated service to William Gilbert School, has made the decision to retire. Throughout her remarkable career, she has been a constant and deeply valued presence in our school community, beginning in Reception and, over the years, teaching across all phases of the school. Her commitment has shaped the lives of so many children, so much so that former pupils now return with their own children, a true testament to the lasting impact she has made. Beyond the classroom, her love of cooking has enriched school life enormously; she has inspired many budding young chefs through our Healthy Cookery Club, the much-loved Year 6 MasterChef event, and even culinary experiences shared with staff. She has also played a pivotal role in the life of our church school, being instrumental in five highly successful church inspections, leading Religious Education and Collective Worship with compassion and purpose, and more recently nurturing a love of music across the school.

Generations of pupils will also remember the many school performances she has supported, expertly managing lighting and sound to ensure every production shone, often working quietly behind the scenes to bring each event to life and in recent years leading the performances with the rest of the KS2 team.. Her moral guidance and commitment to pupils' spiritual development have helped shape the caring, reflective and values-driven ethos that defines William Gilbert today. We are incredibly grateful for her years of service and the legacy she leaves behind.

Mrs Owen's last day at William Gilbert School will be Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, where we will wish her a fond farewell. If any parent, past and present, would like to contribute to the school collection, please bring this to the school office.

## PTA REMINDER

In the current climate of significant funding challenges from both central and local government, our school is facing increasing pressure to maintain the high-quality education and enriching experiences we believe every child deserves.

Our budget is extremely limited, and we now heavily rely on the generosity of parents, local charities, and the funds raised through PTA events to bridge the gap.

These donations are not just helpful—they are **essential**. They support not only basic classroom consumables like books and stationery, but also the **enrichment activities** that bring learning to life: visiting speakers, workshops, and the resources that make playtimes engaging and joyful.

To all parents—and especially those new to our school in Nursery and Reception—please consider joining our Parent Teacher Association (PTA). Your time, ideas, and support are all incredibly valuable. Even if you are unable to commit time, your ideas and suggestions are just as needed and very welcome at our meetings. For more information or to sign up, please contact Mrs Marles at [williamgilbertpta@gmail.com](mailto:williamgilbertpta@gmail.com).

The first PTA meeting of the year will be held in school on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October and both myself and Mrs Marles warmly welcome you to attend. Refreshments will be served, and we would love to see as many of you there as possible. Your involvement, however big or small, helps us continue to provide the very best for our children.

## NURSERY

Applications for our Nursery January 2027 intake will be processed over the next couple of weeks. Please complete an application form, (available on the website), if your child will be 3 by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2026 and you would like them to attend our Nursery.

Yours sincerely

E H Britten  
Headteacher