



# William Gilbert Endowed

(Church of England)

## Primary School & Nursery

Vicarage Lane, Duffield, Belper, Derbyshire, DE56 4EB

Telephone: 01332 840395

Website: <https://www.williamgilbertend.derbyshire.sch.uk/>

E-mail: [enquiries@williamgilbertend.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@williamgilbertend.derbyshire.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs H Britten



23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024

No. 616

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Harvest Produce**

Thank you to everyone who supported our recent harvest service and donated such a wonderful amount of produce. Hope for Belper have written to school to say a huge thank you to everyone at William Gilbert School. They shared the following with us:

*'As always, the hub continues to be busy, and your donations have really helped restock the shelves for the coming months. We could not run The Hub without the support we receive from across the community and really appreciate you being part of this.'*

The Y6 pupils who visited the hub to sort and organise our donations were a credit to themselves and the school. They saw first hand the impact of generosity and time to help others. Well done Y6.

### **'Love in a box' Christmas Shoeboxes facilitated by Belper Rotary Club**

Parents were very generous last year and supported this cause with some lovely donations, and if possible I would like to ask you to support the 'Love in a box' Christmas shoebox appeal to bring a little happiness to children who are living in poverty and would otherwise receive nothing at Christmas. This year the contributions will be transported to children in either Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, Georgia or Bosnia. Please use the link below for further details and to print the label. I will write to you again to confirm when the boxes need to be sent into school ready for collection.

[Love in a Box](#)

### **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October -Fume Free Friday**

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October is the first of our 5 'Fume Free Friday' events. This is advanced notice of the closure of Vicarage Lane from the junction with Castle Hill and King Street, which will be closed between 8:30am and 9:15am and again at 3:00pm and 3:45pm. Fume Free Fridays will continue into November. If you could spare 45 minutes at the start or end of the day on any of the following dates, please see the volunteering information below. Dates we would welcome volunteers (8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> November)

### **We Need You! - Volunteers needed**

We are still looking for volunteers to help 'marshal' the two points where Vicarage Lane will be closed,

- The junction with King Street
- The junction with Castle Hill

We need volunteers at both the beginning and end of the school day, in the morning 8.30am to 9.15am and the afternoon 3.00pm to 3.45pm. There will be a school governor/staff member who will be there to support volunteers.

If you can volunteer, please let school know by completing this online form by 12pm on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October, thank you. – [Please click here to volunteer - thank you!](#)

[Or scan the QR code below](#)



### **School Photographer**

Please note that the school photographer will be visiting school on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November, and not on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October as previously published. Unfortunately, due to time constraints we are unable to facilitate photographs with siblings not already in school. Please complete the on-line form below to give consent by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October.

[Photograph Consent](#)

### **School Pond regeneration**

During the summer term a bid was submitted to the **Duffield Community Association** for funding to support us in rejuvenating our overgrown pond and replace the boardwalk used by pupils when accessing the pond. We are delighted to share that the DCA have agreed to fund this project. Mrs Maddison has kindly agreed to complete the work for us, and I know she would welcome volunteers to support her. If you would be interested in getting involved, please speak to Mrs Maddison or approach myself at the school gate.

The Duffield Community Association also supported us with funding for our KS2 Quiet Area which is now becoming more established under the care and guidance of our pupils.

The DCA has politely asked for our support as parents of children who are benefitting from these generous contributions and it would be great if you, in turn, could support the DCA by subscribing with an annual payment of £5.

The DCA do amazing work in our village and your subscription will help them to continue with organising and funding events such as the annual Carnival, Bonfire Night, enhancement of the village through Christmas decorations, bulb and wildflower planting, community projects such as the Duffield Defibrillator Network, and support of other village organisations.

If you don't already support the DCA and would like to subscribe, you can do this by scanning the QR code below; or going to the Duffield Community Association website: <https://www.duffieldvillage.co.uk>



## **October Cybersecurity Awareness Month - free Cyber Webinars for the public**

As part of Cybersecurity Awareness Month (October 2024) Derbyshire Police Cybercrime Unit, along with Derbyshire County Council Community Safety Unit will be hosting webinars to raise awareness of the most prevalent issues reported online, including how to further protect yourselves, and your families.

If you are unable to make the date below, the webinars will be repeated in the future – they will be advertised via Derbyshire Alert ([www.derbyshirealert.co.uk](http://www.derbyshirealert.co.uk)) and via their Facebook page, Derbyshire Police Online Safety.

Mon 28th October at 1830h - **Cyber Security Month - Public Webinar - Cyber Awareness and avoiding fraud and scams and advice for parents and grandparents, keeping youngsters safe online.**

To register your place for 28th Oct, please visit:

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/88e10c85-5718-4d2e-ae62-4b3eec397c40@ae0a022d-630d-4396-b8fb-58db3061b91b>

## **Holidays In Term Time**

Can I please remind you that current legislation makes it clear that headteachers *cannot grant approval for term-time holidays*. Only in exceptional circumstances may leave of absence be granted and authorised.

Any requests should be on an official school absence request form and handed into the school office for consideration prior to any holiday/leave arrangements being made. If term-time holidays are taken without submitting a leave of absence form, the school office will send you the appropriate paperwork to be completed *retrospectively*.

Each application will be considered individually and unless the request is an **exceptional circumstance**, the absence will not be authorised.

It is my duty to share the following information in relation to term-time holidays.

It is the responsibility of the local authority to decide when to issue fines to parents, meaning the process varies from council to council. Under the national rules, all schools are required to consider a fine when a child has missed 10 or more sessions (5 days) for unauthorised reasons. From August 2024, the fine for school absences across the country will be **£80 if paid within 21 days**, or **£160 if paid within 28 days**. In the case of repeated fines, if a parent receives a second fine for the same child within any three-year period, this will be charged at the higher rate of £160. Fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action like a parenting order or prosecution will be considered. If you are prosecuted and attend court because your child hasn't been attending school, you could get a fine of up to £2,500.

Our approach to improving attendance for pupils at William Gilbert School is always to work together with parents in a supportive way when there are attendance concerns.

## **School Uniform**

A reminder that when we return after half term the full winter William Gilbert uniform is compulsory and summer options are no longer permitted. Please remember boots are not part of our uniform and girls may wear navy, grey or black opaque tights or white knee socks. Full details can be found on our website. There will be a further letter coming out this week to share results from the recent PE Kit consultation with parents, pupils and staff.

## **Applications for Reception 2025**

A reminder that the application procedure for Reception 2025 will open via the DCC website at Monday 6th November. The deadline for applications is Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

## **OPEN MORNING FOR PUPILS NEW TO RECEPTION – 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

If you are the parent of a nursery age child, we warmly welcome you to our open morning on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 9:30-11:30am. Please feel free to share this date with other local families.

### **Christmas Fayre**

We warmly welcome you all to attend the annual Christmas Fayre on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November between 5-7pm. More details will follow from the PTA in due course. This is a vital source of funds to support the school in providing a wealth of resources, opportunities and experiences that benefit your child. Every donation, however small makes a big difference to our school, not just in providing the ‘extras’ but the basic level of resources that allow teachers to deliver the curriculum.

### **Rainbows Hospice Christmas Concert – Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024 – 7pm**

Members of our school choir have volunteered to be part of the ‘Derby Christmas Concert’ to raise crucial funds to support seriously and terminally ill children. The concert is open to the public, so come along and enjoy an evening of festive music from Derby Music Centre Youth Orchestra, local primary schools and Derby Rock Choir. Tickets go on sale from **10am on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October** and are priced at £12.95 pp (under 3s go free). Tickets can be purchased using the following link. [Derby Christmas Concert | Rainbows Hospice](#). If your child is performing in this concert and you wish to see them perform, you will need to purchase a ticket using the link above. I have been told that tickets sell fast for this popular annual event.

### **Half Term**

School closes on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October for the half term holiday and reopens on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November. Please note that school is **closed to pupils on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November** as previously communicated.

On behalf of the staff and governors, I wish you all an enjoyable break.

Kind regards

E H Britten  
Headteacher