



William Gilpin School

Newsletter

Spring Term - Friday 13th February 2026

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Courage, Compassion and Community

In Worship this week, we returned to playdough challenges. This time, contestants could choose from a range of options. Making a snake was a popular choice among the children. Adults seemed more drawn towards making ice-cream or a bridge.

After each round of making, we celebrated each creation, pointed out that each one was great and that there was no way to judge that someone's snake was 'better' than another person's spider. Each model was fabulous and should be celebrated.

Then, we said that this is also true for us. Each of us has individual interests and strengths and gifts and there is no way to say that anyone is 'better' than anyone else.

We thanked God for giving us gifts and strengths and interests and asked for help to enjoy the gifts, strengths and interests that we have. Next time, we're going to consider what it means to make the most of our gifts.

Something is happening... This week's highlight has been getting to see so many children in school, on time, learning. Over the last 7 days, whole school attendance has been 94.7% which is two percentage points higher than the average for the year and is ever so slightly above the national average so far this year which is 94.6%. That's fantastic! But that's not all: over the last 7 days, the number of children arriving late has been 1/3 of the average for the year. Having more children in school, on time means more learning and more achieving and more opportunities and choices for the children in the long term. A huge thank you to families for helping your children to form habits that set them up for life and a huge thank you to everyone in school for creating a safe place where children want to come and learn. You will receive a copy of your child's attendance for the year to date by email shortly.

What else could happen? We've seen that, through partnership, we can improve children's attendance. So what's next? On Friday 6th March, parents are invited to join our morning celebration assembly. I would like to invite you to stay on afterwards to enjoy some cake and to talk. Additionally, I would like to encourage parents to make an appointment to see me in the first two weeks of next half term to raise any concerns or challenges with me so that we can work together to further improve to the children's experience of school. Let's leave no stone unturned. If there's something you've wanted to talk about, now's the time.

Thank you for all of your support during this half term. I look forward to celebrating next half term's successes with you.

Dan Genn
Interim Headteacher

Celebration



Headteacher Awards this week are:

Willow - Rafe H
Maple - Kit S & Harry H
Rowan - Harry G & Harry M
Oak - Ev W & Axel H

Attendance Cup

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



William Gilpin CE Primary School

Gymnastics club—coming soon!

A gymnastics club for children in year R to year 6 will start on Wednesday 4th March. A link will be sent out after half term for parents to sign children up directly with the provider. Watch out for the email!



School uniform

We are proud of our school uniform which we wear to promote equality, enhance safety, and foster a sense of belonging and school pride,

We have noticed that some children are wearing non uniform items to school, in particular long sleeved tops under the gold polo shirt. These are not allowed.

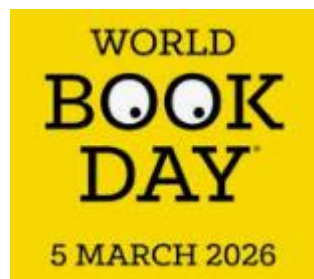
Full details of the uniform can be found on the website, link below:

[William Gilpin uniform](#)

WORLD BOOK DAY

Our theme this World Book Day is Design, Build, Discover

Please send the children to school on Please send the children to school on **March 5th** dressed up as their favourite book character/author or in their PJs ready for a fun day of activities. We look forward to seeing a wide variety of comfortable dress up and comfy pyjamas!



Don't forget to ask friends and family to sponsor the children - sponsorship helps us to cover the cost of the days activities and materials, as well as contributing to our longer term fundraising goals.

<https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/fundraising/readathon26fundraising/readathon26>

Lunch Menu on return

Please note that the lunch menu on return will be week 2!

Diary Dates

FEBRUARY

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

Outstanding payments

As we approach the end of the financial year please could we request that you log onto your scopay account and clear any outstanding balances for lunches, breakfast and after school clubs, music lessons and trips.



After School Club

Greetings from After School Club!

Since our last newsletter, After School Club has been busy crafting and cooking. We have made some amazing junk modelling items, Hama beads, button pictures, felt purses and bead keychains and bracelets.



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

During our cooking sessions we have made Cheese and Chive Scones, Cheese and tomato pinwheels, Tiffin (chocolate biscuit cake) and 100's and 1000's cakes.



For Valentines Day we made Chocolate, popcorn and marshmallow love hearts and Chocolate 'Sweetheart' cakes. The children really loved make both of these, especially the bowl licking afterwards!



This is what we are planning to do during the first two weeks after half term:

Week 1

Monday 23rd February – INSET DAY NO ASC

Tuesday 24th February – Chinese New Year Craft

Wednesday 25th February – Chinese New Year Craft

Thursday 26th February – Vegetable Spring Rolls

Friday 27th February – Film Night with crisps/popcorn

Week 2

Monday 2nd March – Sprinkle Cakes

Tuesday 3rd March – Decorated Stones

Wednesday 4th March – Decorated Stones

Thursday 5th March– Cheese straws

Friday 6th March - Film Night with crisps/popcorn

After school club is open Monday to Friday 3.10 to 6pm. We offer two session choices: Option1 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 Scopay or the school office.

Wishing you all a peace filled and fun half term.

With blessings

Mrs Harding x

WORLD BOOK DAY

AT WILLIAM GILPIN

Our theme this World Book Day is **Design, Build, Discover**

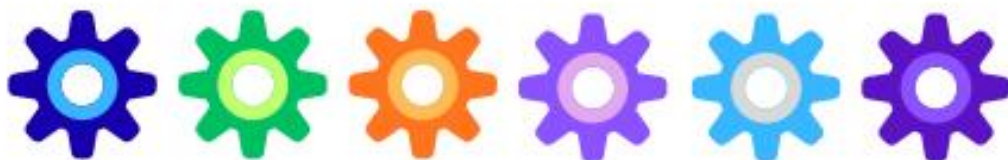
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Don't forget to ask friends and family to sponsor the children - sponsorship helps us to cover the cost of the days activities and materials, as well as contributing to our longer term fundraising goals.

<https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/fundraising/readathon26>



Can you complete all of these challenges?



Tag Friends of WGS in a photo of a challenge in action on Facebook or Insta to be entered for a chance to win a prize!

Don't forgot to bring a book or two for the book swap and to dress up or come in your PJs on March 5th

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

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seats are installed
correctly

THE LAW

All of the rules
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explained



In association with





Hampshire
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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.