



# William Gilpin School

## Newsletter

Autumn Term - Number 4 - Friday 25th October 2024



### HEADTEACHER UPDATE

It's been lovely to end this long half-term with so much going on - one of the highlights has certainly been the two tree-planting days at New Park which Willow and Maple Class pupils took part in (see page 2). We also had the Frowgs AGM and parent social, at which we discussed plans for the year ahead (including another exciting Christmas programme) and prioritised areas in which PTA fundraising could enhance the children's school experience. This morning we welcomed parents to another Celebration Worship - do see the diary dates for other opportunities to join us later this term. I hope everyone has a great half-term break, stay safe and we look forward to seeing everybody again on Monday 4th November.

*Simon Croutear*

### Forest School

We've had some great Forest School sessions this month, with one more Forest School day to go this term before we pause for the winter.

On Tuesday 5th November, we are reverting back to **Willow & Maple in the morning slots (different to the previously shared timetable)**, so these pupils need to come to school dressed for Forest School. Beech and Maple pupils to bring their clothes to change into.

We are pleased to share that Mrs Hoogenboom is to become our new Forest School Leader, beginning her training later this academic year. She is being mentored by our current providers and will take on the leadership of Forest School at William Gilpin in the Summer Term, enabling us to be more flexible with sessions and further-tailor it to our class curriculum.



### No Nuts please

A reminder that we continue to have a strict NO NUTS policy in school - this includes peanut butter and cereal bars containing nuts. A pupil in Year R has recently been diagnosed with a severe allergy. Thank you for your support.

### BBC 500 Words competition!

In assembly this week, Mr Croutear challenged William Gilpin pupils to enter the annual BBC 500 words competition. This is open to children aged between 5 and 11 (two categories: 5-7 and 8-11). We looked at what makes a great story and listened to the winning story in the infants category from last year - 'Message in a Bottle'. There are some fantastic prizes on offer (including a trip to Buckingham Palace) - the competition is open for entries now and closes on 8th November. All the information you need is [here](#).



### RSHE policy consultation

Our Relationships, Sex & Health Education policy has been updated and is posted in draft form on the school [website](#). If you have any comments to make during the consultation period, please submit these via the office by 18th November.



## New Park 'Mini Forest' tree-planting

Last summer, the team from New Park held an assembly teaching our pupils what a 'mini-forest' is and inviting them to design a new area of New Park. We had lots of entries from William Gilpin pupils and were delighted to celebrate Ava from Beech Class as one of the winners. On Wednesday & Thursday of this week, Ava chose her friend Arthur to join her and all of the pupils from Willow and Maple classes to take part in a huge tree-planting project, along with pupils from Brockenhurst Primary. Turning the 'mini-forest' designs into reality was a wonderful opportunity for our youngest pupils to take part in, they learnt lots about the 21-varieties of trees being planted, about the native wildlife of the New Forest and - most fun of all - got very muddy as they contributed to the planting of an incredible 1,200 trees over the two days! We are very grateful to the team at New Park who supported and guided the children so well, and it was lovely to hear our Year R group being described as 'the cutest children in Hampshire'!





## INSET Day - reminder

Please remember that the first Friday after the half-term break (8th November) is an INSET day.

## Wear-it-Green for Oakhaven

It was great to see the sea of green clothes today in support of Oakhaven - thank you for your kind donations. The total raised was £103!



## Mode Shift Stars award

We were pleased to receive our Mode Shift Stars 'good travel plan' accreditation, which reflects the work of our Junior Road Safety Officers last year in promoting sustainable travel and increasing awareness of road safety. Our JRSO team for 2024/25 have recently had their training and are looking forward to implementing new initiatives.



### After School Club

Greetings from After School Club,

We have had lots of fun making and baking during the last two weeks. We created a range of lovely button pictures and some amazing Pom Pom cats, bats and a pumpkin! During our cooking sessions we have made our popular cheese and chive scones (very yummy with a bowl of tomato soup mmm!) and some scrumptious apple cakes.



**Polite reminder**  
Please can parents return any After School Club cooking containers so that we can reuse them.  
Many thanks

After half-term we will be making:

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November – Apple Cakes

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Jam Tarts

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance Day Craft

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November – Air Dry Clay

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance Day Craft

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November – Air Dry Clay

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November - Jam Tarts

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November – Sultana Flapjack

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November – Film night with Crisps

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November – Film Night with crisps

After school club is open Monday to Friday 3.10 to 6pm. We offer two session choices: Option 1 from 3.10 to 4.30pm (£6.00) and Option 2 from 3.10 to 6pm (£12.50). After 4.30pm we do activities, such as cooking and craft. Don't forget to book via Scopay or the school office.

Hope you all have a lovely peace-filled half term.

With blessings Mrs Harding



## Personal Best!

This year, we are focusing on 'personal bests' - achieving the very best of something that you have ever done. Teachers can award 'PBs' for anything from a super piece of writing or maths achievement to an accomplishment in a P.E. lesson or piece of artwork. Seventeen pupils from across the school have been awarded a 'PB' this half-term, with the board nearly full!



## Remembrance Day

On Monday 11th November, we will be marking Remembrance Day with a service for Willow, Maple & Beech at school, and Oak Class taking part in a service at Boldre War Memorial Hall. Pupils who attend Brownies / Beavers / Cubs or similar organisations are welcome to wear these uniforms to school on this date.

## Shared Storytime

Our next shared storytime for Willow & Maple is on **Monday 11th November**. Parents are welcome to join the classes from 2.45pm.

## Diary Dates

Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November	<b>HALF-TERM</b>
Friday 8th November	<b>INSET DAY</b>
Monday 11th November	<b>Remembrance Day</b> <b>Willow/Maple shared story time (2.45)</b>
Friday 15th November	<b>Children in Need (non-uniform)</b> <b>Parent Celebration Worship (9.05)</b>
Tuesday 19th November	<b>School photos</b>
Friday 22nd November	<b>Beech Class Bake Sale</b>
Thursday 28th November	<b>OPEN MORNING (9.30)</b>
Friday 29th November	<b>Parent Celebration Worship (9.05)</b>
Wednesday 11th December	<b>Beech Class trip to Tudor House</b>
Thursday 12th December	<b>Christmas lunch &amp; jumper day</b>
Friday 13th December	<b>Christingle Service</b>
Monday 16th December	<b>Nativity performances</b>
Tuesday 17th December	<b>M&amp;M Productions pantomime</b>
Friday 20th December	<b>End-of-term Church Service (9.05am)</b>

## Celebration

Headteacher awards went to:

Willow - Maisie B

Maple - Archie M

Beech - Annie F

Oak - Albie D, Axel H & Jett J



### House Points

Another great week for **Wilverley** house, with 277 house points to secure another victory!

### Top Table

KS1 - Asher D, Noah E-C, George P

KS2 - Evita B, Poppy L & Belle G

### Attendance Cup

Whole-school attendance this week was **96.4%**, which was up on last week, and **Beech Class** took the cup with a brilliant **98.9%**.

### Out of school achievements

We celebrated Archie M's kindness in serving dinner to his granny, Tommy's running medal and Oscar & Oliver's charity walk.