



William Gilpin School

Newsletter

Spring Term - Friday 30th January 2026

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Courage, Compassion and Community

In Worship this week, I gave pairs of children challenges. Using playdough, they had one minute to respond to a challenge. One pair had to make a log. Another pair had to make an octopus. Yet another pair has to make a tower. Miss B and Miss Andy both excelled at making a car! The models were all fantastic and it was a lot of fun.

We pointed out how much fun the game was, that there were no winners or losers and it certainly wasn't the last time that anyone would get to make something out of playdough. Then, we considered how different it would be if we only had one chance to make something out of playdough ever again. The children reflected and shared great ideas. For example, Leo said that we'd take extra care and make sure it was something really special.

Then, we said that this is exactly what happened when God made us. God only had one chance to make each of us, He didn't make any mistakes and we are each handcrafted, masterpieces that are fearfully and wonderfully made.

We thanked God for making us so carefully and perfectly and asked for help to celebrate being exactly the way we are. Next week, we're going to consider what it means to celebrate our gifts and the things that make us unique.

The highlight of my week

This week's highlight was when I spent some time in Maple Class as they were finishing a History lesson learning about the Titanic. The children knew so much! It was wonderful to see the children so engaged, so excited and so connected with deep thinking. Sometimes children latch on to interesting facts but miss the depth that is available in the learning. Not Maple Class! They could talk to their partners enthusiastically about the reasons for the collision, why it was surprising and about the different roles played during the event. Best of all, they could tell me about the different sources we can use to learn about the past. Well done Maple Class for being deep thinkers.



Dan Genn

Morning Club—What a hit!

Morning Club started this week and it has been very successful. I look forward to my first coffee of the day (and the second and third one..) and it's been wonderful to see children getting to start their day enjoying something playful and then feeling ready to learn.

Celebration

Headteacher Awards this week are:

Willow - Issy B
Maple— Lou G, Eric HC
Rowan— Sophia M, Alyssa B
Oak - Ava D, Bertie B

Attendance Cup

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





Safer Internet Day 2026 - Tuesday 10th February 2026

Safer Internet Day is a global awareness day that encourages children, young people and adults to think carefully about how we use the online world and digital technology. It's a useful annual prompt to refresh conversations about online safety, wellbeing and responsible digital behaviour.



Theme for 2026:
Smart tech, safe choices – exploring the safe and responsible use of AI.

This year's focus reflects how quickly AI and smart technologies are becoming part of children's everyday online experiences. The emphasis is on helping young people develop confidence, critical thinking and good judgement when using digital tools, rather than fear or restriction.

For schools, Safer Internet Day is an opportunity to:

- ◆ reinforce existing online safety messages
- ◆ encourage open, age-appropriate conversations about AI and digital decision-making
- ◆ remind staff and families that online safety is an ongoing safeguarding responsibility, not a one-off lesson

◆ Top tips for parents and carers

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026/top-tips-for-parents-and-carers>

Top tips for children and young people

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026/top-tips-for-young-people>

You can find more information here:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026>

How safe is your child's sport club?

Keeping
Your Child Safe
in Sport

5 questions you should be asking

1 Have the staff been checked?

The club should have a safe recruitment process for staff and volunteers. They should be able to tell you what's involved.

2 Does the club have a safeguarding policy?

The answer should be yes. It should be available for you to read, ideally on their website.

3 What happens if there's an accident?

Ask the club if they have a first aider. They should also have your contact details in case of an emergency.

4 Who can you talk to?

All clubs should have a person responsible for safeguarding. They should let you know who they are and how to contact them.

5 What training is there?

Your club can tell you what level of training their coaches have. Everyone should have safeguarding awareness or training.

For more information on how to keep your child safe in sport, visit the cpsu.org.uk/parents

NSPCC

Diary Dates

FEBRUARY

Friday 13th Maple Class Cake Sale

Monday 16th– Friday 20th HALF TERM

Monday 23rd INSET DAY

MARCH

Thursday 5th World Book Day

Friday 6th 9.05am Parent Worship
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

CANDLE PAINTING

Craft Evening

FRIDAY 13 MARCH 2026
SWAY CHURCH ROOMS
AT 7PM

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE

[TINYURL.COM/CANDLES26](https://tinyurl.com/candles26)



THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO SAFELY TRANSPORTING CHILDREN

CAR SEAT

SMARTER



SEAT TYPES EXPLAINED

Essential seat
maintenance tips

Top tips to keep
children safe
on every
journey

PLUS!

BUYING

How to pick the
right seat for
your needs

FITTING

Make sure your
seats are installed
correctly

THE LAW

All of the rules
and regulations
explained



In association with



Skate

New Forest

Roller Disco

SATURDAY 7th FEBRUARY

@ WALHAMPTON SCHOOL

5-7pm

@skatenewforest

TICKETS: <https://roller-disco-walhampton-feb-2026.eventbrite.co.uk>





Hampshire
County Council

Library Service

Bear Hunt Adventure

Thursday 19 February, 2.45pm

Lymington Library



Join us for a Bear Hunt inspired afternoon
with nature stamps, a fun trail
and a chance to act out the story!

Parent/Carers must stay with children under 9.

£1.00 per child. No need to book just turn up.

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

registered charity no 1018779





Hampshire
County Council

Library Service

Inspired by The Tiger Who Came to Tea Thursday 5 March, 3.15-4.30pm At Lymington Library



Join us for a 'Tiger Who Came to Tea' inspired afternoon with a Tiger craft, a fun trail and a Tiger of a story time!

Parent/Carers must stay with children under 9.

£1.00 per child for the craft activity. No need to book just turn up.