



William Gilpin School

Newsletter

Spring Term - Number 5 - Friday 14th March 2025

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Reflecting on all of the events since the last edition of the newsletter underlines what a busy term this is, with so much going on across the school. It was nice to welcome parents for meetings with the teachers last week and I appreciated so many of you completing the survey which has given us some valuable feedback (see page 2). One of the actions we are taking is a change back to pupils wearing P.E. kits into school from the start of the summer term (see below). We are hopefully over the worst of the recent sickness bug which has affected many pupils (and staff), thank you for adhering to the rule to keep pupils away from school for 48-hours after the last symptoms to prevent further spread - we have been extra diligent with hand-washing and hygiene over the past week. Wishing you all a happy (and healthy) weekend,

Simon Croutear

P.E. kit change—IMPORTANT

Following feedback from parents (and staff), we have decided to ask that pupils once again **wear their P.E. kits to school on their P.E. days from the beginning of the Summer Term.**

We recognise the challenges in pupils changing at school and the need for parents to buy more uniform following the change made last September. One of the key reasons for the change was a deterioration in the standard of P.E. kit which some pupils were wearing. Therefore, it is really important that the **correct P.E. is worn by all pupils.** For indoor P.E., shorts should be black, with a gold t-shirt. For outdoor P.E., pupils should wear dark green or black tracksuit bottoms and a hooded sweatshirt which is either dark green or black. Socks should be white, grey or black. Trainers are required and these should be as plain as possible and a dark colour.

Thank you for your support in ensuring that our pupils always look smart for school. A reminder about P.E. days will be sent out prior to Easter.

Summer staffing

As Willow and Maple class parents are already aware, there will be some staffing changes in the infants this summer. We are sadly saying goodbye to **Miss Thompson** who is leaving at Easter to pursue a new career outside of teaching. The new Willow class teacher for the summer term will be **Miss Bradford**, who we look forward to welcoming to the team.

Mrs Doggett will again be away for a few weeks from late-April after knee surgery, with Maple Class being taught by **Mrs Nicholls** and **Mrs Linsley** in her absence.

Diary Dates

Friday 21st March, 2.30pm	Beech Open Classroom
Sunday 23rd March, 1.30 - 4.00pm	Frowgs 'Crafternoon'
Friday 28th March, 9.05am	Parent Celebration Worship Break the Rules day!
Wednesday 2nd April, 9.05am	Spring Music Concert
Friday 4th April, 9.05am	Easter Church Service FINAL DAY OF TERM (normal closing)
Monday 7th April - Monday 21st April	EASTER HOLIDAYS
Tuesday 22nd April	Summer Term begins
Monday 5th May	Bank Holiday
Thursday 8th May	VE Day Anniversary
Monday 12th - Thursday 15th May	Year 6 SATs week
Monday 26th - Friday 29th May	Half-Term
Tuesday 3rd June	Class photos
Wednesday 4th June	Founders Day
Thursday 19th June	Year 6 trip to Winchester Cathedral
Saturday 21st June	School Fete
Monday 23rd - Wednesday 25th June	Oak Class Calshot residential
Tuesday 8th & Wednesday 9th July	Moving Up days
Friday 18th July	Final day of term



Parent feedback

Over 70% of parents completed the parent survey over the course of last week's parents evenings and the results are summarised below:

Question	Yes	Mostly	Sometimes	No
Is your child happy at William Gilpin School?	61%	34%	5%	0%
Does your child feel safe at William Gilpin School?	90%	10%	0%	0%
Do you think children at William Gilpin School are well-behaved?	37%	63%	0%	0%
Do you feel the school makes you aware of what your child is learning?	71%	27%	2%	0%
Do you feel the school makes you aware of how your child is doing?	49%	46%	5%	0%
Do you feel the school has high expectations for your child?	51%	41%	5%	2%
Do you feel the school supports your child's wider personal development?	66%	27%	7%	0%
If you child has SEN, do you feel that the school gives them the support they need?	33%	33%	33%	0%
Would you recommend William Gilpin School to another parent?	78%	22% (maybe)	n/a	0%
	Yes	No		
Are you happy with the school's current approach to home learning?	84%	16%		
	Worked well	Some challenges	Reverse	
P.E. kit change	20%	20%	64%	

Feedback from parents is very valuable and we will certainly reflect upon those questions which elicited responses which were other than 'yes' and the survey results will also be discussed by governors at the next board meeting.

Autism Ambassador

Mrs Duncalfe has recently been carrying out her 'Autism Ambassador' training and is looking forward to working with pupils in self-advocating and developing 'autism passports'. We want our fantastic autistic pupils to be proud of who they are and help others to understand their strengths and needs. We were so proud recently of a pupil in Oak Class who prepared a presentation for her peers all about ASD.



Gardening ambassadors!

Two of our upper-junior pupils have recently started gardening duties around the school to get our grounds looking fantastic for the spring & summer. They have started by planting up tyres in the Green BEE garden and have also sowed seeds which they are propagating in Oak Class.



Scopay balances

With the end of the financial year soon upon us can we please request that **outstanding Scopay balances are cleared by parents**. The school is not able to carry debt and it is vital that this is done. Thank you for your prompt action.

Barefoot Coaching

All pupils at William Gilpin enjoy Relax Kids from Cindy of Barefoot Coaching and she is offering a special **Mother's Day package** which features a Relax Kids session for children whilst mums enjoy a swim, sauna & steam experience at Elmer's Court! Saturday 29th March, 10.30—12.00 and bookable [here](#).

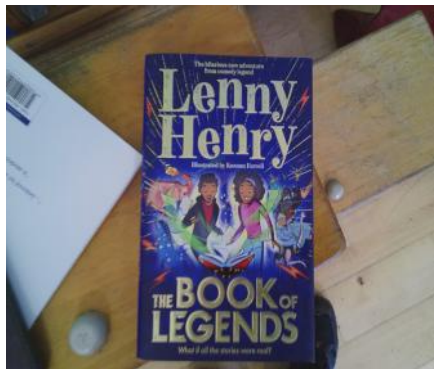


World Book Day!

What a terrific World Book Day last week! We had some amazing animal-inspired costumes (did Cruella catch those Dalmatians...?) and really enjoyed our storytelling workshops and book-swap. Well done to everybody who completed the Frowgs Readathon and collected sponsorship.



William Gilpin World Book Day 2025



Playtime fun





Frowgs events



There are two upcoming Frowgs events later this month - one is an established favourite, the other is something rather different! On **Sunday 23rd March** is the annual 'Crafternoon' in the school hall, from 1.30 - 4.00pm. Let your artists unleash their creativity with a variety of Spring-themed crafts, including Easter and Mother's Day surprises! Suitable for ages 2-12, with bonnets to butterflies, bunnies to bud vases, there is something for everyone. £1.50 per activity or grab a stamp card - 4 for £5. Cakes and drinks will also be available. If you can lend a hand as a volunteer, please contact Frowgs.

Then on **Friday 28th March** we are inviting pupils to 'break the rules' - word has already got out about this and excitement is building! It is 50p to break a rule, or £3.00 to break as many as you want (payment logistics will be confirmed).

THE RULES:

- No bright socks
- No nail varnish
- No soft toys at school ^
- No cushions to sit on
- No donuts at break time*
- No face paints
- No trainers
- No temporary tattoos
- No hats in class



^ Please limit kids to 1 soft toy

*FroWGS will supply donuts, and allergy friendly snacks for those that need them.

Celebration

Weekly Headteacher Awards went to:

Willow - Kit S

Maple - Isla G

Beech - Oliver H

Oak - Sophie S



House Points

Wilverley House took the trophy again this week to further extend their lead.

Attendance Cup

Not the best week for attendance, well done **Maple** for scraping 90%!

Houses of Parliament trip!

We were incredibly proud of Sophie in Year 6 who travelled to London last week with Mrs Hoogenboom and Mel to represent the school and meet MPs to lobby for Climate Change justice. Sophie wrote a compelling application to have this opportunity and enjoyed talking to MPs and other guests about this important topic.





After School Club



Greetings from After school Club,

On Shrove Tuesday we celebrated with homemade pancakes, which included gluten and dairy free versions. There were some interesting combinations of toppings made from lemon juice, golden syrup and chocolate sauce, and lots of empty plates!

During this past fortnight we have made two very popular recipes. The first was Tiffin, made from crushed Digestive Biscuits, Baking Block (dairy free), Caster Sugar, Golden Syrup, Cocco Powder and Milk (and Dairy Free) Chocolate. It is very popular as it can involve a lot of bowl and spoon licking!



Our second popular recipe is Cheese and Chive Scone Bread. It both smells and tastes delicious. It is amazing served with warm tomato soup!



Pencil Pots



Hama Bead Creations



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

Craft wise we have made Pencil Pots and Hama bead animals. The children made cats, dogs, chicks and a crocodile!

This is what we are planning to do over the next fortnight:

Monday 17th March – Fairy cakes with Red Noses

Monday 24th March – Fairy Cakes

Tuesday 18th March – Red Nose Day Craft

Tuesday 25th March – Mother's Day Craft

Wednesday 19th March – Red Nose Day Craft

Wednesday 26th March – Mother's Day Craft

Thursday 20th March – **INSET TWILIGHT TRAINING
(No After School Club)**

Thursday 27th March – Mini Victoria Sponges

Friday 21st March – Film Night with crisps/popcorn

Friday 28th March – Film Night with crisps/popcorn

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 Scopy or the school office.

With blessings *Mrs Harding*