



# 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](mailto:enquiries@williamgilbertend.derbyshire.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs S J Whyld

### NEWSLETTER

18<sup>th</sup> February 2022

No. 573

Dear Parents

#### **Spoken English**

Thank you to all parents and family members who attended the Spoken English competition final this afternoon. We were delighted that Mr Peter Gallimore was able to judge the competition and we congratulate all the finalists on their excellent delivery and interpretation of increasingly complex texts.

The children awarded first places were:-

Year 3 - Harry Cholerton

Year 4 - Zach Foster

Year 5 - Ummayyah Tafazal and Rosa Bourne

Year 6 - Claudia Betterton

#### **It's a boy!**

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Davies who have a new baby boy as a brother for big sister Evelyn. Mum and baby are doing well and hopefully we will see them soon.

#### **World Book Day – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March**

To celebrate World Book Day we will be holding a dress up day on **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March**, so please come dressed as your favourite book character for the cost of £1. This contribution will be added onto your child's scopy account after half term.

#### **Easter Service – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April**

The whole school, Reception to Year 6, will be attending St Alkmunds Church on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April at 2.00 p.m. for our Easter Service. The arrangements will be the same as the Carol Service in December, and I will write to you nearer the time to remind you of the details.

Parking is limited. Where possible, please walk or share lifts. Please do not park on the narrow drive leading down to the car park area. We would also appreciate this information being shared with Grandparents and others who are likely to attend. Your support is greatly appreciated.

The service will finish at approximately 3.00 p.m. and all children should be clear about their going home arrangements **directly from Church**.

Only in exceptional circumstances, are children escorted back to school for dismissal at their usual home time. If this is necessary for your child, then please advise me in writing. Please ensure your child has a waterproof coat in case of a Spring shower. Key Stage 2 pupils will also walk to Church on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April, and need to be suitably attired for the weather forecast.

#### **Relationships, Sex & Health Education**

Since September 2020, Relationships Education is a compulsory subject in all schools. We have recently purchased new resources to support the teaching of this subject. The details of the curriculum coverage can be found on our website.

We value your views and opinions, and invite you to complete our parent consultation which can be accessed via the link below.

### [Health Education Questionnaire](#)

Please complete the questionnaire by Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022.

### **Holidays in Term Time**

I appreciate that many holidays cancelled or put on hold are now being rearranged, but I need to politely remind parents that taking holidays in school time is not permitted. There are 13 weeks available to take a holiday outside of school time. The Government made changes to the Education Regulations (Pupil Registration) which came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013. This means I am unable to grant any leave of absence for holidays during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

I am still unable to approve requests for leave of absence for reasons that are not considered to be special or exceptional such as:

- Availability of cheap holidays and cheap travel arrangements
- Days overlapping with beginning or end of term
- Rearranged holidays due to COVID lockdowns

Parents needing leave of absence for **exceptional circumstances** should complete a form at least two weeks before the anticipated start date. **Applications should be made before the leave is arranged** as absences will not be granted retrospectively.

If you need to complete a holiday form please ensure you give **plenty of detail** as to why you think your application for absence is exceptional. Forms are available from the main reception or school office.

I would like to remind parents that this is Government policy and parents who take their children on holiday without permission will incur unauthorised absences for their child. These remain on the child's record and will be monitored for further action by the Education Welfare Service. The school is obliged to send the details of all unauthorised/holiday absences to Derbyshire Local Authority who may issue a fixed penalty notice/fine.

### **Cool Milk**

Please remember that you are able to register and pay for your child to receive milk at lunch time with our provider Cool Milk. Please log on to [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com) . If you would like more information please speak to the school office.

Please note that if your child is in Reception and is under 5, this milk is provided free. However, once your child has reached 5, this free entitlement stops and you have to register to pay as detailed above.

### **Dentist**

We seem to have an increasing number of absences due to children missing school to go to the dentist. Whilst I appreciate that emergencies and orthodontic/hospital appointments are not always possible to arrange outside of school hours, this should not be the case for six monthly check-ups. Please arrange the appointments for outside of the school day.

### **Half Term**

School closes for the half term vacation today, Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February and reopens at normal time on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February. I hope the stormy weather disappears, and you have an enjoyable break.

Yours sincerely

S J Whyld  
Headteacher