William Gilpin School

Newsletter

20th November 2026

Courage, Compassion, Community

Headteachers Update

A recurring theme this week has been the importance of having a voice, being heard and listening to others.

During Anti-Bullying Week, we have been exploring the difference between unkindness and bullying, considering the impact of our words and actions and reinforcing the importance of speaking out. We want every child at William Gilpin to feel safe, valued and confident that their concerns will be listened to and acted upon.

An important part of this work has been gathering the children's views and experiences of bullying through a pupil survey. Pupil voice is something I value enormously. Children often offer perspectives that we, as adults, might otherwise overlook. Our School Council will be building on this week's learning by designing an anti-bullying leaflet, helping to shape and communicate our school's approach in a way that is meaningful to the children themselves.

It was lovely to receive such positive feedback following our Parents' Evening this week. Thank you to both parents and class teachers for the time, thought and effort that go into these important conversations. The best outcomes for children are achieved when home and school work together, with a shared understanding of each child's strengths, needs and next steps. These opportunities to talk openly and constructively are invaluable.

And whilst we are on the subject of listening to others, I make no apology for another reminder about our Christian Values Survey. The link can be found here . If you haven't already completed it, please do. I genuinely want to hear your views.

Next Friday, the children will take part in a Values Workshop, exploring our shortlisted values in greater depth. They will have the opportunity to present their thoughts to their peers before casting their own votes. The views of children, parents and staff will all contribute to the selection of our three Christian Values, ready for their launch in January.

I want these values to be more than words displayed on our walls. They should reflect who we are, what we believe in and who we aspire to become as a school community.

A strong community is one in which every voice matters, but also one in which we take the time to listen.



Elizabeth Cox
Headteacher

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Headteacher Awards

In Acorns Class, Danu and Lou received headteachers awards for showing our COURAGE value

In Saplings Class, Isla and George received headteachers awards for showing our COURAGE value

In Oak Class, Emily and Oliver received headteachers awards for showing our COURAGE value

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

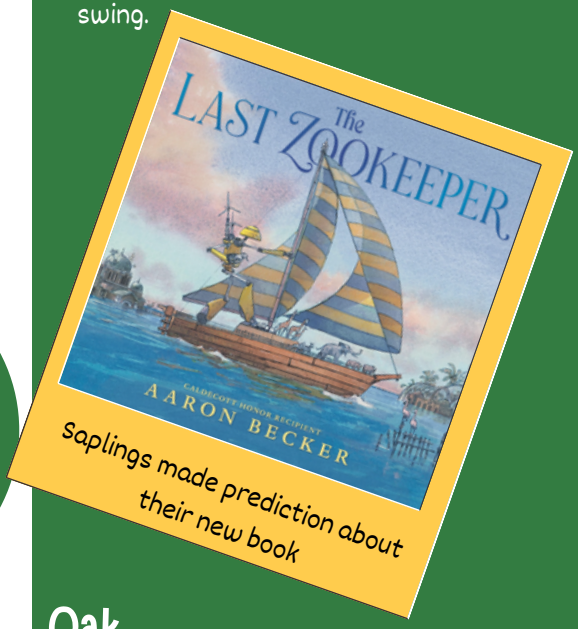
Class Updates

Acorns

In Acorns this week, we have started our new book in English - "One Diwali Day". The children have been giving and following instructions to make colourful, Diwali lanterns. We have also started a new Maths topic on fractions, so have been folding and cutting in half to make two equal parts. Our singing has been raising the roof as our Nativity practice is in full swing.



Acorns have been learning about Diwali



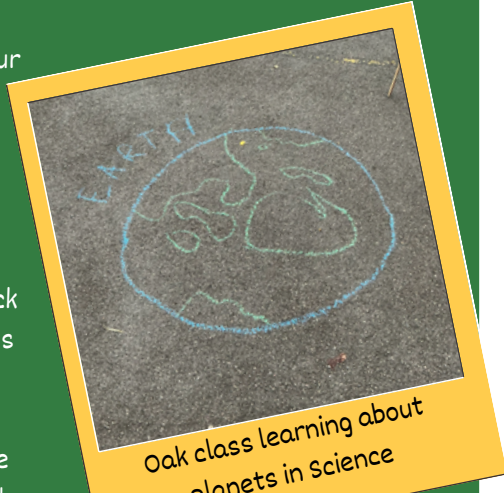
Saplings made prediction about their new book

Saplings

This week in Saplings, we have started our new book, The Last Zookeeper, making sensible predictions using clues from the front cover. In Geography, we have explored who visits Antarctica and what they need to survive in this extreme environment. We have also been working hard on our Year 3 and 4 common exception words. Well done, Saplings!

Oak

This week, Oak have continued their work on fractions, moving on to subtraction and later converting mixed numbers to improper fractions. We have also completed our latest English learning journey, writing a narrative with dialogue. The pupils remembered our work on speech punctuation really well and incorporated this into an accurate final piece. In Science, we went outside and used chalk to draw the relative sizes of the planets compared with Earth, just before the heavens opened. Drying off back inside, we investigated the relationship between a planet's diameter and the size of its gravitational pull. Six pupils also visited Priestlands on Wednesday to take part in a training session and to display their own routine. Well done to all of them; they have been practising hard in break and lunchtimes and worked really well together as a team.



Oak class learning about planets in science

Children and Families Worker Update



It is a real privilege to work alongside the Church School Vision Group. One of their responsibilities is to ensure that our worship display boards remain relevant and inspiring. The team has been busy creating a beautiful tree, with its branches spreading across all three display boards. This week, they have made some special 'leaves of hope' to add to the branches.

The next step is to invite each class to contribute their own leaves; sharing their hopes for our community, our school, one another and themselves.
We look forward to seeing the tree grow as we bring together our hopes for the future.

The team has also started thinking about their next project, and I am excited to share that they are launching a magazine-style newsletter. It is still in the early stages of planning, but there will be lots of opportunities for everyone to get involved and contribute throughout the coming year, so watch this space.

School Christmas Lunch

Please could we request that you order Christmas Lunches for children by the end of next week using the survey link Christmas lunch order

After School Club Update



Festive Dinosaur Money Box



Sausage Pinwheels



Christmas Pop Ups and Reindeer Bells

NEXT WEEK

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
Sausage Pinwheels	Felt Mice	Christmas Chocolates	Film Night	Felt Mice

Little Squirrels Forest School



Local Events & Information

PILLEY PANTO PRESENTS

LITTLE RED ROYDON WOOD

THERE WILL BE A BAR, TEA AND COFFEE!

BOLDRE MEMORIAL HALL

NOVEMBER

Thursday 26th - 7.30pm
Friday 27th - 7.30pm
Doors open 7.00pm

Saturday 28th 2.30pm & 7.30pm
Doors open 2pm / 7pm

Tickets available from
Pilley Community Shop
OR
www.ticketsource.co.uk/pilley-players

ADULT £10 / CHILD £5

Beetles to Butterflies



Promenade Concert featuring local young musicians and the

NOVA FORESTA Philharmonic

11.00am 21st November 2026
in St Thomas Church, Lymington

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

CULTURE IN COMMON

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Hampshire County Council
Library Service

Inspired By... Classic Book Activity

The Magic Faraway Tree

Lymington Library

Thursday 3 December
3:15-4:30pm



Join us to celebrate the magic of the Faraway tree! Make your own spinner to decide which fantastical land you'll journey to.

Suggested donation £1 per child
Parents/Carers must stay with children under 8

Get ready for Santa Dash!

In Lymington
On Sunday 6 December
Register today - everyone is welcome!



oakhavenhospice.co.uk/santa-dash

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Local Events & Information







