William Gilpin School

Newsletter

6th November 2026

Courage, Compassion, Community

Headteachers Update

As we begin a new half term, I have been thinking about change and the opportunities it brings. Change is not always comfortable, particularly when we cannot yet see what the finished picture will look like. But growth and progress often require us to let go of something familiar to make space for something new.

I recently learned that the dragonfly is often seen as a symbol of hope and transformation. We are fortunate to see many around our beautiful school grounds during the warmer months. Before emerging as the beautiful creatures we recognise, dragonflies spend much of their lives developing underwater. It struck me as a lovely reminder that the process of change is not always as beautiful as what eventually emerges from it.

Our front garden is a very visible example of this. You will have noticed that it looks a little bare, following our recent gardening work. The trees and overgrown vegetation had begun to encroach on the pavement, making it unsafe. Although it is looking a little sparse just now, this is the first step towards creating a lovely new area for our children.

We have exciting plans for the space. We will install a new fence, plant a native hedge and create a grassy area for children to enjoy. We will also introduce waist-height raised beds where children can grow vegetables and herbs to use in cooking or sell to raise money for charity. Our ambition is to establish a gardening club so that children can take an active role in caring for the space.

This is about much more than improving our surroundings. I believe passionately in educating the whole child and every child. Childhood should be rich with opportunities to explore, experiment and discover new interests. We never know which experience might spark a lifelong passion or even inspire a future career.

So please bear with us while the garden takes shape. If you know any builders, fencing contractors or gardeners who could donate time, expertise, materials or labour, we would be enormously grateful. We would love our community to help bring this vision to life.

And one final plea. Please, please complete our Christian Values Survey if you haven't already. We are asking our whole school community to help choose the three values that will guide us from January. Your views genuinely matter to me, and I want every voice to be heard.

As we look ahead to another busy half term, I hope we can embrace the possibilities that change brings. Sometimes things must look a little different before they can become something wonderful.



Elizabeth Cox
Headteacher

schooloffice@williamgilpin.hants.sch.uk

01590 673460

Headteacher Awards

In Acorns Class, Lucy and Maisie received headteachers awards for showing our COURAGE value

In Saplings Class, Harry and Vittorio received headteachers awards for showing our COURAGE and COMPASSION values

In Oak Class, Oscar and Rosie received headteachers awards for showing our COURAGE and COMPASSION values

The Attendance Cup was won by Oak this week, with a commendable 97.5%

Class Updates



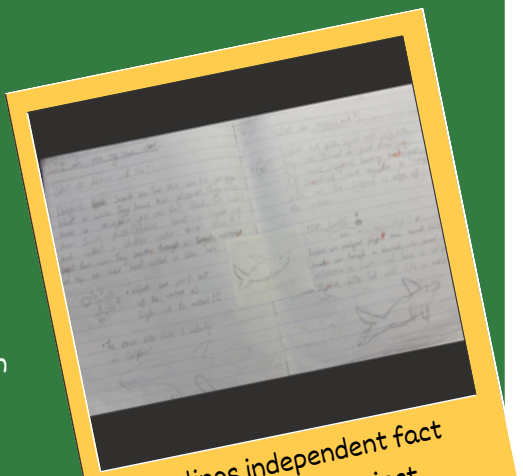
Acorns are enjoying their new book

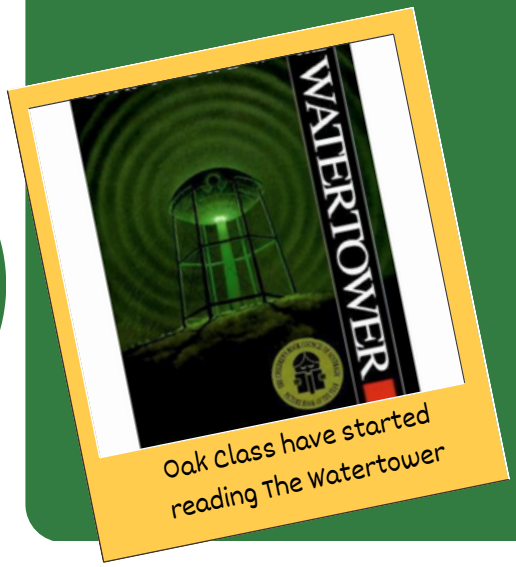
Acorns

It's been lovely to see the children settled back after half term. In English this week we have been exploring our feelings about light and dark linked to our new book 'Molly, Olive and Dexter: Who's Afraid of the Dark?'. In Maths we have been counting in 2's and 5's and have explored making equal groups and recording using repeated addition.

Saplings

What a busy three days in Saplings! In English, the children have been really engaged in exploring interviews with underwater creatures. They have been putting their new learning about apostrophes into practice, using them in their own carefully written interview questions. In Geography, we have been exploring Antarctica, learning about its location and physical features. The children have also been comparing Antarctica with the UK, identifying similarities and differences between these very different environments.


Saplings independent fact file research project



Oak Class have started reading The Watertower

Oak

Oak class have begun their new English learning journey, reading the book The Watertower, which involves strange goings-on in a small American town. So far, the pupils have worked at summarising the story using different sentence types and looked at how to show character through action. In Maths, we have started our unit on fractions, decimals and percentages. The children have done really well this week in understanding how fractions and decimals are related. We have also begun new work on population in Geography and the blues in Music.

Children and Families Worker Update



This term, our Worship theme is British Values, as defined by the Department for Education.

They are: Democracy, the Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Mutual Respect and Tolerance. Each week, we are taking time to explore one of these values, considering how it links to our own values and, importantly, to our Christian values.

As I began researching the theme (and inevitably going down a few rabbit holes!), it became increasingly clear to me that all five values share a common foundation: love. A love beautifully described in Matthew 22:37–40, which includes the words: "Love your neighbour as yourself."

As I spend time in school each week, this is the love I see lived out – in the kindness shown to others, the respect we give one another, the way we include and support each other, and the care shown throughout our school community.

It is, quite simply, faith in action.

After School Club Update



Picture of Kitten by Red


Anzac Biscuits

NEXT WEEK

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
Anzac Biscuits	Junk Modelling	Fairy Cakes	Junk Modelling	Film Night

Children in Need Day – Friday 13th November

On Friday children can wear non uniform - the theme is wear something spotty (but that's not essential) for a donation. Donations can be either cash on the day or via our just giving page Children in Need Just Giving Link



We are also running a raffle to win a beautiful Pudsey Bear, to raise Money for BBC Children in Need. £2 per strip of 5 available from the school office.

Christian Values Survey

There is still time for families to complete the Christian Values Survey. We would be enormously grateful if every family could take just a couple of minutes to complete the Google Form and select their top three choices. Christian Values Google Survey

My Happy Mind Families Programme





Parent Consultations

Parent consultations will be taking place on Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th November between 3.30pm and 6pm. Appointments can be booked through the Arbor Parent Portal. Please contact the school office if you need any assistance with booking your slot.

Chance to Shine Cricket Coaching

We are so pleased to welcome Dan a Cricket Coach from Chance to Shine into school every Thursday to deliver cricket lessons to all three classes.
This is a wonderful opportunity for the children to develop their cricket skills with a specialist coach, and we are really looking forward to the sessions.
For Saplings and Oak, these sessions will replace their usual Wednesday PE lesson.
Therefore, for the remainder of this term, PE days will be:
Acorns: Tuesday and Thursday (no change)
Saplings: Monday and Thursday
Oak: Monday and Thursday
Please ensure that children come to school wearing their PE kit on these days.

CHANCE TO SHINE
Inspiring young people through cricket

Car Parking

Please can we remind Parents to park considerately and legally. Additionally, we have received a request from the Fleur de Lys that parents don't park immediately next to the pub while refurbishment work is carried out, as it is necessary for contractors to be able to locate their vehicles in this area.



BOLDRE AND PILLEY

REMEMBRANCE 2026



'They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old'

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

SUNDAY 8th NOVEMBER

A SERVICE WILL BE HELD IN ST JOHN'S CHURCH AT 10.15 am

THE ACT OF REMEMBRANCE WILL BE HELD OUTSIDE AT 10.55 am

AT THE PARISH WAR MEMORIAL, OUTSIDE ST JOHN'S AND AT THE CANADIAN WAR GRAVES

WEDNESDAY 11th NOVEMBER

ACT of REMEMBRANCE

at 10.50am, Boldre War Memorial Hall with year 5&6 pupils from William Gilpin School

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ATTEND