



William Gilbert Endowed

(Church of England)

Primary School & Nursery

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

Telephone: 01332 840395

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Headteacher: Mrs H Britten



NEWSLETTER

No. 618

21st November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Christmas Fayre

We look forward to welcoming you to our Christmas Fayre tomorrow, Friday 22nd November from 5.00-7.00pm. Donations are still needed for the chocolate and bottle tombola, raffle prizes and 'green' items for the hamper. Please send any donations into the school office by 9am tomorrow morning.

If you can spare some time to help volunteer and run a stall for any time during the fayre, please contact the school office or any member of the PTA. Your help is urgently needed!

Easy Fundraising

Please find attached letter regarding Easy Fundraising. It would be wonderful if you could use this whilst you are doing your Christmas shopping or getting your Black Friday deals. Thank you for your support.

'Love in a Box' – Shoebox Appeal

A reminder to send filled shoe boxes into school from Monday 25th November. Members from Derby Rotary will be collecting the boxes on Wednesday morning. 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. Your support for this appeal is much appreciated.

[Love in a Box](#)

Christmas Concert

On Wednesday 27th November our choir will be performing at the Derby Cathedral as part of the Rainbows Hospice charity concert. The event has now sold out, so we hope that it will be a lovely evening, and a great experience for the children.

Poppy Appeal

Another superb effort, thank you for supporting the recent Poppy Appeal in school. We raised an amazing £428.31. For your information, the total raised in the Belper and Duffield area was over £31,749 which is a huge amount of money, so thank you for your contributions.

Key Stage 1 Performance of 'I'm Gonna Shine'

We look forward to welcoming family members of Key Stage 1 pupils to see 'I'm Gonna Shine' on Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th December. If you have not already done so please order your tickets via Weduc, payments section, by Wednesday 27th November (as per my letter dated 19th November).

- The morning performance on Wednesday 4th will begin at 9.30am and will finish at approximately 11.00am
- The afternoon performance on Thursday 5th will begin at 1.30pm and finish at approximately 3.00pm.

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.

Children In Need

Thank you to all the children and parents who supported Children In Need this year. We have raised £117 so far, but if parents want to support this worthwhile cause, the event will stay on Scopay until Friday 6th December.

Pre-Loved Christmas Jumper Shop

The ECO committee have come up with the idea of a pre-loved Christmas jumper shop to promote sustainable fashion and raise money for our school charity – ‘Young Minds’. There will be posters around school promoting this initiative. They would like donations of Christmas jumpers both children and adult sizes that you no longer want or need. They will then host a Christmas jumper shop in the school hall on **Wednesday 4th December at 3:15-4pm.** Jumpers will be sold at a fraction of the price of a new one, to quote the ECO committee ‘Save money and be ECO friendly’. **They have asked for pre-loved Christmas jumpers be donated to the school office by Friday 29th November.**

Vicarage Lane

Fume Free Friday – 22nd and 29th November. A further reminder that the road will be closed outside of school between the hours of 8:30am and 9:15am and again at 3:00pm to 3:45pm as part of our school street pilot. Please can I encourage those that physically can, to park away (either at The Viceroy carpark, the Chevin Golf club car park or along Avenue Road – all of which are free to park, and parents have permission to do so during these times) and walk or scoot the remaining distance. The Lucky Lock will be active again on Friday 22nd November and will be attached to a pupil’s bike or scooter in KS1 and KS2 to win a prize.

For those of you that choose or need to park close to Vicarage Lane, can I please request that you do not park near our crossing patrol – it reduces visibility and makes it extremely dangerous for our pupils. Thank you.

Please remember that Vicarage Lane is not a pedestrianised road, even during the road closures residents are exempt from this closure and will be using the road. I have recently received communication from concerned residents that some of us have been unpleasant towards them when they are using Vicarage Lane to access their properties. I continue to consult with residents and encourage all parties to be polite and respectful at all times.

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 note that the PTA have kindly donated some full sets of PE kits (polo shirt, shorts, fleece). If you would like to access one of these sets, please speak to Mrs Manners in the office in confidence.

Admissions to School Reception Class September 2025

A reminder that admission for a place in our Reception Class for September 2025 need to be lodged with the Local Authority by 15th January 2025, via the Derbyshire County Council link www.derbyshire.gov.uk/admissions.



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Please share with families and friends that have nursery and school aged children for September 2025 that there is an open morning on Saturday 30th November 9:30 – 11:30am. The link to book on for free is as follows:

[Open Day Booking Link](#)

School Clubs

The After School Clubs will have their last sessions week commencing 2nd December, and will restart w/c 6th January. The last session for Healthy Cookery will be Monday 25th November.

As previously communicated the Sports Clubs will change for the Spring Term. Please login to Weduc, payments to register and pay for your child to attend either:-

MONDAY

Football (Maximum 20)
Year 1 & 2

RS Coaching – Monday 6th January
3.30 – 4.20pm

TUESDAY

Dodgeball Club (Maximum 20)
Year 5 & 6

RS Coaching – Tuesday 7th January
3.30 – 4.20pm

WEDNESDAY

Football (Maximum 20)
Year 3 & 4

RS Coaching – Wednesday 8th January
3.30 – 4.20pm

THURSDAY

Football (Maximum 20)
Year 5 & 6

RS Coaching – Thursday 9th January
3.30 – 4.20pm

Please note that Computers, Chess, Choir & Gardening will continue as per previous communication, but if you have any queries please contact the school office. Art & Craft Club will run for those children in Group 2 as per previously communicated.

Goodbye and Good luck

After 11 wonderful years, we are sad to share that Mrs Mercer from our school office is leaving the William Gilbert family. She is heading off to pastures new to take up an exciting full-time role closer to home. Her last day in school will be Friday 29th November. I am sure you will echo my fond wishes to her as she will be sorely missed. On behalf of all the staff, governors, parents and pupils we thank her for her dedicated service and her warm welcome that always greets everyone that visits the school office.

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 29th November 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 Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th. The PTA will be circulating more details of gifts and how to pay.

Events taking place on Thursday 12th December:

- **Non-Uniform/Christmas Jumper Day**

Children are welcome to dress in Christmas Jumpers on Thursday 12th December, or wear school uniform if they prefer. There will not be a charge for this event this year, as we are raising money for Treetops Hospice instead this year, details of which are given below.

- **Christmas Dinner**

All children will be having a Christmas Dinner on Thursday 12th December. Those children who usually have sandwiches, will receive a separate email with details on how to sign up for a Christmas lunch and how to pay if they wish to have a school lunch on this day.

- **Reindeer Dash**

This year we have been approached by Treetops Hospice to support their charity and hold a sponsored Reindeer Dash in the school playground. This will take place on Thursday 12th December and all classes will take part. Treetops will be supplying Reindeer antlers and a sponsor form for each child. The sponsorship form will be sent home with your child tomorrow and the antlers will remain in school until the day. We would love it if the children could be sponsored for their 'Reindeer Dash' activities which will include:

- Can they travel actively on this day either by walking or scooting wearing their antlers.
- The ECO committee and School Councillors will be organising a 'walk a mile of the playground' to take place during the school day.
- EYFS pupils will be taking part in some fun reindeer activities too.

The Treetops Reindeer will be visiting school to talk to the children on Monday 9th December to give them more details about this wonderful charity. Your support in sponsoring your child/children would be greatly appreciated.

For more information please visit www.treetops.org.uk

Carol Service

A reminder that our annual Carol Service will be held on Tuesday 17th December at 2.00pm at St Alkmunds Church. Further details to follow.

Nursery Closure

Further to previous communication, a reminder that the Nursery will be closed from 11.45am on Tuesday 17th December to enable the staff to attend the annual Carol Service at St Alkmund's Church.

Yours sincerely

E H Britten
Headteacher