



2nd October 2026

Courage, Compassion, Community

Headteachers Update

This week in Collective Worship, we have been thinking about trust and how it connects with courage.

Being courageous does not mean having to manage everything by ourselves. Sometimes courage is recognising that we need help, being brave enough to ask for it and trusting that somebody will be there to support us. This is something we want our children to understand deeply: at William Gilpin, there are people around them who will listen, help and walk alongside them when things feel difficult.

Of course, growing up is also about gradually becoming more independent. One of the things I have particularly enjoyed seeing this week is the increasing pride children are taking in their learning. Saplings and Oak have now completed their latest writing Learning Journeys, and some wonderful finished pieces are proudly on display. Alongside developing increasingly ambitious vocabulary and high-quality writing, we have been placing a real emphasis on presentation and pride in our work. There is something powerful about being able to stand back from something you have created and think, 'I worked hard on that and I am proud of it.'

We have seen that same creativity and effort in the fantastic response to our Tree Project. The entries have been incredibly varied and imaginative, and it has been lovely to see how differently families have interpreted the challenge. Thank you for the time, thought and creativity that have clearly gone into them. If yours is not quite finished, you have the weekend for those final touches; please bring it into school by Monday.

Thank you to everyone who joined us on Wednesday to hear Adele Dodd from Children's Services speak about children's mental health and the Local Offer. It was an interesting and informative session, and I hope those who attended found it useful. For anyone who was unable to join us, you will find a QR code elsewhere in this newsletter giving you access to further information.

We have also had another visitor this week! Basil the Walktober bird arrived to challenge us to think about how we travel to school and whether we can make some of our journeys a little more sustainable. During October, we would love families to try using our Park and Stride at least once each week, parking a little further away and walking the final part of the journey. It is a small change, but small changes made by lots of people can have a big impact. It also gives us an opportunity to get moving, enjoy some fresh air and appreciate our beautiful New Forest surroundings as autumn arrives.

As we reach the end of another busy week, perhaps trust is a useful idea for adults as well as children. We want our children to know that they can ask for help when they need it, but also that we trust them to try, to persevere, to take increasing responsibility and to take pride in what they can achieve.

A small change to collection arrangements

From next week, we are making a small adjustment to the way children are collected at the end of the day. This is simply to ensure that we have a clear and safe handover of responsibility from school to parents.

Children will line up inside the building and will be handed over to parents from the appropriate door:

- Acorns: cloakroom door
- Saplings: classroom door
- Oak: door at the bottom of the stairs

Please do not worry if you have children in more than one class. Children will remain safely with their teacher until you arrive to collect them. There is no need to rush from one door to another!

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Headteacher



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Headteacher Awards & Class Updates



Headteacher Awards



In Acorn Class, Enid and Nerin received headteachers awards for showing our COURAGE value



In Saplings Class, Zoryan and Sol received headteachers awards for showing our COURAGE value



In Oak Class, Archie and Levana received headteachers awards for showing our COURAGE value

The Attendance Cup was won by Acorns this week, with 94.8% - just pipping Oak to the post with 94.4% attendance



Acorns looking forward to their Hot Chocolate

Acorns

The children had their first forest school session this week. They were very excited! The children sat in a circle by the fire (to light after) and listen to Mrs Hoogenboom's instructions. They all engaged and took part in a variety of activities set out - books, bug hunts, circuits, hammocks, hanging on tyres and more! They were particularly happy about having some hot chocolate at the end!

Saplings

What a fantastic week we have had in Saplings! We have been thoroughly enjoying our new class reading book, Bravepaw. The children have been excited to make predictions, explore the story and discover the new characters as we enjoy the adventure book together as a class.

In PSHE, we have been learning all about the importance of sleep and discussing healthy bedtime habits. We explored which habits can help us to have a good night's sleep and which ones might make it harder to settle. It was wonderful to hear how many children already enjoy sharing a book as part of their bedtime routine.



Saplings are enjoying Bravepaw

Oak

This week, Oak Class have continued our work on biography writing, building up our paragraphs using compound and complex sentences. We have continued practising mental addition and subtraction techniques in Maths. In Science, we investigated soluble and insoluble substances, making observations when adding water to different materials to see if a solution was formed. We also visited Priestlands for their Year 5 and 6 football tournament last Wednesday. Although some of the matches were challenging, Oak showed great courage to keep going and trying their best all the way to the end.

