



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



## NEWSLETTER

21<sup>st</sup> June 2024

No. 611

Dear Parents

### Summer Fayre

Thank you to Mrs Rees, Mrs Ruggins, Mrs Macdonald, Mrs Longmore, and their team of helpers, for organising the Summer Fayre on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May. It was wonderful to see parents and children in school and outside enjoying the games, stalls and activities - a sunny afternoon certainly helped! A total of £2,594 was raised. Thank you to everyone for your support.

### Sports Day

We were fortunate to run both sports days last week, without needing to use the reserve dates. Thank you again to friends and family who turned up to support the children.

On both days we saw examples of outstanding athleticism, excellent sportsmanship and great camaraderie, and we have celebrated this in school as we reflected on two excellent afternoons.

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.

### School Uniform

The shops are currently full of school uniform offers. Please find attached the uniform details for September 2024. It would be helpful, if any orders for uniform were received by **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July**, to enable the office staff to coordinate and issue items to parents. Please purchase via your child's Scopy 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> July.**

### Artist of the Month

Well done to the talented artists last month who were inspired by Max Ernst. Seraphina Spiteri-Marriott (EYFS), Walter Radford (KS1) and Emily Brewin (KS2) were the worthy winners for May. Congratulations to you all. This month's artist is Friedensreich Hundertwasser. See the school website or WeDuc new feed for further information. Entries for June must be submitted by Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June.

### School After School Clubs

Details of after school clubs available in the new academic year will be circulated early in September. Please note, that due to costing increases, the Governors have taken the decision to increase the cost of the school clubs to £2.50 per session.

I hope that parents will continue to support the extra-curricular opportunities we offer the children, but if anyone has any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

### **Carnival – 29<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

The carnival float procession starts from Avenue Road on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June at 12.45pm, if you would like to join the William Gilbert float, please arrive at 12.30pm. Please note that tickets will be required by any child from Year 7 upwards and adults who are not in full fancy dress. The theme is Pirates so come dressed as a pirate or mermaid. Please see the recent WeDuc post to see how you can get involved with your child and support the school by joining in the procession. Tickets can be purchased online from [www.duffieldcarnival.co.uk/tickets](http://www.duffieldcarnival.co.uk/tickets) or from Duffield News or Meadow Vale stores.

**Plastic Free Duffield** is hoping to reduce plastic use at the Carnival this year and have managed to arrange refillable water stations! These coolers will be in 2 locations at the carnival. Outside the WI tent and in the beer tent. The hope is that this will reduce the single use of plastic water bottles. I hope parents could get on board with this great idea and reduce the impact of the Carnival on our local environment.

### **School Lunches**

Please note that when the children return to school in September, the cost of our school lunches will increase to £2.95 per day. Derbyshire County Council meal charge is currently £3.25 with another increase anticipated in September. 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. Following input from the School Council, the menu has been altered slightly this half term to trial new dishes, and a new menu will be circulated to parents in September.

### **School Streets Pilot**

National Clean Air Day – 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024 was marked in school by the success of a School Street pilot. Thank you to all those who supported this initiative by parking away from Vicarage Lane and walking the remaining distance. The marshals received numerous positive comments from parents and residents about the difference the School Street initiative made to Vicarage Lane and the school; a safer, calmer and environmentally friendly start to the day with children arriving to school alert, and most importantly safe, following an active journey to school.

It was so disheartening to receive reports this morning from other parents that, with the restrictions lifted, a very small number of parents are driving and parking in dangerous and inconsiderate ways again; driving along Vicarage Lane too fast, using the junction at St Alkmunds close (where children cross) to reverse and manoeuvre their vehicle.

We will continue to work with the local authority, highways and MPs to promote the need for a permanent School Street for Vicarage Lane. Some of you may have noticed some cars still using Vicarage Lane during the closure times. There will always be exemptions for any School Street in operation and they are:

- Residents living on the road
- Visitors to residents' properties (including carers)
- Disabled & Blue Badge holders
- Emergency Services,
- Taxis
- Statutory public services such as gas/electricity companies
- Refuse collectors
- Postal service providers and deliveries, such as the Royal Mail and supermarkets

- Breakdown and recovery vehicles, and
- Any vehicle with special arrangements made by the school (i.e. school staff – liaise with headteacher)

Marshals of School Street will permit any of the above exceptions and insist that the vehicles are driven along Vicarage Lane at a walking pace.

Remember the Golf Club has now allowed William Gilbert parents to use this car park at the start and end of the school day. Another opportunity to reduce congestion at busy times of the day.

### **Active travel poster competition**

Thank you to all those pupils who supported the ‘walk to school week’ last month and entered the poster competition. The winners were, Luke Bacon (EYFS), Isabelle Wallace (KS1) Violetta Stacey (Lower KS2) and Rebecca Hill (Upper KS2). All the entries received 3 team points and have certainly promoted the cause for more active ways of travelling to and from school.

### **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. Next week we have a visitor in school who will be talking to the children about sun safety as part of our weekly safeguarding assembly schedule.

### **Key Stage 2 School Production – Peter Pan**

Year 6 are currently rehearsing for the forthcoming production of Peter Pan. A reminder that our production performance dates are:-

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July – afternoon performance, 1.30pm**

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July – afternoon performance, 4.00pm**

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July – evening performance, 6.00pm**

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

### **Parental Questionnaires**

As we near the end of another productive and inspiring school year at William Gilbert School, we are reaching out to seek your invaluable feedback. Our commitment to providing an exceptional educational experience for every pupil is unwavering, and your insights play a crucial role in helping us achieve this goal. We kindly invite you to participate in our annual Parent Questionnaire. This survey is designed to gather your thoughts and opinions on various aspects of our school.

Please follow the link or scan the QR code below to reach the online questionnaire. The questionnaire will be available until Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July, and all responses will be kept confidential.



[Annual Parent/Carer Questionnaire](#)

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