



# William Gilpin School

## Newsletter

Spring Term - Friday 30th January 2026

### HEADTEACHER UPDATE

#### Courage, Compassion and Community

In Worship this week, we looked at some unique masterpieces: from Van Gough's *Starry Night* to Picasso's *Weeping Woman*. We said that sometimes, people can make something that is marvellously unique, incredibly valuable and like nothing anyone has ever seen before - a true masterpiece. Then, we celebrated some masterpieces that have been fashioned by our very own.



Kit, Sasha, Nerin and Tipi had each taken some materials and made a masterpiece. After celebrating each creation, we then considered the fact that this is exactly what God did with us - we are unique, valuable masterpieces like nothing ever seen before.

We thanked God for making us into magnificent masterpieces and asked Him to help us enjoy being living masterpieces. Next week, we're going to consider what it means to be fearfully and wonderfully made.

#### The highlight of my week

This week's highlight has been to see the Year 5 and 6 children revolutionise their reading fluency. Miss Andy and I have been introducing an approach to reading that has proven to be highly successful in other schools. The approach focuses on removing barriers to comprehension by giving background knowledge, vocabulary knowledge and by modelling how to read with fluency. Reading with fluency supports the brain to understand what is being read and we want to form a fluent inner reading voice. This involves prioritising actually reading, out loud, together. At the start of the week, the children were somewhat timid, reserved and hesitant. A normal response. However, after three sessions, they were like different children: confident, bold, powerful, willing and informed. Their expression became consistent and varied. They read in phrases and appropriate chunks. They read smoothly and accurately without hesitations. Wow. Let's go Year 5 and 6 - every minute counts! And every minute spent reading counts even more! You can see the approach we use on page 3!

Thank you for all of your support and I look forward to celebrating with you next week.

Dan Genn  
Interim Headteacher

### Morning Club - starting next week!



We have invited a handful of children to join our new morning club where there will get to play games before heading to class in time to be ready for learning. We'll let you know how it goes!

### Celebration

Headteacher Awards this week are:

Willow - Bodie H  
Maple - Isabelle W & Olly K  
Rowan - William R & Rosie W  
Oak - Arthur M & Nick B



#### Attendance Cup

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



# William Gilpin CE Primary School

## Hampshire Parent and Carers Network

HPCN's annual SEND survey is now open, and this year it really matters. Every response is anonymous.

The data does not sit on a shelf. It is fed directly into the combined self improvement form used by Hampshire County Council and Hampshire and Isle of Wight ICB. At the same time, national SEND reforms are coming. If parent, carer and young people's experiences are not clearly recorded, they risk being missed.

The survey covers what is working, what is not, and where change is needed. Honest answers help HPCN challenge poor practice and support good practice. This is one of the strongest tools the forum has to hold the system to account.

As a thank you for taking part, everyone who completes the survey can enter a prize draw:

- 1st prize £150
- 2nd prize £100
- 3rd prize £50



The link is here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HPCN2026>



Paintpots have a few places left in the pre-school for children aged 2+. They offer term time provision from 8am – 4pm daily. If you are interested please contact them on:

01590 674207

[boldre@paintpotsnursery.co.uk](mailto:boldre@paintpotsnursery.co.uk)

## February Half Term at St Barbe



Mon 16 February

### St Barbe Out and About - FREE Family Activity

Ages 3+ | Drop-in 11-12:30 | Free | Pennington

We've popped over to Pennington to bring you some family fun activities inspired by our Kurt Jackson - Lymington River exhibition. Find us at St Mark's Community Hall, Pennington SO41 8EJ

Tue 17 February

### Splatter Art

Ages 8+ | 10am-12noon | £8 | Limited places | Adult supervision required for under 13s | Book via website

Have a go at painting like Kurt Jackson, using different mediums and techniques. Dress for mess!

Wed 18 February

### St Barbe Out and About - FREE Family Activity

Ages 3+ | Drop-in 11-12:30 | Free | Sway

We've skipped over to Sway to bring you some family fun activities inspired by our Kurt Jackson - Lymington River exhibition. Find us at Sway Village Hall SO41 6BB

Thurs 19 February

### Go with the Flow

Ages 3+ | 2 sessions: 10:30-12:30 and 1:30-3:30pm | Free Drop-in

River themed crafts inspired by our Kurt Jackson - Lymington River exhibition.



[www.stbarbe-museum.org.uk](http://www.stbarbe-museum.org.uk)  
registered charity no 1018779

## Diary Dates

### FEBRUARY

Friday 13th Maple Class Cake Sale

Monday 16th– Friday 20th HALF TERM

Monday 23rd INSET DAY

Friday 27th 9.05am Parent Worship

### MARCH

Thursday 5th World Book Day

Friday 6th Willow Class Cake Sale  
7.00 Candle Painting Craft evening (age 12+) Sway Church Rooms

Saturday 14th Crafternoon—details to follow

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

Friday 27th INSET DAY

Monday 30th March—Friday 10th April  
EASTER HOLIDAYS

### APRIL

Monday 13th First day of Summer Term—  
Welcome Mrs Cox



 <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Expression</u> Watch your volume and tone. Be confident and natural!</p>			
1	2	3	4
There's not much expression.	There's some variation and some confidence.	Expression is more consistent and varied.  Reading generally sounds quite natural.	Expression is consistent and varied.  Reading sounds natural and confident.

 <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Automatic Word Recognition</u> Read effortlessly and at a good pace!</p>			
1	2	3	4
A few words are read automatically at a very slow pace.	Some words are read automatically. Reading is sometimes slow.	Most words are read automatically at a consistent pace.	Words are read automatically, effortlessly and at a good pace.

 <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Rhythm and Phrasing</u> Go phrase by phrase. Pay attention to punctuation. Be easy on the ear!</p>			
1	2	3	4
Reading is choppy with a word by word manner.  Intonation is 'off' when punctuation and text clues are used.	Reads in short, choppy phrases  Intonation is inconsistent.	Reads with some choppiness but in phrases or chunks  Mostly pays attention to intonation and follows punctuation and text clues	Reads in phrases or chunks and pays attention to intonation  Uses punctuation and text clues

 <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Smoothness</u> Sound smooth. Go with the flow. Fix mistakes!</p>			
1	2	3	4
Frequently struggles to read words  Hesitates a lot	Struggles to read some words accurately and smoothly  Hesitations interfere with flow	Reads most words smoothly and accurately  Hesitates sometimes	Reads words smoothly and accurately with few hesitations

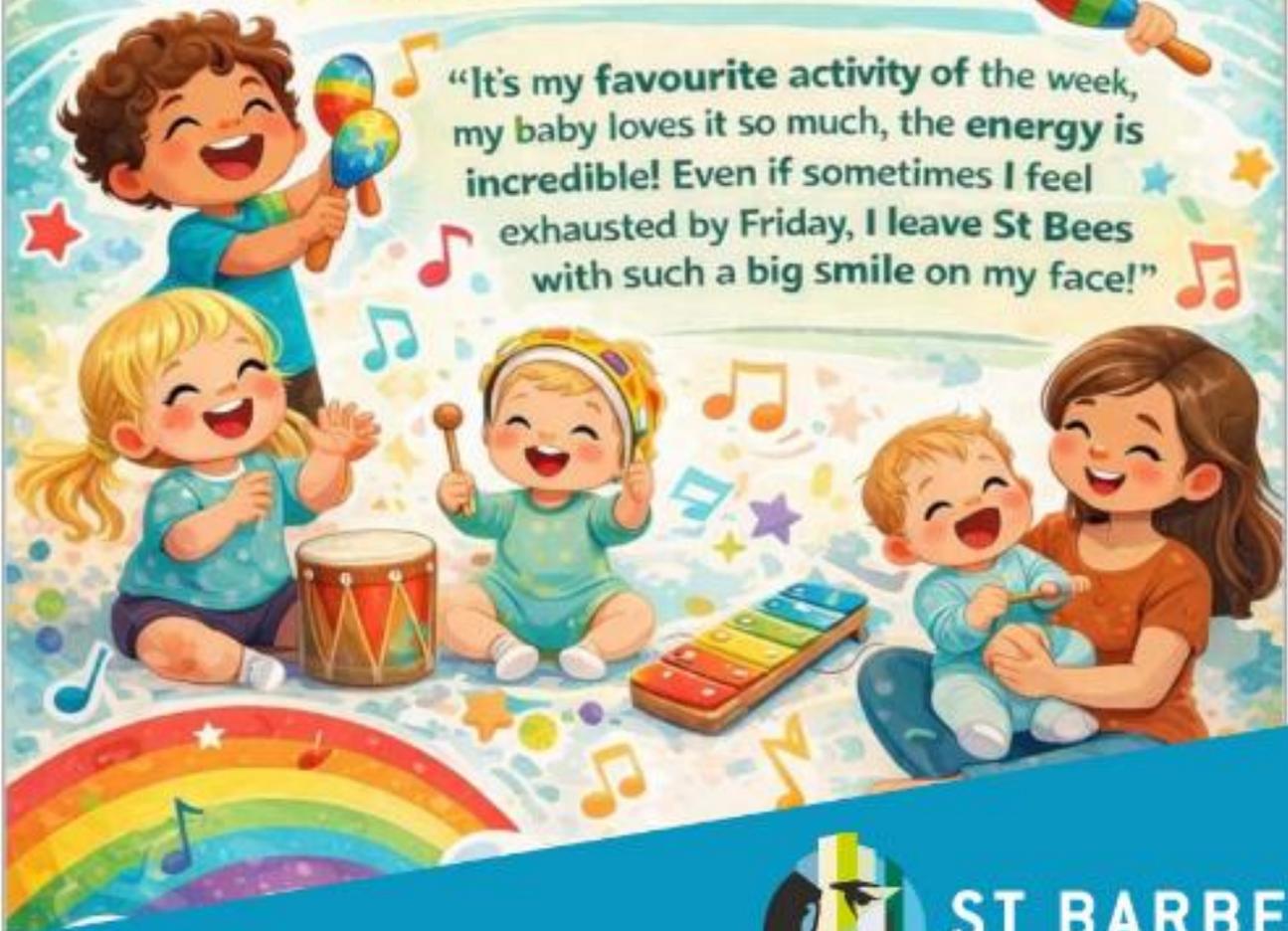
# St Bees MUSICAL ADVENTURES

Weekly fun in the Museum for under 5s!

Take your child on a musical journey  
inspired by our exhibitions and displays.

Fridays 10–11am (term time only)  
£6 per child / £4 per sibling

“It’s my favourite activity of the week,  
my baby loves it so much, the energy is  
incredible! Even if sometimes I feel  
exhausted by Friday, I leave St Bees  
with such a big smile on my face!”



Prebook via our website  
registered charity no 1018779



ST BARBE  
MUSEUM+ART GALLERY

# February Half Term

## Venue:

Gang Warily Recreation Centre SO45 IGA

## Date:

Mon 16th Feb - Fri 20th Feb

## Time:

8:30am - 5:00pm

## Ages

5 - 11

**BOUNCY CASTLE**

on Fri

**NERF**

on Weds

**Kidz  
Super  
Sportz**

## COST

Early Bird: £25.00 per day  
£100.00 Full week

Normal Price: £27.50 per day  
£110 Full week

Early Bird ends Monday 9th Feb



Email: [kidzsupersportz@aol.co.uk](mailto:kidzsupersportz@aol.co.uk)  
[www.kidzsupersportz.co.uk](http://www.kidzsupersportz.co.uk)



# February Half Term

## SPORTS TO INCLUDE:

Dodgeball | Capture The Flag | Soft Archery  
Razor Carts | Athletics | Benchball | Football  
Kwik Cricket | Tennis | Basketball | Uni-hoc  
Ultimate Frisbee | Nerf Wars | Badminton  
Plus Many Other Fun Games!

Payment - Bank transfer, payments made to:

*Kidz Supersportz, Lloyds Bank*

*ACC Numb 02467994 S/C 30-98-73 Ref: your child*

For details of all our courses and activities  
please contact us

**Tel: 023 8000 0448 or 07748 688 881**

**Email: [kidzsupersportz@aol.co.uk](mailto:kidzsupersportz@aol.co.uk)**

**[www.kidzsupersportz.co.uk](http://www.kidzsupersportz.co.uk)**

