



**William Gilbert Endowed
(Church of England)
Primary School & Nursery**
Vicarage Lane, Duffield, Belper, Derbyshire, DE56 4EB
Telephone & Fax: 01332 840395
E-mail: enquiries@williamgilbertend.derbyshire.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs E H Britten



NEWSLETTER

9th June 2026

No. 643

Dear Parents

As we step into the final term of the academic year, it is hard not to reflect first on the glorious sunshine we enjoyed over the half term break, a true taste of summer. While the recent return of rain has been most welcome for our gardens (my own included, where the plants are now thriving!), it has, unfortunately, brought some disruption to school life. Difficult decisions have had to be made, not least the postponement of Sports Day, which left many of our budding athletes understandably disappointed. However, this is exactly why we plan reserve dates so carefully, and with the forecast suggesting warmer, drier weather ahead, we are hopeful that these much-anticipated events will soon go ahead in the sunshine they deserve.

Staffing News

We would like to share the news that Mrs Owen, 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. This summer's Willy Gilly performance will be her final one, a truly special occasion that will no doubt be treasured by her and by us all. Her moral guidance and commitment to pupils' spiritual development have helped shape the caring, reflective and values-driven ethos that defines William Gilbert today. Although she will remain with us until October, when we look forward to celebrating a special birthday with her, she will not be taking on a class teaching role from September. A new teacher has been appointed, and we will share this news with you in due course. We are incredibly grateful for her years of service and the legacy she leaves behind.

KS1 & KS2 Sports Day

Due to inclement weather over the weekend leading to unsafe ground conditions, Key Stage 1 Sports Day is rescheduled for Monday 15th June (our published reserve date) and Key Stage 2 Sports Day will now take place on Tuesday 16th – the weather forecast predicts much warmer and dry conditions.

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. If any parents have a portable gazebo that they would be willing to lend us for Sports Day, we would be very grateful, particularly as the forecast is currently predicting warm, sunny weather.

If you are able to help, please contact the school office—especially if you can also assist with setting it up before the event and taking it down at the end of the day. There will be some staff members available to help with dismantling.

Children will wear their normal PE kit with 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.

Please note that there will be NO after school clubs running after the Sports Day events.

Can I remind all parents that unless you have a disabled blue badge or a permit/permission from the parish council, cars should not be driven onto the recreational ground.

Class Photographs

Please be reminded that Class and Sport Photographs will be taking place in school tomorrow, Wednesday 10th June. Please ensure that your child has smart, clean uniform on this day.

Father's Day Gifts

The PTA will be in school on Thursday 18th June to sell gifts for Father's Day. Details have been circulated regarding payment. See link below.

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/williamgilbertpta/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=115343>

Please see below as a reminder of the PE timetable for this half term

PE Timetable for Summer Term 2

Reception: Monday

Year 1: Monday and Wednesday

Year 2: Monday and Friday

Year 3: Monday and Tuesday

Year 4: Monday and Thursday

Year 5: Monday and Thursday

Year 6: Monday and Dance throughout the week

2026 Fundraising Challenge

Don't forget to get involved in our exciting 2026 Challenge! Every child is encouraged to raise £26 in a fun and creative way. From reading 26 books to baking 26 cupcakes or completing 26 jobs to help a family member—the possibilities are endless! Funds can be sent into school or submitted via the PTA fundraising page, and the deadline for all donations is **Tuesday 30th June**. There's also a **community litter pick on Friday 19th June** and an **after-school fundraising event on Friday 26th June**, where KS2 pupils can run their own stalls.

Thank you to parents and pupils who have returned the reply slips advising school of the stalls they wish to run on the 26th June. Unless you have been contacted directly to discuss your child's stall, I am happy to confirm that all suggestions are acceptable and we will write again the week before regarding timings and when resources for the stalls can be sent into school.

Let's make this a memorable event and celebrate our pupils' creativity and community spirit! Any queries please contact the school office. Sponsor money can be paid via the following PTA link.

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/williamgilbertpta/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=116168>

School Uniform

As the weather turns warmer, may I remind you of our school uniform policy summer options.

Girls may wear a blue gingham (checked not striped) dress, which is the only option: shorts, culottes, and playsuits 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.

The shops are currently full of school uniform offers. Please find attached the uniform details for September 2026. It would be helpful, if any orders for uniform were received by **Monday 7th July**, to enable the office staff to coordinate and issue items to parents. Please purchase via your child's Scopay account. If you have any queries please contact the office.

Please note that there will also be an opportunity to buy pre-loved/used uniform from the PTA at the forthcoming open afternoon, which is on Tuesday 14th July. The pre-loved/used uniform sale will be open between 3.30pm and 4.30pm. This is a perfect opportunity to stock up on uniform, be more sustainable and raise much needed funds for the school. **NB The annual open evening for all parents and pupils will be in operation between 3:30pm and 5pm on Tuesday 14th July.**

Before & After School Club / Wraparound Care

Thank you to all parents who engaged so openly and thoughtfully with our recent stakeholder questionnaire regarding wraparound care. Your feedback is invaluable and is already helping to shape our next steps. Please be assured that work is progressing behind the scenes; responses have been carefully analysed and we are using this to inform our planning. A separate letter outlining the outcomes and next steps will be shared with you later this week.

Carnival – 27th June 2026

Looking ahead to the Duffield Carnival on Saturday 27th June, we'd love to see as many families as possible joining in the fun and showing their support for our school and PTA. The carnival float procession starts from Avenue Road at 12:45pm, and if you'd like to join the William Gilbert float, please arrive by 12:30pm. While a few members of staff will be walking in the procession, we'd really encourage families not just to watch from the sidelines but to get involved—dress up, join the parade, and help us make it a vibrant celebration of our school community.

This year's theme is 'Rio', so get creative with your costumes! Think tropical, toucan, parrot, butterfly, tropical flowers etc. The more imaginative, the better!

Please note that **tickets are required** for any child from **Year 7 upwards** and for adults not in full fancy dress. For more details on how to get involved, please see the recent WeDuc post. Tickets can be purchased online at www.duffieldcarnival.co.uk/tickets or from **Duffield News** or **Meadow Vale stores**.

School Lunches

Please note that when the children return to school in September, the cost of our school lunches will increase to £3.25 per day. Derbyshire County Council meal charge is currently £3.25 so this will bring us in line for a short time, before they implement an increase.

The Governors were very keen not to pass an increase on to parents, but unfortunately costs of food products and ingredients are still rising. We continue to ensure that we provide healthy, balanced meals every day to the children.

Student Update Forms

We will be sending out copies of the Student Forms over the next couple of weeks, which detail the information we hold on your child/children. Could you please check the information, and amend where necessary, and return to the school office as soon as possible. We would like to get all these details up to date and ready for when we return in September. Any queries please contact the School Office.

Warm Weather

Thankfully, the forecast for the next few weeks is improving, so can I please remind you to apply sunscreen to your child before they come to school, and ensure they have a hat and a full water bottle.

Key Stage 2 School Production – The Wizard of Oz

Year 6 are currently rehearsing for the forthcoming production of The Wizard of Oz. A reminder that our production performance dates are:-

Tuesday 7th July – afternoon performance, 1.30pm

Wednesday 8th July – afternoon performance, 4.00pm

Thursday 9th July – evening performance, 6.00pm

A ticket letter will be sent to parents in due course.

Nursery Closure

As previously communicated, Nursery will close for the summer on Wednesday 22nd July, to allow the staff to attend the annual prize giving service.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's education. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

E H Britten
Headteacher