



William Gilbert Endowed

(Church of England)

Primary School

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NEWSLETTER

No. 604

24th November 2023

Dear Parents

Christmas Fayre

We look forward to welcoming you to our Christmas Fayre this afternoon, Friday 24th November from 5.00-7.00pm. There are plenty of refreshments available on the night including turkey rolls, loaded fries, chilli and nachos and a wealth of sweet treats. So that is dinner sorted – eat out at the fayre! Don't forget lots of loose change for the Y6 stalls, the children cannot wait to have your custom. **Donations** are still needed for the chocolate and bottle tombola, raffle prizes and Christmas clothing stalls, so please send these into the school office.

Key Stage 1 Performance of 'The Inn-spectors'

We look forward to welcoming family members of Early Years and Key Stage 1 pupils to see 'The Inn-spectors' on Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th December. If you have not already done so, please return your ticket request letter by Monday so the school office staff can allocate the tickets.

The afternoon performance on Wednesday 6th will begin at 1.30pm and finish at approximately 2.45pm .

The morning performance on Thursday 7th will begin at 9.30am and will finish at approximately 10.45am.

You may enter school via the main entrance from 1.15pm and 9.10am ready for the performances.

Concert Recording

I am pleased to confirm that that a recording will be made of the concert and I will send further details once this is available to purchase.

Ofsted Update

As I am sure you are all aware, we had our very own 'inspectors' in school last week who spent two days visiting lessons, speaking to governors, leaders, teachers and pupils about the quality of education, personal development, behaviours and attitudes, leadership and management, safeguarding and Early Years provision at William Gilbert. I would like to extend my thanks to all of you that took the time to complete a parent questionnaire on parent view. It was very encouraging to have such support from you, and gave us all a real boost.

Typically, Ofsted will send the school an electronic version of the final report within 30 working days of the end of the inspection. In most circumstances, they will publish the final report on the Ofsted reports website within 38 working days of the end of the inspection. The final day of our inspection was Wednesday 15th November so we look forward to communicate the findings from our inspection in the new year.

Children In Need

Thank you to all the children and parents who supported Children In Need this year. We have raised £138 so far, but if parents want to support this worthwhile cause, the event will stay on Scopay until Friday 1st December.

PE Kits

We are very aware that some families will be struggling with the cost of living crisis at this busy time of year and would like to be able to support where we can.

Please be aware that the PTA have kindly donated some full sets of PE kits (polo shirt, shorts, fleece), up to size 7-8. If you would like to access one of these sets, please speak to Mrs Manners in the office in confidence.

School Charity- The Air Ambulance

Each year the school nominate a charity to donate to throughout the year. This year we have selected the Air Ambulance. The local air ambulance serves five counties across the midlands, including Derbyshire. The Air Ambulance does not receive funding from the government or National Lottery for its daily missions and relies entirely on voluntary donations and support from our communities and business. The Air Ambulance Service flies across the counties of Warwickshire & Northamptonshire, and Derbyshire, Leicestershire & Rutland, covering 3,850 square miles. For more information follow the link <https://theairambulanceservice.org.uk/>

This year some of the proceeds from the Y6 stalls at the Christmas Fayre will be donated to The Air Ambulance. There will also be a stall selling merchandise from The Air Ambulance where all the funds will go directly to the charity.

Poppy Appeal

Another superb effort, thank you for supporting the recent Poppy Appeal in school. We raised an amazing £472.35. For your information, the total raised in the Belper and Duffield area was over £28,000 which is a huge amount of money, so thank you for your contributions.

Modeshift Stars Accreditation

Rob Bounds, Senior Transport officer for Derbyshire County Council, visited school this week to present the school with our certificate for achieving a 'Green Level' modeshift STARS accreditation. We are delighted to have our efforts to increase levels of walking, cycling and other forms of sustainable travel recognised. We are now working towards our 'Bronze Level' award. To achieve this we will be actively engaging in the Modeshift Cycle Bells initiative during December. We will communicate all the fun ways you can get involved with shortly.

The first task will be to pledge to walk or wheel in December – take a photo and share it on your social media with #ModeshiftCycleBells

To find out more follow the link below.

<https://modeshift.org.uk/modeshift-news/cycle-bells-cycle-bells-cycle-all-the-way-this-december/>

Admissions to School Reception Class September 2024

A reminder that admission for a place in our Reception Class for September 2024 need to be lodged with the Local Authority by 15th January 2024, via the Derbyshire County Council link www.derbyshire.gov.uk/admissions.

School Clubs

The After School Clubs will have their last sessions week commencing 4th December, and will restart in the New Year. Only Healthy Cookery with Mrs Owen will continue to run, with the final session on Monday 18th December. Mrs Manners will be sending details of the Spring Clubs next week, for parents to sign up.

Artist of the Month

I am delighted to announce the Artist of the Month for October, inspired by African American artist Alma Thomas were Hetty Boyden in Year 3 and Eve Longmore in Year 4. There were no entries from EYFS or KS1 for us to judge this time. I hope more of you will be inspired to take part this month.

The artist for November is Joseph Wright. This month why not create a piece of artwork inspired by Joseph Wright or by some of the other artists where light was important. Can they show light and shadow in their artwork? There are several different techniques of shading – hatching, crosshatching, stumping and stippling which can be used to show light and shadow in drawing. Your child can take a closer look in the Artist of the Month book or follow the link below for more inspiration. I look forward to seeing your creations.

<https://www.williamgilbertend.derbyshire.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/2023/11/ARTIST-OF-THE-MONTH-for-website-November-2023-Wright.pdf>

Please place your entries in the Artist of the Month basket outside the staff room by Thursday 29th November 2023.

Christmas Cards & Post Boxes

Pupils are welcome to bring their Christmas Cards and post them in the Willy Gilly post-boxes, which will be in operation from Friday 1st December until the end of term. Please encourage your child to put the Christian name, surname and class on the envelope, as it helps those who are sorting, as well as the postman!

Christmas Gifts

The PTA will be selling Christmas presents for parents/carers/family members on the morning of Wednesday 13th and the afternoon of Thursday 14th December. This has been added to your Scopay account, so please log on to make the payment of £2.50 per gift by Monday 11th December.

Christmas Concerts

I would like to share with the whole school community information about some exciting opportunities that our school choir are involved in over the next few weeks.

On Wednesday 29th November our choir will be performing at the Derby Cathedral as part of the Rainbows Hospice charity concert. This event has now sold out, so we hope that it will be a lovely evening, and a great experience for the children.

On Sunday 10th December we will be joining Karen England in her family Christmas concert at St Peter's Church in Belper at 4:30pm. Tickets are available via the following link <https://www.livetickets.org/whats-on/karen-englands-family-christmas-magic/>

Our annual Carol Service will be held at St Alkmund's Church on Tuesday 19th December at 2pm. I extend a warm welcome to all our families to come and join in the celebrations.

Nursery Closure

Further to previous communication, a reminder that the Nursery will be closed from 11.45am on Tuesday 19th December to enable all school staff to attend the annual Carol Service at St Alkmund's Church.

Yours sincerely

E H Britten
Headteacher