

18th September 2026



*Courage, Compassion,*

## Headteachers Update

This week, our thoughts have turned to Harvest and to the words from Galatians, "A man reaps what he sows." It is a simple idea, but an important one for children to understand: what we choose to put into the world matters.

In worship, we have been thinking about sowing seeds of kindness. A kind word, noticing when somebody needs help, including someone, offering encouragement or simply choosing to do the right thing can seem very small in the moment, but those small acts have a habit of growing. Kindness is also wonderfully contagious. When somebody does something kind for us, we can choose to pay it forward and plant another seed somewhere else.

It has been lovely to see just how many of those seeds have been planted around William Gilpin this week. In Friday's Celebration Worship, we shared just a small selection of the acts of kindness that staff and children have noticed. I hope that, over time, looking out for opportunities to show Courage, Compassion and Community becomes simply part of the William Gilpin way.

Another important part of the William Gilpin way is giving children opportunities to lead. Congratulations to our new House Captains, Arthur, Oscar and Natalia. One of our curriculum principles is to develop leadership and our Year 6 children have an important part to play in this. It has already been wonderful to see our older pupils encouraging and supporting younger children and beginning to recognise themselves as role models within our school community.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Curriculum Evening this week. It was wonderful to welcome so many families into school and to share our revitalised classrooms and curriculum with you. Education works best when school and home understand and support one another, so I hope you came away with a real sense of what your children will be learning and experiencing this year. If you were unable to attend, I hope the information sent afterwards was helpful, and please do ask if there is anything you would like to know more about.

As we continue to develop our curriculum, we also want to look beyond the classroom walls. A great primary education should open children's eyes to a world of possibilities and introduce them to people, ideas, cultures, experiences and achievements that they might not otherwise encounter.

With that in mind, I would love to invite members of our wider community into school to share something with our children. We are looking for people who could give a short, approximately 15-minute, talk during one of our worship times at 1pm on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday. Perhaps you have an interesting job, skill, hobby, achievement, cultural tradition or life experience to share. Perhaps you know somebody else who does. It does not need to be extraordinary. Sometimes simply discovering how another person lives, works or sees the world can plant a seed in a child's imagination. If you think you could contribute, please get in touch.

Finally, a reminder that on 30 September at 3.30pm, Adele Dodd from Children's Services will be joining us to talk about children's mental health and the Local Offer. This will be an opportunity for parents to hear more about the support available to children and families and to ask questions. After School Club will be available free of charge for children whose parents are attending the talk.

Perhaps that brings us back to where we started. Whether we are nurturing kindness, leadership, curiosity, confidence or a sense of belonging, education is in many ways an act of planting seeds. We may not always see immediately what will grow from them, but every positive experience, every encouragement and every opportunity adds something.

At William Gilpin, we want to sow generously.

Elizabeth Cox  
Headteacher



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# Headteacher Awards & Class Updates



## Headteacher Awards



In Acorn Class, Nerin and Lucy received headteachers awards for showing our COURAGE and COMMUNITY values



In Saplings Class, William and Thomas received headteachers awards for showing our COURAGE value



In Oak Class, Arthur and Natalia received headteachers awards for showing our COMPASSION and COURAGE values

The Attendance Cup was won by Saplings this week, with 98% - just pipping Saplings to the post with 97.5% attendance



## Acorns

Acorns have had a super week of learning about Place, Value, Number in Maths. They have been on a senses walk in the school grounds to investigate what they could see, smell, hear and feel. This afternoon Acorns will be having a music lesson with Miss Coxon. It was also a lovely surprise for the children to see Mrs Nicholls this week.



## Saplings

What a fantastic week in Saplings! In Maths, we have explored 10 more and 10 less of numbers up to 1,000, using practical and pictorial methods. In History, we have discovered how Tudor children's lives differed from ours, developing wonderful historical thinking, questioning and curiosity. Well done, Saplings.

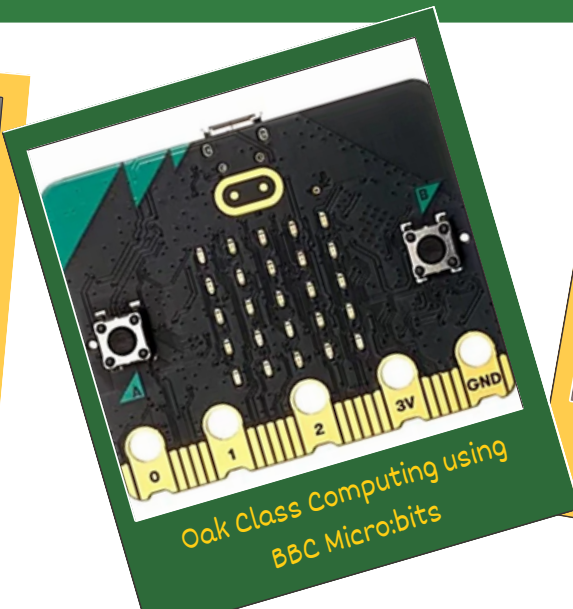


## Oak

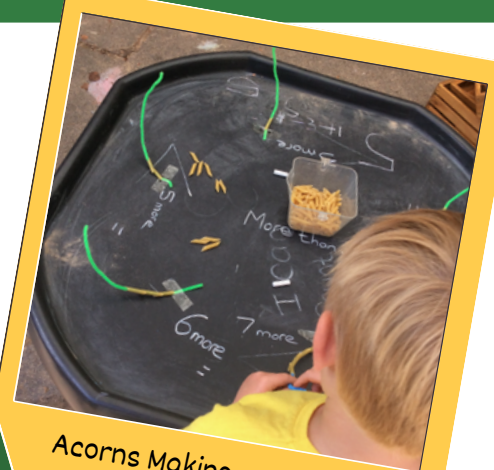
This week, Oak Class have been practising their rounding skills, with the Year 6s challenged to round up to 8-digit numbers to the nearest 10,000 and 100,000. We have created our own individual poem about an animal of our choice in English, explored a variety of different sources to draw conclusions about the Vikings, and programmed a fun animation using BBC micro:bits in Computing.



Saplings had lots of fun in Forest School



Oak Class Computing using BBC Micro:bits



Acorns Making a Creative Counting Game