



# William Gilpin School

## Newsletter

Spring Term - Friday 16th January 2026

### HEADTEACHER UPDATE

#### **Courage, Compassion and Community**

In Worship this week, we considered the parallel to be found between Macclesfield Town's defeat of FA Cup Winners Crystal Palace and David's victory over Goliath. We focused on the fact that David did not develop courage in the moment. Indeed, he learned the habit of courage while he was out of the spotlight, looking after sheep, choosing to fight off animal attacks even though nobody was watching and no one was there to be impressed by him. We asked God for the courage that He gave David and we decided to build the habit of courage by attempting difficult challenges and by doing the right thing even when it's hard. David also knew that God thought he was special. Next week, we're going to think about how special we all are.

#### **Celebration of Excellence**

Last week, we celebrated a tremendous start to the new year and welcomed Miss B to our team. This week calls for the celebration of Mrs Nichols and Mrs Duncalfe. On Wednesday, we had a visit from an Early Years specialist who carried out a review of our Early Years provision. Mrs Nichols and Mrs Duncalfe were commended for their knowledge of child development, their passion for the children's learning and their overall expertise and commitment. The Advisor commented that Mrs Nichols and Mrs Duncalfe know the children inside and out and know exactly what each of the children needs next. To capitalise on this talent and passion, Mrs Nichols is going to work with the Advisor to further strengthen the school's Early Years curriculum. Exciting updates coming soon! Please expect to be asked for donations of items to further improve the children's play and learning in school.

#### **Attendance Consultation**

Thank you so much to those of you who have been able to complete the Consultation regarding attendance and punctuality this week. We really value your responses and it has been interesting to notice the trends that are emerging.

#### **The Highlight of my Week!**

The highlight of my week has been teaching Oak Class while Miss Andy attended important training. What a class of polite, knowledgeable young citizens! I thoroughly enjoyed their engagement with the learning, listening to their ideas and getting to know the children more as individuals. That's what William Gilpin seems to be: a community where individuals get to thrive together, as individuals.

I look forward to celebrating more news with you next week.

Dan Genn

### Promises

It is better not to promise anything than to promise something and not do it." Ecclesiastes 5:5, ICB and Isaiah 9.6-7

In Mel's worship, we explored God's promise in Isaiah 9 about the birth of Jesus and how God always keeps His promises, even when people have to wait a long time. We reflected on how it feels to wait, why trust matters, and how this helps us trust God with our own hopes and worries.

### Celebration

Headteacher Awards this week are: :

Willow - Finley N  
Maple- Felix N, Harry H  
Rowan—Meghan H, Benji B  
Oak - Biagio R, Nick B



#### **Attendance Cup**

School attendance was won by **Oak Class** who took the cup this week.



# William Gilpin CE Primary School

## Your school needs you!

The staff in this school work so hard and are so committed to making each day special and full of learning. However, sometimes, staff would be able to focus even more on learning if there were more adults in school able to staff lunchtimes more simply. If you're interested and available for this voluntary role, please see contact the school office for an application form.

## Morning Club—coming soon!

In response to your initial comments in the Attendance Consultation, we are planning to launch a 'Morning Club' to support children who sometimes struggle to come to school or who need something very concrete to look forward to. This will run from 8.40 - 9.55. Its purpose will be to help children start their days well and in no way will it replace Breakfast Club. While there will be some flexibility, places will be limited. More details to follow.

## New Lunch Menu

Thank you to Darren and Amy, our cooks, who have been working incredibly hard this term to provide the new menu options for the children. This has presented several challenges for them, but they have kept going with smiles on their faces! When we have completed the first three week cycle we will ask the children for feedback on the new menu.

## RSPB Bird Watch



Be wowed by your local wildlife! The Big Garden Birdwatch is for everyone, whether you're a complete beginner or a birding expert. If you would like to take part with your family, all you need to do is count the birds that you see in your garden or in your local park for one hour between 23 and 25 January. To take part please sign up on the RSPB webpage <https://www.rspb.org.uk/>

## Thank you FROWGS!

The Santa Run went ahead! Thank you so much to FROWGS for organising such a fun event. I thought that placing the decorations on the trees was best challenge but I am told by the children that throwing the balls in the bucket was the best part - I stand corrected. And let's not skirt past the quality of the hot chocolate: cream and marshmallows on a school event—hot chocolate? That's platinum standard. Roll on the next event!

## African Drumming Workshop

Next Friday, 23rd January, the children will be taking part in African drumming, dance and story activities, courtesy of Frowgs. **At 2.40pm, there will be a performance to parents in the hall—do come along and see what the children will have learnt during the day!** It proves to be a lot of fun!



## Diary Dates

### JANUARY

Friday 23rd Drumming Workshop day courtesy of FROWGS  
**Performance to parents at 2.40pm**

Friday 30th 9.05am Parent Worship

### FEBRUARY

Monday 16th– Friday 20th HALF TERM

Monday 23rd INSET DAY

Friday 27th 9.05am Parent Worship

### MARCH

Thursday 26th 9.00am School Easter end of term service at St John's Church

Friday 30th INSET DAY

Monday 30th March—Friday 10th April  
**EASTER HOLIDAYS**

## Online Safety - Roblox

How can I keep my child safe when they are 'gaming' online?

Roblox is used by children from a very young age, with a large number of players aged around 8 - 12. There is no fixed minimum age to play and children often share games and social spaces with much older users. This mix of ages, combined with user-generated content and social features such as chat and voice chat, means children's experiences can vary widely. In light of this, one way that you can monitor what your child is doing is to gain an insight into what your child is actually seeing, doing, or who they are interacting with.



Helpful lines of curiosity include:

- What games are they accessing, and are they age-appropriate?
- Is chat enabled, and who can message them?
- Have they come across anything violent, hateful or worrying?
- Are they using private servers or public spaces?
- Are parental controls or age settings in place and actively used?
- Do you feel confident to manage the platform?
- Disclosures of concerning content on Roblox should be treated as safeguarding issues, not just IT problems, and may relate to online safety, digital resilience or Prevent duties. The goal is curiosity, not panic.

We want to help children talk openly about what they encounter and support you.

What helps most in practice includes:

- Regular, interested conversations about what children enjoy playing, who they play with, and what they notice online.
- Adults showing curiosity, including watching or playing alongside children, so games are not treated as a secret or separate world.
- A clear understanding of personal information, including why chats should stay about the game and when to tell an adult.
- Agreed rules around spending, with children knowing when real money is involved and when permission is needed.
- Reassurance that worries should be shared, including exposure to upsetting content, mean behaviour or hate-based language.
- Confidence using block and report tools, so concerns can be addressed calmly and practically.
- Active use of safety settings, including age-appropriate controls, chat restrictions and parent account oversight.

More information can be found here: <https://corp.roblox.com/safety-by-age>



# Should I keep my child off school?

## Yes

### Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

## No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

### Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for **health protection in schools** or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.

# SEAGULLS

SWIMMING CLUB



Come join the fun  
**swimming**  
sessions for everyone

Junior and Development



Competitive



Seagulls competitive swimming club run classes for all ages. Based in Christchurch, we are a friendly club which has a long history of national, regional and county level swimmers.



Masters



Artistic

**Build Skills,  
Confidence &  
Character**

**Make friends  
Win medals**

 [www.seagullsswimming.club](http://www.seagullsswimming.club)

 Email

[membership@seagullsswimming.club](mailto:membership@seagullsswimming.club)

[secretary@seagullsswimming.club](mailto:secretary@seagullsswimming.club)

### Timings

Morning, Evening and Weekend sessions available.

Full timetable on website.



**SEAGULLS**  
SWIMMING CLUB