



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



NEWSLETTER

3rd May 2023

No. 594

Dear Parents/Carers

I am delighted to be writing to you as the newly appointed Headteacher of William Gilbert Primary School and Nursery. I feel extremely honoured and privileged to be able to continue, and build upon the success the school has already achieved under the exceptional leadership of Mrs Whyld. Having worked at William Gilbert for 17 years I believe I have built strong relationships with the children and their families, the staff and the governors, and understand what is needed to take the school from strength to strength.

Being a mother of three children, I am acutely aware of the responsibility that my staff and I have in ensuring that the highest standard of teaching and learning are achieved. We have a hugely committed team, wonderful children, and a hugely supportive parental body, which of course is a great place for any new Head to start! I am pleased to announce that Mrs Owen (Year 4 class teacher) will be the acting Deputy Headteacher whilst an external recruitment process for a permanent Deputy Headteacher is completed. Together with the unwavering support of the school team we are extremely excited about the journey ahead.

The needs of the children are central to the life and decision-making within our school. I strongly believe in affording the children meaningful and memorable learning experiences, which build their enthusiasm for learning and help them to grow, develop and succeed. I think it is crucial to involve the children and their families as partners in their education. I am also keen on building a whole school community which thrives on mutual respect and values positive relationships. Working in partnership with parents is the foundation for academic and pastoral success. As key educators in your children's lives, I feel that it is important that you continue to have a voice and that as a school we are approachable and allocate time to listen to your concerns, worries or thoughts about the school. Please feel free to contact me via the school office or approach me at the infant/junior gates which I will endeavour to be at each morning.

Throughout my career at William Gilbert School, I have prided myself in creating a listening culture that supports the continual success and development of the whole school community. To continue this process, I would like to gather your views and opinions about our school. I know in the past that some of you have expressed the desire to give your views anonymously, allowing you to be totally honest. I have actioned this request. However, please be aware that if you choose to remain anonymous and the concern you raise is not something shared by other parents, it will be very difficult for me to respond and address your concern. The parental questionnaire is a vital part of school improvement, so I urge you to take 5 minutes out of your busy day to share your views for the good of the school and your child's education.

Follow the link or scan the QR code below to take you to the annual parent questionnaire.

[Annual Parent Questionnaire 2023](#)



Travel Smart Week – 15th May 2023 to 19th May 2023

We continue to support a safer and healthier way to travel to school through the ‘Travel Smart’ campaign from Derbyshire County Council. This is where we encourage pupils to make the most of their school journey to help them keep fit, beat traffic jams and pollution, as well making sure they remember to travel safely too.

For the May 2023 campaign, pupils and parents will be encouraged to join the SMILERS and Travel Smart with a SMILE by making more active and environmentally friendly journeys to school during the week of 15 May 2023 to 19 May 2023.

The SMILERS ways to wellbeing are:

- stay connected - having healthy relationships with people and pets to help you to feel happy.
- move - being active releases chemicals in your brain which boosts your mood and makes you feel good.
- interest - having special interests and learning something new to keep your brain busy.
- look - using your senses to notice what is around you to keep you in the moment.
- eating well - eating a balanced diet to make you feel good and to help you stay healthy and strong.
- rest - getting a good night's sleep to improve your memory, mood, and mental health.
- support - supporting people to make us feel positive and to make them happy too.

So, making an active journey, after a healthy breakfast and a good night's sleep, is a great way to improve your child's wellbeing as part of the school day, as well as doing your bit to reduce the impacts of traffic congestion, air pollution and climate change associated with travelling by car.

Pupils will be given an information/activity leaflet ahead of the ‘Travel Smart’ week. As part of the campaign week pupils can follow some of the suggested ideas for each day such as choosing active ways to make their school journey.

Safer Streets around the school

Can I extend a plea to a small number of parents who continue to drive their children to school and park in an inconsiderate and, at times, dangerous manner. Within the first two weeks of my Headship, I have received several complaints from local residents and other parents who have reported the following.

- Parents arriving late and parking their car in front of the lollipop road crossing patrol – this reduces visibility for the crossing patrol and poses a potential risk to child safety.
- Parents mounting kerbs on Vicarage Lane and St Alkmunds Close – this puts pedestrians in danger including those children in Upper Key Stage 2 who have been permitted by their parents to walk independently to school.
- Parents stopping at the school entrance, leaving the car engine running whilst they take their child into school.
- Parents sitting in their car close to school with their engine running – this causes unnecessary pollution and reduces air quality around the youngest members of our community.

This behaviour is inconsiderate and, in some cases, dangerous. Please walk to school when possible or park away from the school site and walk the final stretch to school. Remember the Methodist Church carpark at the bottom of King Street allows parents to park in their carpark at the start and end of the school day. This reduces congestion and helps to keep our school site and neighbouring streets safer for all our pupils.

May Day and the King's Coronation – Monday 8th May 2023

We are all looking forward to enjoying the King's celebrations over the bank holiday weekend and, in preparation for this, the children will be learning about this historical event in school in the lead up to the King's Coronation. The children will take part in a Coronation act of worship, complete a range of class-based learning, and bring home a packet of wildflower seeds. A packet of seeds has been donated to school by Duffield Parish Council for every pupil. I hope they have fun watching the seeds grow and encourage butterflies and bees into your garden. These will be sent home with your child on Friday.

Artist of the Month

As Art & Design subject leader I have introduced an artist of the month to the children through the Art Curriculum board in school. Each month we will introduce the children to a new artist with links to further information about the artist which will hopefully inspire them to create artwork of their own. Thank you to all the pupils that have already entered. It is wonderful to see so many amazing pieces of art coming into school from our budding artists. All the contributions will be collated in an Artist of the Month scrap book for pupils and visitors to view.

If they wish they can enter a piece of their artwork into the artist of the month competition that is inspired by the current artist. In March, we had several wonderful entries, and I am pleased to announce that **Chloe Morais** in Year 3 was the winner. In April, Rachel Jones was the artist we learnt about, and the winners are **Violetta Stacey** in Year 3 and **Emily Simpson** in Year 4. The artist of the month for May is Yayoi Kusama a Japanese artist. Entries can be put in the artist of the month basket in school, please ensure your child's name is written on the artwork. The closing date for May will be the last day of term (26th May) with winners being announced within the first week of the new term in June. Links and further information for the artist of the month are posted on the school Weduc parent app.

Class Photographs

A reminder that the Class and Sports Team photographs are scheduled for **Wednesday 24th May**, so please ensure your child has smart, clean uniform on this day.

Open Evening at Ecclesbourne School

There is an open evening for all Year 5 and 6 parents on Thursday 25th May. At 7pm there is a presentation by key members of staff for Y6 parents from William Gilbert and other local feeder school. From 7:30pm until 9:00pm there is an opportunity to look around the school for all Year 5 and 6 parents.

School Uniform

As the weather turns warmer, may I draw your attention to our school uniform policy summer options.

Girls may wear a blue gingham dress, which is the only option: shorts and culottes 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 short trousers, with plain dark socks and the usual shirt and tie.

A few parents have enquired about the possibility of a school rucksack instead of a book bag. For most parents and pupils, the school book bag meets their needs. It is light weight, safe and easy to store in our cloakrooms, in addition to the children's coats and PE bags. It seems in KS2 where children are permitted to bring their own pencil cases and stationery, that the volume of equipment children are bringing is increasing the weight of the book bags. Please remember that children should only be bringing their reading book and reading record along with basic stationery. They do not need large volumes of colouring pencils or bulky desk pencil sharpeners. Water bottles should also not be carried in the book bags as this can lead to leakages and damage to our school reading books.

To support the needs of all parents we have looked at a range of backpacks and have secured a supplier that can provide a navy back pack, printed with the school logo. The rucksack will be added onto Scopay this week, under products, and the cost will be £16. Please note stock will be ordered this week but will not be delivered for another 3 weeks. You are of course, welcome to place an order from this week. These will **not** be a compulsory purchase as for the vast majority of parents the book bag will remain the best option for children. Moving forward the options for pupil's school bags will be either the school book bag or the school back pack.

Half Term

School closes for the half term holiday on Friday 26th May, and reopens to pupils on Monday 5th June.

I hope the sun continues to shine, and that you enjoy the upcoming Bank Holiday.

Yours sincerely

E H Britten
Headteacher

