



11th September 2026

Courage, Compassion, Community

Headteachers Update

It has been wonderful to see the school full of children again this week and to watch everyone settle so positively into the new term. Our new teachers are already becoming part of the William Gilpin community and there has been a real sense of purpose, warmth and optimism around the school.

At the start of a new school year, there is always an important opportunity to think not only about what we want children to learn, but also about the kind of people we want to help them become and the kind of school in which we want them to grow. At William Gilpin, we want children to feel safe, known and valued, but also challenged to be courageous, compassionate and increasingly independent. We want our school to be a place where children learn that their choices matter, that kindness has an impact and that being part of a community brings responsibilities as well as belonging.

This week we have been re-establishing our expectations through our three school values of Courage, Compassion and Community. These values are not simply words for displays or assemblies. We want them to be visible in the way children learn, play, speak to one another and care for their school. Alongside this, we are developing our pastoral provision. We have started to introduce the children to My Happy Mind, an NHS backed programme designed to help children understand their brains, emotions, relationships and wellbeing. There will be much more information about this over the coming weeks, including access to a parent portal so that families can understand and reinforce the learning at home.

We are also revitalising our House Point system. We want House Points to recognise children's positive choices and contributions consistently and fairly across the school. A new digital recording system will help us to achieve this and allow us to celebrate successes more effectively. Our new year 6 House Captains will be announced next week and will have an important role in building House identity and encouraging participation across the school. Thank you to those children who spoke in assembly this week to explain why they would make a good captain.

Much of the work behind the scenes is equally important. During our INSET days, staff undertook safeguarding and allergy awareness training and worked together on our revised behaviour approach. Importantly, we also spent time considering a deceptively simple question: How do we want our school to feel? Creating a calm, purposeful, joyful school does not happen by accident. It comes from adults having shared expectations, using consistent approaches and working together to provide children with the security and challenge they need to thrive.

Our school improvement journey continues at pace. This week we have worked with a Hampshire mathematics adviser as we develop and enrich our maths curriculum, while staff in Acorns have undertaken refresher Read Write Inc. training to strengthen the teaching of early reading and phonics. These are important pieces of a much bigger picture as we continue to raise expectations and improve the quality and consistency of teaching across the school.

I hope many of you will join us for our Curriculum Meeting on 15 September. We will begin in the hall at 3.30pm, before giving you the opportunity to hear more about your child's learning and to look around the school. After School Club will be available free of charge for children whose parents are attending the meetings.

Thank you, as always, for your support. There is a great deal happening at William Gilpin, but what matters most is that all of these developments lead back to the same purpose: giving our children an excellent education within a school community in which they can belong, flourish and become the very best version of themselves.

Elizabeth Cox
Headteacher



Headteacher Awards



In Acorn Class, Milo and Isabelle received headteachers awards for showing our COURAGE and COMMUNITY values



In Saplings Class, Olly and Rueben received headteachers awards for showing our COURAGE and COMPASSION values



In Oak Class, Oliver and Alyssa received headteachers awards for showing our COMPASSION and COMMUNITY values

The Attendance Cup was won by Acorns this week, with 96% - just pipping Saplings to the post with 95% attendance



schooloffice@williamgilpin.hants.sch.uk



01590 673460



Acorns

Maps, maps, maps! This week we have begun our writing journey around maps and the children have loved it! We have started discussing our journeys to school and had a go at drawing, creating and talking about different types of maps through writing, building, creating and focusing on using labels.

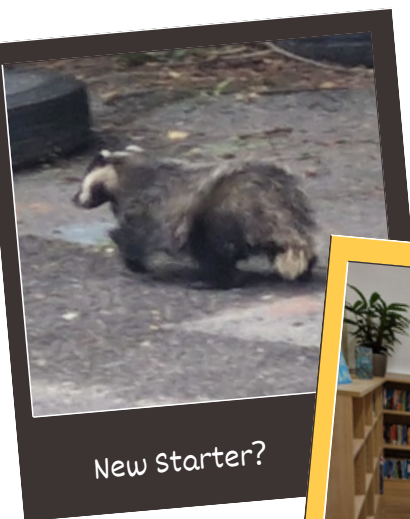
Saplings

What an amazing first full week back for Saplings! The children have settled brilliantly into their new routines and embraced their learning.

In English, we have been exploring The Legend of Crabe Phare, becoming film makers and analysing colour, camera, sound and characters. The children then used their observations to write their own fantastic film reviews. Well done, Sapling Class!

Oak

This week, using The Lost Words book of poems as a stimulus, Oak Class have been analysing the features of different poems, looking at techniques such as alliteration and metaphors, and have begun to write their own poem about the natural world. We've also been learning about the Vikings, exploring BBC Micro:bits and reflecting on how the music in film scores matches the action on the screen.



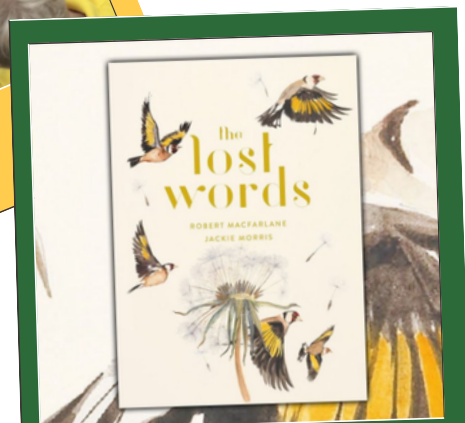
New Starter?



Acorns Map Making



Perhaps the Badger is checking out our beautiful Library



Oak Class Poetry