



# William Gilpin School

## Newsletter

Autumn Term - Number 6 - Friday 29th November 2024

### HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Pupils have been working hard on their autumn term assessments this week and we have seen some excellent progress. It was great to meet and tour a large group of prospective new parents yesterday at our most recent open morning - I am always very proud showing people around. As one visitor put it 'there is just such a lovely feel around the school, in every classroom'. Christmas preparations continue to gather pace, with the staging for the nativity due to go up on Monday, followed by the Christmas tree, and we have been focusing on the meaning of advent in worships (see below). The November weather has certainly been memorable, after the very exciting snowfall of last week and another Boldre Bridge flood event on Wednesday, although thankfully nothing like last year's. Have a lovely weekend,

*Simon Croutear*

### Paintpots reading

Our Year 5 pupils have been enjoying visiting Paintpots Nursery every Tuesday to read with the pre-schoolers (many of whom will be their buddies next year). This week it was sunny enough to read outside!



### School Tours

Our most recent Open Morning was very popular and we are happy to continue to offer school tours to prospective new parents. If you know anybody with a September 2025 school starter, or children in other year groups, please do put them in touch with the school office as we have spaces in most year groups.

### Advent Worship

On Tuesday we lit our 2024 advent ring for the first time, learning about the 'hope' candle, sometimes called the Prophet's Candle. As we changed out worship table cloth to purple to mark this special time in the Christian year, we remembered the Latin origin of the word advent as 'adventus', which means 'coming' or 'arrival' and how this links to the nativity. This year, the first Sunday of advent actually falls on 1st December.



### Christmas Postbox

The popular Christmas Postbox returns on Monday - pupils are invited to bring in cards which will be delivered throughout December by Year 6 pupils. Please ensure your child's cards are labelled with a name and class!



### Christingle fundraising

As usual, we will be raising money for the Children's Society as part of our Christingle celebrations. Next week a collection box will be sent home for donations - please return to school before our Christingle Service on 13th December.



## Pupil mobile phone & social media use

Please can we remind parents to be monitoring pupils' use of mobile phones and social media to ensure that it is safe, appropriate and responsible. Whilst we teach the importance of such behaviours through our SCARF curriculum, especially in KS2, it is inevitable that some children may need further support and guidance in making the right choices. Thank you for your support.

## Reporting absence

Please ensure that absence is reported **directly to the school office** (either by phone, email or in-person) so that it is accurately recorded. Whilst staff on the gate / classroom door will endeavour to pass on messages, we do request that parents always inform the office too.

## Dead hedge progress



One of the benefits of so many leaves, sticks and twigs blowing across the field in recent days has been excellent progress with the dead-hedge we are building by Forest School. We've had a regular team of pupils helping to add to it at lunchtimes this week! We are still welcoming donations of any garden cuttings to keep this project going.

### After School Club

Greetings from After School Club,

Last week we started our Christmas Activities in After School Club. We have made sultana flapjack and mincemeat cakes during our cooking sessions. Mincemeat cakes are essentially victoria sponge cake ingredients with mincemeat added. They are delicious, especially served warm with custard!

Craft wise we have made reindeer bells, wooden christmas trees and Gonks and pine cone reindeers. Our favourite activity so far has been hand sewn christmas mice complete with candy canes tails!

Over the next few weeks we will be continuing the christmas theme. Only 4 weeks to the big day! Dare I say Merry Christmas!



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

Mincemeat Cakes Felt candy cane mice

Reindeer Bells, Wooden Trees and Gonks & Pine cone Reindeers

Over the next fortnight we will be making:

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – Christmas Biscuits

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December – Chocolate Crispy Christmas Puds

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December – Baubles

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December – Pom Pom Christmas Puds/Robins

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December – Baubles

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December Pom Pom Christmas Puds/Robins

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December – Chocolate Crispy Christmas Puds

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December – Cheese and Tomato Pinwheels

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December – Film night with Crisps

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December – Film Night with crisps

After school club is open Monday to Friday 3.10 to 6pm. We offer two session choices: Option1 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.

With blessings Mrs Harding



## Snow in Boldre!

It doesn't happen very often, and for lots of our younger children this was their first 'snow at school', so we made the most of last Thursday morning! All classes enjoyed some snowy playtime fun, with a few snowmen possible and of course some snowballs, before it all turned rather icy and slushy by the end of the day!





## Be Bright, Be Seen Day!

As part of their annual road safety campaign, our Junior Road Safety Officers today invited pupils to dress up brightly and raise awareness of the importance of being clearly visible when out and about during the dark winter months. Celebration Worship was certainly awash with colours this morning, as our JRSO team launched a competition to win a bag of road safety goodies.

Next Friday, the JRSOs will be counting the traffic on Pilley Hill during a 15 minute period (8.45 - 9.00). They have challenged pupils to guess the exact number of vehicles. Entry forms are available from teachers and need to be in by Thursday of next week!

The JRSO shop has again proved very popular at playtimes, with pupils snapping up a variety of items, including reflective tags, jackets, flashing lights and water bottles!



**Be Bright,  
Be Seen**



**CHRISTMAS DASH**

Please come along and watch us complete our annual Christmas Dash from 2:30pm on the school field, on December 12th.

Sponsor us at:  
[peoplesfundraising.com/fundraising/WGdash24](http://peoplesfundraising.com/fundraising/WGdash24)

**CHRISTMAS FAMILY BINGO NIGHT**

SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER  
 4:15 TIL 6:30, IN SWAY

TICKETS £6 FOR TICKETS, VISIT:  
 INCLUDES GIFT FROM [tinyurl.com/santaforkids](http://tinyurl.com/santaforkids)  
 SANTA FOR THE KIDS [tinyurl.com/santabingo24](http://tinyurl.com/santabingo24)

ORGANISED BY THE FRIENDS OF WILLIAM GILPIN SCHOOL WITH THE FRIENDS OF TIPTOE SCHOOL

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

15 December 2024 - 4pm

Christmas Music  
 Mince Pies Mulled Wine

Christmas Play  
 and  
 Magical Father Christmas

ST JOHN'S CHURCH,  
 BOLDRE, SO41 5PG

Adults : £12.50 U16 : £6.50

Tickets: <http://www.tinyurl.com/OneWayTicketChristmas2024>

**christmas Mini Market**

December 12th | After School | Selling crafts made by the kids

## Celebration

Headteacher awards went to:

- Willow - Maisie B
- Maple - Gwen K
- Beech - Rosie W
- Oak - Nick B



## House Points

We finally had a victory for Ipley House this week, who beat Setley by just two points! It's been a long wait for Ipley!

## Top Table

- KS1 - Harry C, Harry H & Lillie K
- KS2 - Josh LM, Annie F & Owen

## Attendance Cup

It hasn't been the best week for attendance as winter bugs have struck, with the whole-school at 88.9%. Well done to **Oak Class** who managed 92.2% and took the weekly cup.

## Diary Dates

Wednesday 11th December	Beech Class trip to Tudor House
Thursday 12th December	Christmas lunch, jumper, Santa Dash & Market day
Friday 13th December	Christingle Service
Monday 16th December	Nativity performances (2.00 & 5.30)
Tuesday 17th December	M&M Productions pantomime - Sleeping Beauty
Wednesday 18th December	Frogs Christmas Movie Night
Friday 20th December	End-of-term Church Service (9.05am)
Monday 23rd December - Friday 3rd January	Christmas Holidays
Monday 6th January	First day of term
Friday 14th February	INSET Day
Monday 17th - Friday 21st February	Half-Term