



William Gilbert Endowed
(Church of England)
Primary School & Nursery
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NEWSLETTER

24th June 2025

No. 644

Dear Parents

Sports Day

We were fortunate to run both sports days this year, using the reserve dates following rain last week. 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.

After School Fundraising – Friday 26th June (Revised Arrangements)

We are very much looking forward to our after-school fundraising event and are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and hard work the KS2 children have shown in preparing their activities. In light of the current high temperatures, we have carefully reviewed our plans. This has not been an easy decision and we recognise that any change may not fully align with everyone's preferences. Cancelling the event would be very disappointing for the children, and with the school calendar already extremely full, it has not been possible to identify a suitable alternative date. We are also mindful that many families have made arrangements to attend.

Therefore, the event will still go ahead but with some important adjustments: it will now run earlier, from 3:00pm to 3:45pm, and all stalls will be located indoors, with windows open, blinds lowered and fans in use to help keep spaces as comfortable as possible. **Attendance will be entirely optional.** We appreciate that these changes may affect the overall fundraising outcome, but we feel this is a sensible balance to ensure the event can still take place. **School gates will open just before 3:00pm,** with access via the junior gates and entrance.

For those children running a stall, please can parents support the children at the end of the event by helping remove any rubbish and tidy the area they have been using.

In addition, due to the continued hot weather, we will again offer **optional early collection from 1:15pm on Friday, and school will formally finish at 3:00pm** for all pupils to enable those who wish to take part to do so. If this earlier finish presents any difficulty, please contact the school office, as we will ensure appropriate supervision is in place.

We would very much like this event to be a success for the children, who have invested so much time, energy and creativity in preparing for it, and we warmly welcome your support if you are able to attend. Fundraising plays an essential role in enhancing opportunities and resources for our pupils, and we are always grateful for the generosity of our school community. If you feel unable to attend in the current conditions, we understand but would greatly appreciate your support in another way—by contributing to the fundraising challenge, for example through a donation via the PTA fundraising link.

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

School Street Survey Reminder

Thank you to those who have already responded to the Living Streets independent School Street survey—your feedback is greatly appreciated. Living Streets have informed me that they have received 19 responses so far and would really value hearing from more of our community. The survey is quick to complete and will play an important role in helping the Council decide whether the scheme can be made permanent. We have already seen clear benefits in terms of safety, reduced congestion and increased active travel, and would love to build a strong response that reflects the experiences of our families.

If you have not yet had chance, please take a few minutes to share your views here:

The survey will remain open until 30 June 2026.

👉 Share your views here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WilliamGilbert>

DDAT Art Exhibition – Mini Masterpieces

Following last year's successful DDAT writing competition, we were delighted to support a new trust-wide creative project celebrating the arts. This has led to the launch of the DDAT Art Exhibition, centred around the idea of "Mini Masterpieces" – artwork created on a Post-it or a small, Post-it-sized piece of paper to ensure the project is inclusive and accessible for every child. Every pupil across all 33 DDAT schools has taken part, creating a truly inspiring collective showcase. A selection of artwork from each class will be displayed at Derby University, Markeaton Street Campus, alongside GCSE and A Level work from Derby Cathedral School students. It is not possible to exhibit every piece at the university, but all remaining Mini Masterpieces will be proudly displayed in school during our open evening on **14th July 3:30 -5pm**.

The exhibition launches with a special event on **29th June (1:30–3:00pm) at Derby University, Markeaton Street Campus (Kedleston Road, Derby, DE22 1GB)** for selected pupils and staff (parents of these children will be communicated with separately), and will then be open to the public from **30th June to 3rd July (3:00–6:00pm)**. It will be a wonderful celebration of creativity, and I warmly encourage parents to visit the exhibition when it is open to the public. There is limited parking available at Britannia Mill (DE22 3BL), just a short walk from the venue. We are incredibly proud to be part of such a collaborative and creative celebration across our trust which we hope you will want to support.

Instrumental Lessons

Children in Year 3 to Year 6 are invited to learn to play a musical instrument during their time in Key Stage 2. Usually at this time of year the individual peripatetic music teachers approach school to arrange opportunities for their pupils learning an instrument, to perform a piece they have been learning. This year, those teachers who feel their pupils are ready to perform warmly invite you to attend school on the following dates.

Parents of pupils playing an instrument are warmly invited to attend school on the following dates.

Your child will know if they are performing as they have been spoken to by the Music Teachers

Piano - Wednesday 15th July at 9.30am

Violin - Thursday 16th July at 9.30am

Flute - Friday 17th July at 9.30am

Please note that the children currently learning Guitar and Brass will have the chance to perform in the new academic year, when their music teacher is available to support them.

If your child would like to learn an instrument in school, through the Derbyshire Music Partnership, please complete the form below and the relevant music teacher will be in touch in September, if they have spaces.

Please note that priority is given to older KS2 pupils first. Please also note that the Guitar teacher does not start lessons with children until they are in Year 4.

Instrumental Lessons

Carnival – 27th June 2026

The carnival float procession starts from Avenue Road on Saturday 27th 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 'Rio' this year, so we are looking forward to seeing parents and children support the William Gilbert float. Tickets can be purchased online from www.duffieldcarnival.co.uk/tickets or from Duffield News or Meadow Vale stores.

Student Update Forms

Student Update Forms have been sent home with your child this week. Please return these to the school office as soon as possible so all information is up to date for September.

Warm Weather

The forecast continues to be very warm, 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 – 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 has been emailed to parents today.

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.

Staffing for September 2026

I am pleased to share details of class teachers for September 2026. While we would usually include this information with end-of-year reports, we have listened carefully to parental feedback and reflected on the needs of our pupils, particularly those who benefit from additional transition time and preparation for change. As we have now successfully appointed our new KS2 teacher, we are able to confirm arrangements a little earlier this year. We are delighted to welcome Miss Hannah Wall to William Gilbert School; she joins us from another DDAT junior school and is very much looking forward to becoming part of our community. She will be in school for our transition day on 14th July, where she will meet and teach the children that will be in her class next year, she will also be available to greet families at the open evening from 3:30–5:00pm.

Reception: Miss Whiting
Year 1: Mrs Reed
Year 2: Mrs Kibble
Year 3: Miss Wall
Year 4: Miss Pearce
Year 5: Mr Barke
Year 6: Miss Rice

KS2 Swimming

As Year 2 children move into Year 3, please be reminded children need to be able to swim 25m before the end of KS2. We will communicate early in September to ask for confirmation of your child's swimming ability. If they are unable to swim the statutory 25m, they will join other children in KS2 for blocks of lessons at the Allestree Woodlands School pool. We would encourage parents to support their child learning to swim so that we can roll them off our swimming programme as soon as possible.

Inset Days

I am pleased to confirm that the inset days for the 2026/2027 academic year are confirmed as:-

Friday 3rd September
Monday 7th September
Tuesday 8th September
Monday 22nd February
Monday 26th July

The first day of the new term for pupils is Wednesday 9th September.

Yours sincerely

E H Britten
Headteacher