



William Gilpin School

Newsletter



Spring Term - Number 6 - Wednesday 27th March 2024

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Here we are at the end of another term. It was nice to see many parents at our Easter church service this morning and there has been much Easter fun going on in classrooms back at school today. Please do remember that tomorrow is a staff training day, and so for pupils the Easter holidays have now begun. I hope all our William Gilpin community have a lovely long weekend and we look forward to welcoming everybody back to school on Monday 15th April for the summer term.

Simon Croutear

School Uniform

We believe that our school uniform helps to achieve a sense of belonging, pride and identity and creates a culture of working hard, so we expect children to wear the correct uniform at all times.

Unless it is a P.E. day or a Forest School day, pupils should wear our dark green school sweatshirt or cardigan (with motif), a gold polo-shirt and grey/black trousers/shorts or skirt/pinafore dress. Socks should be plain white, grey or black, and shoes should be smart plain black or brown. Trainers and boots are not permitted. During the summer term, our girls can choose to wear our green & white checked dress. Our school hoodie should not be worn as uniform.

The school P.E. kit is black shorts (or black/green tracksuit bottoms for colder weather), gold t-shirt and the green school hoodie (or school jumper). Trainers should be worn, or black plimsolls for indoor P.E.

Forest school clothes should be suitable for the rugged forest school environment - sturdy footwear (boots permitted), long trousers and long sleeves.

Whilst some adaptations of the uniform have been agreed, e.g. due to specific sensory issues, all pupils are expected to adhere to our uniform rules. **If this is not the case, reminders will be sent home to parents from the beginning of the summer term.** Thank you for your support.

Goodbye Miss Crossen

Today we said goodbye to Miss Crossen, who is leaving to pursue a new career. Miss Crossen, who has been teaching at William Gilpin for nearly four years, was given a great send-off by Oak Class yesterday at a special party which they planned! We wish her all the best. Our Year 6s have invited Miss Crossen to the end-of-year production, which they are looking forward to starting after their SATs. Miss Andrassy takes over as our Oak Class teacher for the summer term.

Wave 105 Cash for Kids - Popstars Day 2024!

We are once again supporting Wave 105's Cash for Kids appeal and holding our annual 'Popstars' day on Friday 3rd May. This has become a much-enjoyed event at William Gilpin and is the fourth year we have supported this great cause, which raises money for children and families in the locality. Last year, we managed to hit our £500 target thanks to the generosity of parents, families and local businesses, which was a tremendous achievement. The Wave 105 team were so impressed with our effort that we had a special visit from the radio station's Charity Fundraising Executive Judith, who congratulated us in a special assembly and told pupils how the money would be used.

We were very excited to receive an invitation to a VIP Breakfast event at the Wave 105 studios on Thursday 2nd May, in recognition of our previous commitment to the appeal - which we can accept providing we raise £1,000 this year! If we do reach this target, then two lucky pupils will be chosen to attend the VIP event with Mr Croutear to meet the Wave 105 presenters, tour the studios and find out more about how the donations will help local children.



To double last year's total will be a huge challenge and so we are launching the appeal now - please click this [link](#) for our fundraising page and, if you can, donate towards our target. Please do spread the word, especially to any local businesses who may be able to help.

On **Friday 3rd May**, all pupils are invited to dress as their chosen popstar and, as usual, each class will perform a song in our Cash for Kids Pop Concert. Parents are very welcome to join us at 9am!



Parents Evenings

It was nice to welcome you to last week's Parents Evenings and we hope that the meetings were helpful in understanding the progress your children have made this year and their targets. We also took the opportunity to talk to parents and gain some important feedback about the school, asking for your thoughts on what we are doing well, what we could do differently and what we could do better.

You told us...that the parent celebration worship was a lovely event but more notice would be appreciated for working parents...**so we** have scheduled six more of these for the summer term (see page 3)

You told us...that you really value the school's commitment to physical education and being active...**so we** will be continuing our partnership with Kidz Supersports (Ben), Active Me and the Priestlands Sports Partnership

You told us...that Forest School is such a valuable part of the curriculum...**so we** continue to offer two classes Forest School every Thursday, as well as the opportunity for some pupils to participate in the 're-wilding' programme and Forest School / Beach School experiences at other local schools

You told us...that you appreciate the way the school values the different way in which children achieve...**so we** encourage parents to email the office with news of out of school achievements, as well as continuing to reward pupils with SCARF certificates and Headteacher awards for a wide-range of accomplishments, not just academic

You told us...that your children love the trips and visits on offer...**so we** will be continuing to offer our usual programme of class outings (including two theatre trips), resuming our wellbeing walks to Warborne Farm in the summer, as well as making regular use of other community facilities such as the new Pilley Play Park

You told us...that communication is really good...**so we** will continue to send weekly Friday class updates via email, a whole-school newsletter every fortnight, as well as having members of the Senior Leadership Team available at the gate every day at drop-off and pick-up

Back in 2022 we planted a cherry blossom as part of the Sakura project, which is a celebration of the cultural links between the UK and Japan. It has just started to blossom again in the Green BEE garden, a reminder that spring is here and hopefully some sustained sunny weather to soon be with us!



'Cherry blossoms - life's beautiful reminder that good things come to those who wait...'



Relax Kids New Forest Spring Sessions

Brockenhurst Methodist Church Hall
Wed 3rd April & Sat 13th April
Relax Kids 10-11am - Ages 5-9 years olds
Wellbeing Warriors 11.30-12.30pm - Ages 10-12 year olds

Bartley C of E Junior School
Fri 5th April & Fri 12th April
Relax Kids 10-11am - Age 7-9 years old
Wellbeing Warriors 11.30-12.30pm - 10-12 year olds

SATS Confidence Boost
Saturday 11th May
11-12.30pm - William Gilpin School
2-3.30pm - Bartley CofE Junior School

Sessions are designed in a fun, creative way, to nurture young people's emotional health and wellbeing. Boosting confidence and calming busy minds and bodies.

PLEASE BOOK VIA RELAX KIDS NEW FOREST FACEBOOK PAGE

<https://bookwhen.com/barefoot-wellbeing>




ART SALE

The Church School vision Group, are a group of children who work with Mel, the Children and Families' Worker from the Church. They have run assemblies over the last three months, highlighting the importance of community both within the school, locally and globally.

They have chosen to support a charity called Toilet Twinning, who work with communities in other countries to provide clean water sanitation.

What next? Fund Raising!
How? We would love your child to make art over the Easter holidays and bring it back to school
Why? So it can be sold on the 24 April after school in the Wellness Hub
Then what? The money raised will go to Toilet Twinning and help fund other people having access to clean water and loos! Our Toilet will be 'twinning' with another toilet in a different country.

Details of Toilet Twinning here:
<https://toilettwinning.org/>

FROWGS Quiz Night!

An event not to be missed! This year's FROWGS Quiz Night takes place on **Friday 19th April** (the first Friday of the summer term) and we hope to see another packed hall for an evening of fun! Teams of 7 are needed, with a blend of general knowledge and quirky rounds, all are welcome! Your ticket price includes a delicious 'grazing bar', with a fully licensed bar available for drinks. A staff team will be competing (and likely losing) as usual...see Classlist for more information and to book!

FROWGS Movie Night!

Around 50 pupils enjoyed yesterday's Frowgs Movie Night, with **£180** of profit achieved. This movie night was requested by our Year 6 Sports Leaders, who want to purchase new sport / playtime equipment for pupils to enjoy. They are looking forward to shopping for the new equipment - many thanks to all who came to support this fun event.



A plea from Mrs Granger!

It is lovely to be able to take your children out each week to Priestlands to compete in various sports events against other local schools. We were very lucky to have some new sports shirts donated a few years ago and the children love wearing them and always look very smart.

At the end of each event the shirts go home with each child and we ask that parents wash them and send them back clean for the next person to use.

Over time a number of shirts have not been returned and we are now getting very low, particularly with the larger sizes.

Could I please ask that you take a little over the Easter break to check your cupboards and drawers to see if you have any.



Parent celebration worships

We would love to invite parents/families to our Friday celebration worships on the following dates over the rest of the school year:

- Friday 19th April
- Friday 3rd May (Popstars Day special)
- Friday 24th May (Art Week special)
- Friday 14th June
- Friday 28th June
- Friday 12th July



All begin at 9.05am but the top door and hall will be open from 8.40am after drop-off, with tea/coffee available.

William Gilpin Celebration Day

As Mr Croutear explained in this morning's church service, we are looking forward to marking the 300th anniversary of the birth of our school's founder, William Gilpin, during the summer term.



More details about these events will be announced after Easter, but please do put the afternoon of **Tuesday 4th June** into your diaries, which is Gilpin's birthday and we will be celebrating at school, with parents and families very welcome to join us.



Special vergers wanted!



An appeal from the church:

Could you be a Special Verger at St John's and St Mary's?

As two of the most beautiful churches in the New Forest, with close ties to the local communities, our churches are where many people would choose to get married and, in the fullness of time, be laid to rest.

These services are amongst the most important moments in peoples' lives and, to make them perfect, we need an exceptional team of people to help our clergy deliver the best possible experience. These are our "Special Vergers".

Do you like working with people? Can you be the public face of St John's and St Mary's, and represent their values ?

Your duties would involve preparing for and clearing up after Weddings, Memorial Services and Funerals, helping those organising and attending these services, ensuring that the highest standards of health, safety and safeguarding are maintained at all times, restoring the church to good order after the service, and helping attending clergy in whatever way possible. Services may fall on weekdays and Saturdays, rostered amongst available Vergers. Each service can be expected to require from 2-3 hours' time commitment.

Training will be provided for all aspects of the job, which will involve directing parking, First Aid, checking the sound system, lights and candles, helping people in and out of the church, working with the organist, choir and clergy, and making sure everything runs smoothly.

Does this sound interesting to you? In the first instance why not contact our Team Vicar, Terence Handley MacMath, to tell her a bit about yourself, and why this job might interest you?

She can be reached via terencehandleymacmath@googlemail.com or at: The Vicarage, Pilley Hill, Lymington, Hampshire, SO41 5QF.

She'll be able to arrange to talk to you, answer all your questions, and set up the next steps of the application process, if appropriate.

Flower arranging

Do you enjoy flowers? St John's welcomes more men and women on the rota to arrange flowers for the church. If you would like to come up to the church occasionally and make a display - there's help available if you would like it and you wouldn't necessarily have to provide the flowers - then please get in touch with Terence (terence@bsbbchurches.com).



Diary Dates

Thursday 28th March	INSET Day
Friday 29th March - Friday 12th April	EASTER HOLIDAYS
Wednesday 17th & Thursday 18th April	Year 6 Bikeability
Thursday 18th April	Willow/Maple forest school
Friday 19th April	FROWGS Quiz Night
Thursday 25th April	Beech/Pine forest school
Thursday 2nd May	Willow/Oak forest school
Monday 6th May	BANK HOLIDAY
Thursday 9th May	Maple/Beech forest school
Monday 13th - Friday 17th May	Year 6 SATs Week
Monday 20th - Friday 24th May	ARTS WEEK
Monday 27th - Friday 31st May	HALF-TERM
Tuesday 4th June	William Gilpin 300th Anniversary celebration day
Saturday 15th June	FROWGS Summer Fete
Thursday 20th June	Year 6 Winchester Cathedral visit
Tuesday 9th July	Year 6 Priestlands Intake Day
Friday 19th July	Church Service (1.30pm) Final day of term
Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd July	INSET Days