



William Gilpin School

Newsletter

Spring Term - Friday 23rd January 2026

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Courage, Compassion and Community

In Worship this week, we thought about the things we think about most. It turns out that the children think about donuts, their favourite toys and cute animals a lot more than they think about mud on their shoe or a grey sock. We established that we think about things that are important to us and are special to us. Then we thought about how small one grain of sand is and just how many grains of sand there are in the world before considering the fact that God thinks about us more times than there are grains of sand in the world. So we must be more like a donut or a special toy than a grey sock! We thanked God for thinking that we're really special and asked Him to help us understand how special we all are. Next week, we're going to consider what it means to be God's masterpiece.

Thank you FROWGS...again!!

They've done it again! Another FROWGS success! This Friday, every child in school enjoyed a tremendous African Drumming session. The beat was strong! The excitement tangible! And the children enjoyed a truly memorable experience. Thank you FROWGS - having you as our champions makes the children's time at William Gilpin even better.

The highlight of my week

The highlight of my week has been seeing the children rush into school each morning beaming with smiles and energy. In particular, there was one morning where two girls, who came into school through different gates, saw each other, changed path to greet each other, hugged without saying a word and then walked into school together, centred, grounded, comfortable and confident. William Gilpin is a place of belonging. It's a place of comfort where children are challenged to thrive. It's a home from home where children are prepared for the world.



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

Dan Genn
Interim Headteacher

Choices

This week in Mel's worship, we started our new mini series on the Book of Daniel, where we explored Daniel's choice to eat food that honoured God and how his everyday decisions helped him shine like a star. We reflected on how our own choices, guided by our school values and God's help, can help us shine through our actions each day.

Celebration

Headteacher Awards this week are:

Willow - Ellie P
Maple - Lillie-Rose K, Sasha M
Rowan - Red H, Annie F
Oak - Ava D, Ashwin D



Attendance Cup

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



Morning Club—coming soon!

In response to feedback received from parents through a consultation regarding attendance and punctuality, we're going to launch a 'Morning Club'.

Leo and Crom interviewed Mr Genn to find out more - have a read!

Crom: What is Morning Club?

Mr Genn: It's a fun place where some children can start their day so that the rest of their day is really successful.

Leo: What do you do there?

Mr Genn: Play games and talk. It's not Breakfast Club. It's different. It's a fun place to start the day.

Crom: Who runs it?

Mr Genn: At the moment, the plan is for Mrs Totczyc to run it some days and Mrs Hoogenboom to run it other days.

Leo: What is it for?

Mr Genn: We want everyone to be in school, happy and learning lots and lots. This is to help some children get into school a bit earlier.

Crom: Who can go?

Mr Genn: At first, it's going to be something I invite people to. Then we'll see how it goes.

Mr Genn: Do you think it's a good idea?

Crom: Yes because it is fun and it will encourage people to come into school and they'll get to learn more.

Leo: Yes. It might help people to get out of bed straight away.

Celebrating New Friends!

This week we welcomed Sasha and Viktoriia to Maple class. We look forward to getting to know them better in the coming weeks although they have already become well established members of the William Gilpin family!



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

Talking to your child about AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is becoming a regular part of children's online experiences. From chatbots and homework apps to creative tools, AI can offer exciting opportunities for learning and play.

But it also brings risks, especially when children aren't sure what's real, who they're talking to, or how AI works.

Many parents and carers feel unsure about how to explain AI to children. The guide in the link below offers practical advice to help families talk about AI in ways that build understanding, encourage curiosity, and keep children safe.

[Talking to children about AI | NSPCC](#)

Diary Dates

JANUARY

Friday 30th 9.05am Parent Worship

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



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>.

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HALF TERM AT NEW FOREST ACADEMY OF DANCE

CREATIVE HOLIDAY DANCE WORKSHOPS YOUR CHILD WILL LOVE

SPELLBOUND:

Magic-Inspired

Dance Day

17/02/26

09:00-15:30

SWIFTIES:

Taylor-Inspired

Dance Day

18/02/26

09:00-15:30

What to expect:

- No experience needed
- Open to all in Years R-6
- Dancing, music, crafts and fun!
- Friendly, inclusive environment
- End-of-day sharing
- £40 pp



NEW FOREST
ACADEMY OF DANCE

