William Gilpin School

Newsletter

13th November 2026

Courage, Compassion, Community

Headteachers Update

One of the greatest pleasures of being a Headteacher is listening to children talk enthusiastically about their learning. As our new learning journeys get underway this half term, it is wonderful to see the impact of our revitalised curriculum and the excitement with which children are embracing new areas of learning.

At the heart of our approach to teaching and learning at William Gilpin is the belief that children thrive in an environment of high challenge and low threat. We want our children to be intellectually curious, to ask questions, make connections, think independently and feel confident enough to take risks in their learning. A well-planned learning journey should build knowledge and understanding but also leave children eager to discover more.

This week, Acorns have been thoroughly enjoying their science lessons exploring materials. Saplings have been bursting with pride as they share their newfound knowledge from their Rock and Roll music lessons, whilst Oak have been discovering the fascinating world of thaumatropes as the first step in their computing learning journey exploring animation. Such a wonderful variety of learning, and so much enthusiasm.

Of course, education extends far beyond the acquisition of knowledge. It is also about developing character, compassion and an understanding of our place in the world.

I was immensely proud of our children during our Remembrance Service this week. Having adorned the front of our school with poppies made from recycled materials, we welcomed members of our local community into the hall to share this important occasion. The children conducted themselves beautifully, singing in full voice and remaining calm, composed and respectful throughout the two-minute silence. It is always a special moment when our children demonstrate to the wider community the very best of the William Gilpin way.

In Collective Worship, we have been exploring the British Value of democracy, learning about the Suffragettes and reflecting, through Bible stories, on the qualities that make a good leader. We have been considering the importance of having a voice, listening to others and using positions of responsibility for the good of those around us.

We finished the week by supporting Children in Need, taking time to think about what those three words actually mean and why some children need additional help and support. Thank you for your generosity in supporting this important cause.

For me, this week has encapsulated so much of what we want a William Gilpin education to be: academically ambitious, rich in experiences and firmly rooted in compassion.

We want our children not only to know more and understand more, but to care more, too.

Elizabeth Cox
Headteacher



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Headteacher Awards

In Acorns Class, Eliza and Aggie received headteachers awards for showing our COURAGE value

In Saplings Class, Harry and Archie received headteachers awards for showing our COURAGE and COMMUNITY values

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

The Attendance Cup was won by Oak this week, with a commendable 95.6%

Class Updates

Acorns

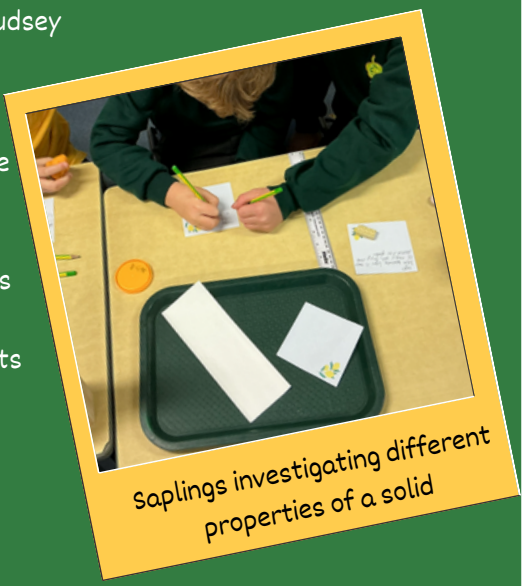


Acorns have been investigating different materials

What a lovely week we have had in Acorns. We have started our new science project looking at everyday materials and grouping objects based on the materials they are made from, which has led to some interesting discussions. We have also started discussion on "what is history?" Looking at timelines and the order that things happen. We spent time remembering the past during our Remembrance Day service when the class showed respect and thoughtfulness by sitting and listening so beautifully Then we ended the week with Children in Need day when the children used Pudsey Bear to help with Maths by sharing out and making groups of biscuits (pictures) for Pudsey

Saplings

We've had a fantastic week of learning! In Maths, the class showed off their problem-solving skills using their knowledge of fact families and repeated addition. Music brought smiles to everyone's faces as we learned the hand jive as part of our Rock 'n' Roll unit, and in Science, the children were super scientists exploring the different properties of solids.



Saplings investigating different properties of a solid

Oak



Oak Class laying the Remembrance Wreath

This week, Oak Class have enjoyed a wide range of activities. Wednesday was particularly busy with our Remembrance service in the morning, in which pupils sang and read the names of the fallen servicemen beautifully. Forest School in the afternoon saw Oak pond dipping, whittling, making Christmas decorations and enjoying a warming hot chocolate and biscuit. We have also begun adding fractions in Maths and using dialogue to show character and advance action in English.