

ST GILBERT OF SEMPRINGHAM CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

West Road, Pointon, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 0NA

Executive Interim Headteacher: Mrs Sophie Foston

Senior Administrator: Mrs Victoria Vince

Telephone/Fax: 01529 240465

E-mail: admin@pointon.lincs.sch.uk



18 October 2023

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

It has been an incredibly busy half term! I have thoroughly enjoyed my first few weeks at St Gilbert's and would like to thank you all for making my team and I so welcome. It has been wonderful to meet families and to work with your incredible children. Thank you all for your support!

Curriculum

Staff have been working collaboratively with the team from Donnington Cowley to review and improve our curriculum offer. Curriculum overviews have been developed for each staff which ensure consistency and progression of knowledge and skills. This is underpinned by golden threads (vertical concepts), which build upon what children know, can do and understand, with the seeds of learning being sown in Nursery and Reception and growing as the children move through to year 6 and beyond. We have introduced exciting topics ensuring broad and balanced learning opportunities, which evoke curiosity, spark imagination, and widen opportunities for discovery. Curriculum documentation is available to view on our website. For any further details please speak to your child's class teacher.

Read Write Inc.

Following a very busy term of updating our 'Read Write Inc' provision and staff training, we are now looking forward to delivering a phonics workshop, which will provide details of how our phonics program will look over the year. Parents of Key Stage 1 and Reception are encouraged to attend. The event will take place on 31st October at 3.45pm.



Black History Month

October has been a celebration of Black History with a particular focus this year on Celebrating Our Sisters. The celebrations started with a Collective Worship from Mrs Foston, which was followed up by a Collective Worship from Mrs Gray, which highlighted some inspirational women of black heritage. Following this Badgers class identified and researched a key female figure, they then presented their research to the rest of the class and a class vote was taken to choose our inspirational figure for this year. Next month sees the focus shift to UK Parliament Week and Remembrance Sunday.

Website: www.stgilbertpointon.co.uk



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Staffing

Miss Hawkins and Mrs Horry are leaving us at the end of this week. I would like to extend our thanks to them for all they have done for our children and wish them the very best as they both move on to new career opportunities. I would like to welcome Natasha Firbank, who will be joining us after half term as Red Squirrels class teacher until Christmas. We are presently recruiting for additional members of support staff and a substantive class teacher for Red Squirrels.

Sarah-Jane Millard - Inclusion Lead

Hello, I am the Inclusion Lead from Donnington Cowley, and I am working with St Gilbert's to support the school community. My role includes working with families by signposting to a wide range of support services, where you can access resources to help with social and emotional issues and additionally, liaising with agencies such as Early Help, Healthy Minds the Sleep Charity etc. By working closely with the school community, I am to provide a wide range of strategies that will improve attendance, mental health and wellbeing and family support. Please contact me if you feel that you need help, I look forward to hearing from you. Sarah-Jane Millard.

sarah-jane.millard@cowley.lincs.sch.uk



Willoughby Foods

We are excited to announce that we have started a new contract with Willoughby Foods, and they will be supplying the children with food after half term. The deadline for orders for after the half term break is **Tuesday 24th October**, so please login and order your child's meals as soon as possible.

If you have any issues logging in or need any help, please contact Willoughby Foods on 01205 351133 or email admin@willoughby-foods.co.uk they will be available Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday next week. Please do have a look at the menu and encourage your child to try the hot meals. Willoughby have some really good reviews, so please have a look at their website.

SEND

If you would like to discuss any aspects of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND), then please email our SENDCo sarah.ogden@pointon.lincs.sch.uk. Sarah is usually in school each Monday.

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Forest School

Forest school will continue as it is next half term with Nursery EYFS and Years 1 and 2. In the Spring Term (January to April) it will be Nursery EYFS and Years 3 and 4. In Summer Term (April to July), it will be Nursery EYFS and Years 5 and 6. This is to give an opportunity for all the children to build and consolidate skills and for our Nursery EYFS, they will continue as part of their ongoing curriculum entitlement. Please ensure your child has appropriate, named clothing for the changing weathers.

Attendance

Again, I would like to remind everyone of the importance of good attendance and punctuality and the impact that this has upon pupil progress. Our school gates open at 8.40am and registration is at 8.50am with lessons starting immediately.

With winter bugs on the rise, we do understand that there may be some occasions where children cannot attend due to illness. Please ensure that this is communicated directly with the school office **before** the start of the school day, so that accurate attendance records are maintained, and safeguarding procedures followed. We have recently reviewed our attendance policy, and this is available to view on our school website.

Uniform

As the weather turns colder, please ensure that children have appropriate, named clothing both for indoors and outdoors - including on PE and Forest School days. School uniform can be either a school jumper or fleece. On cold days please do also send a coat for wearing outdoors in addition.



Children in Need

We will be celebrating Children in Need on Friday 17th November. Children are invited to wear *non-uniform* on this day with the theme of 'Be Spot-tacular' - Donations welcome.



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PTFA

You will have seen the recent correspondence regarding our wish to set up a PTFA. Any support would be greatly appreciated with this, particularly with Christmas not too far away!

Key Dates - further information related to specific events will be shared in further correspondence. More dates may be added.

31st OCTOBER - START of Autumn Term 2

31st Phonics Workshop – 3.45pm

NOVEMBER

17th Children in Need – non-uniform day

DECEMBER

12th Nativity – 2.00pm

18th Christingle – 2.00pm

20th END of Autumn Term 2

