



William Gilbert Endowed

(Church of England)

Primary School & Nursery

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

Telephone & Fax: 01332 840395

E-mail: enquiries@williamgilbertend.derbyshire.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs S J Whyld

NEWSLETTER

17th February 2023

No. 589

Dear Parents

Spoken English

Thank you to all parents and family members who attended the Spoken English competition final this afternoon. We were delighted that Mr Peter Gallimore was able to judge the competition once again, and we congratulate all the finalists on their excellent delivery and interpretation of increasingly complex texts.

The children awarded first places were:-

Year 3 - Teddy Coles & Eve Longmore

Year 4 - Ernie Jackson

Year 5 - Theo Sanders & Annabelle Sturt

Year 6 - Freya Peden & Mischa Spencer

World Book Day – Friday 3rd March

To celebrate World Book Day we will be holding a non-uniform day on **Friday 3rd March**, so your child can come dressed as their favourite book character for the cost of £1. This contribution will be added onto your child's Scopay account after half term. Book tokens will also be sent home with your child week commencing 27th February.

Parents Evening – March 2023

Can I please remind you that Parents Evening will be held on Wednesday 8th March (face to face appointments) and Tuesday 14th March (on-line appointments, then face to face). There will also be access to some other dates, and all the details will be confirmed with you in a letter after half term.

Book Bags

We have received contact from a few parents with concerns regarding the blue book bags currently used by the children. On looking into the issues raised, children are now carrying more books/equipment to and from school than they did during the COVID months when the bags were purchased. As such, we are considering the use of a new back-pack, which will have a separate holder for water bottles. Samples have been requested and we will be let you know more details in due course.

Easter Service – Wednesday 29th March

The whole school, Reception to Year 6, will be attending St Alkmunds Church on Wednesday 29th March at 2.00 p.m. for our Easter Service. The arrangements will be the same as the Carol Service in December, and I will write to you nearer the time to remind you of the details.

Parking is limited. Where possible, please walk or share lifts. Please do not park on the narrow drive leading down to the car park area. We would also appreciate this information being shared with Grandparents and others who are likely to attend. Your support is greatly appreciated.

The service will finish at approximately 3.00 p.m. and all children should be clear about their going home arrangements **directly from Church.**

Only in exceptional circumstances, are children escorted back to school for dismissal at their usual home time. If this is necessary for your child, then please advise me in writing. Please ensure your child has a waterproof coat in case of a Spring shower. Key Stage 2 pupils will also walk to Church on Tuesday 28th March, and need to be suitably attired for the weather forecast.

Holidays in Term Time

I would like to politely remind parents that taking holidays in school time is not permitted. There are 13 weeks available to take a holiday outside of school time. The Government made changes to the Education Regulations (Pupil Registration) which came into force on 1st September 2013. This means I am unable to grant any leave of absence for holidays during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

I am still unable to approve requests for leave of absence for reasons that are not considered to be special or exceptional such as:

- Availability of cheap holidays and cheap travel arrangements
- Days overlapping with beginning or end of term

Parents needing leave of absence for **exceptional circumstances** should complete a form at least two weeks before the anticipated start date. **Applications should be made before the leave is arranged** as absences will not be granted retrospectively.

If you need to complete a holiday form please ensure you give **plenty of detail** as to why you think your application for absence is exceptional. Forms are available from the main reception or school office.

I would like to remind parents that this is Government policy and parents who take their children on holiday without permission will incur unauthorised absences for their child. These remain on the child's record and will be monitored for further action by the Education Welfare Service. The school is obliged to send the details of all unauthorised/holiday absences to Derbyshire Local Authority who may issue a fixed penalty notice/fine.

Cool Milk

Please remember that you are able to register and pay for your child to receive milk at lunch time with our provider Cool Milk. Please log on to www.coolmilk.com. If you would like more information please speak to the school office.

Please note that if your child is in Reception and is under 5, this milk is provided free. However, once your child has reached 5, this free entitlement stops and you have to register to pay as detailed above.

Half Term

School closes for the half term vacation today, Friday 17th February and reopens at normal time on Monday 27th February. I hope you have an enjoyable break.

Yours sincerely

S J Whyld
Headteacher