



William Gilpin School

Newsletter

Autumn Term - Number 6 - Friday 24th November 2023



HEADTEACHER UPDATE

It has been another busy week at school with lots going on, including rehearsals for the Willow/Maple Christmas Production 'Fireside Nativity', which are going well! On Monday we had the annual visit from our Hampshire School Advisor, who spent the morning observing teaching and learning in English and looking through pupil books. She was impressed with the behaviour, attitude and work-ethic of our pupils and we have some very useful actions to work on to further improve writing. The school is awash with bright colours today as we raise awareness of the need to stay safe near roads during the darker months. It looks like the cold weeks of winter are soon to arrive so please do ensure your children are adequately prepared with coats, hats, gloves, etc. Have a lovely weekend,

Simon Croutear

Be Bright, Be Seen!

In recent weeks, our Junior Road Safety Officers (Harriet & Jett) have been working to ensure that all of our pupils know the importance of road safety this winter. They have held a whole-school assembly, carried out traffic monitoring on Pilley Hill and run a competition (well done to Toby & Alyssa who won the JRSO prize-bags!). They have also been running a lunchtime shop, selling lots of reflective items in the run-up to today's 'Be Bright, Be Seen' day. Well done to our JRSOs and to everybody for your bright clothes today!



Assessment Week

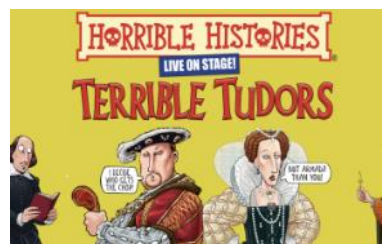
Next week is our autumn term assessment week, during which pupils will be carrying out tests in core subjects (phonics, reading, writing and maths). We use these, alongside teacher's judgements about pupil progress from day-to-day lessons, to identify if children are on-track and to plan support (and extra-challenge) as necessary. As always, teachers will help the children to feel comfortable and able to do their best - we know that some children can find formal testing a little worrying.

Theatre trips!

Over the next two weeks, every pupil in the school will get the opportunity to visit the MAST Mayflower theatre in Southampton, thanks to Frowgs



who are funding the coach travel. Next week, KS1 will be enjoying 'Stickman', with KS2 watching the Horrible Histories production 'Terrible Tudors' the following Wednesday.



MAST

Mayflower Studios

Drop-Zone reminder

Please can we again remind parents that **cars must not be left in the Drop Zone** during drop-off/collection times. The system only works if vehicles are moving swiftly into and out of the lay-by. If you wish to walk your child to the gate or meet them on the playground at home time, you must park (respectfully) elsewhere. William Gilpin parents are allowed to use the Memorial Hall car park. Please also remember that, unless prior permission has been granted, **parents must not use the school carpark / driveway** during these busy times of the day. Thank you for your understanding.



CHRISTMAS EVENTS

The calendar of events for the run-up to Christmas has been finalised and this page of the newsletter features all you need to know:

Christmas Dash & Market

December begins with our annual and much-loved 'Christmas Dash' - and this year we are inviting parents to come and watch the fun! On **Tuesday 5th December**, the field gates will be opened at 1.30pm and the dash will commence at 1.50pm. Pupils can wear their favourite Christmas fancy-dress, pyjamas, santa-costumes, what ever they like! The link to sponsor the Christmas Dash is [here](#), we are aiming to raise £600 for Frowgs.



On the same day, the Frowgs Christmas Mini-Market will be open after-school in the hall, selling crafts made by the children, including woven willow, painted baubles, fir cone trees and candles. Hot chocolates and tasty treats also for sale, all in aid of Frowgs.



Willow/Maple Christmas Production

Our Year R, 1 & 2 children are busy preparing for their performances of our Christmas production, 'Fireside Nativity'. These take place on **Monday 11th December, at 2.00pm and 5.30pm**. An email will be sent to infant parents informing you how to book tickets.

Pantomime

The annual pantomime from M&M productions is on **Tuesday 12th December** and this year it will be 'Beauty & the Beast'. Thanks as ever to Frowgs for providing this treat.

Christmas Lunch, Jumper & Hamper Making Day

Thursday 7th December is sure to be exciting, with pupils invited to wear Christmas jumpers (replacing their school jumpers/cardigans), with a suggested donation of £2.00 for Save the Children. This will also be the day of the school Christmas Lunch (pupils only).

During the afternoon, classes will make their way around school, creating a variety of treats to add to their hand-decorated hamper ready to bring home. Frowgs are requesting a voluntary donation of £4.00 to cover the cost of ingredients and would also love some parent-volunteers to help. Please contact the team via Classlist if you can assist.



HAMPER MAKING AT SCHOOL

OUR LITTLE ELVES WILL BE CRAFTING A DELICIOUS CHRISTMAS HAMPER TO TAKE HOME AFTER OUR FESTIVE LUNCH ON DECEMBER 7TH.

TO HELP US SPREAD SOME SEASONAL CHEER, WE REQUEST A VOLUNTARY DONATION OF £4 PER CHILD TO COVER THE COST OF MATERIALS.

WE ALSO NEED SOME KIND-HEARTED HELPERS TO LEND A HAND!

Christmas End-of Term Church Service

The end-of-term service will take place on the morning of the final day of term, **Friday 15th December, at 9.15am**. On



this day, please take your children directly to St. John's, where they will be registered and can order lunches, etc. Parents are invited (and encouraged) to stay for the service and then take children back to school. There will be a normal school finish time on this date.

Please can we remind parents that the end-of-term service is a whole-school event and **all pupils are expected to attend**.



Parent Survey results

Thank you for completing the recent school survey at the parents evenings, we had a return of 80% of William Gilpin families, making it our most comprehensive survey of parental views since the 2022 Ofsted. A summary of the results is below - it is always extremely helpful to receive feedback and we are considering our next steps in response to the survey.

| Number of surveys completed: 63 (79 families), 80% return-rate | YES | MOSTLY | SOMETIMES | NO |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----|
| 1. Is your child happy at William Gilpin School? | 52 | 12 | 1 | 0 |
| 2. Does your child feel safe at William Gilpin School? | 59 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| 3. Do you think children at William Gilpin are well-behaved? | 35 | 24 | 3 | 2 |
| 4. Do you feel the school makes you aware of what your child is learning during the year? | 50 | 12 | 0 | 1 |
| 5. Do you feel the school makes you aware of how your child is doing? | 40 | 17 | 4 | 3 |
| 6. Do you feel the school has high expectations for your child? | 36 | 18 | 4 | 1 |
| 7. Do you feel there is a good range of subjects available to your child at the school? | 44 | 13 | 2 | 0 |
| 8. Do you feel the school supports your child's wider personal development? | 45 | 14 | 2 | 1 |
| 9. If your child has SEN, do you feel the school gives them the support they need to succeed? | 11 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| 10. Would you recommend William Gilpin School to another parent? | 59 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| | Yes | No - more formal assignments in a book preferred | No - more formal assignments online preferred | |
| Are you happy with the school's current approach to home learning? | 51 | 8 | 3 | |



Music concert

Our usual end-of-term music concert takes place on **Friday 8th December (9am)** in the school hall, during which pupils who have been learning instruments will showcase their talents. Parents are warmly-invited to attend.

St. John's Crib Service

Please see the message below from Vicar Terence about Christmas events at our local churches:

You are warmly invited to St John's Crib service on Christmas Eve. Please assemble through the gate at the back of the church car park at 3pm promptly for a procession to the church where there will be a short service inside. Crowns, wings, robes or any other nativity costume may be worn.

There will also be the very popular carols outside St Mary's Church, South Baddesley at 4.30pm, and of course, appropriate nativity costumes may be worn (over thermals). I have it on good authority that both events will be attended by a donkey.

One Way Ticket

Dita's much-loved adult choir are performing a Christmas concert at St. John's on 10th December, please see below for details (tickets available on the door):



Shared Storytime

Willow & Maple parents are invited to the next 'Shared Storytime' on **Monday 4th December at 2.45pm.**

Children-in-Need

Thank you for your support of Children-in-Need 2023 last Friday, we raised a total of £192.



Celebration

Headteacher's Awards this week went to:

Year R - Katelyn S

KS1 - Sophia M & Maisie F

Beech - Oscar H

Pine - Freddie G

Oak - Elliot C



Top Table

Harry H, Harry M, Otilie T & Megan H (KS1)
Archie B, Arthur M & Leo R (KS2)

Attendance Cup

Whole-school attendance last week was 93.4% (up on last week), and **Beech Class** retained the trophy with an excellent 98%.

House Points

Setley House took the trophy this week, with 222 points.

Diary Dates

| | |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday 27th November - Friday 1st December | ASSESSMENT WEEK |
| Wednesday 29th November | Willow/Maple theatre trip - Stickman |
| Monday 4th December | Willow/Maple 'Shared Storytime' (2.45pm) |
| Tuesday 5th December | Christmas Dash (1.30pm) & Christmas Market (after school) |
| Wednesday 6th December | KS2 theatre trip - Terrible Tudors |
| Thursday 7th December | Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch |
| Friday 8th December | Music Concert (9.00am) |
| Monday 11th December | KS1 Nativity performances (2pm & 5.30pm) |
| Friday 15th December | Church Christmas Service (9.15am) FINAL DAY OF TERM |
| Tuesday 2nd January | INSET Day |
| Wednesday 3rd January | Pupils return for Spring Term |