



## Newsletter

*The spring term has flown by and Easter is just around the corner!*

*As usual it has been a busy time in school and the children have been involved in fantastic curricular and enrichment activities, which I am sure they have all been talking about at home!*

*With the summer now fast approaching, I would once like to thank all of our families for your ongoing support and contribution to our school communities and wish you all a wonderful Easter break, hopefully filled with sunshine 😊*

A reminder that our school website is: -

<https://www.stgilbertspointon.co.uk>

### **STAFFING**

Susan Brittain will be moving from St Gilbert's to Donington Cowley in her role as Teaching Assistant after Easter. Susan is a familiar face at Donington having worked across the schools. We thank her for her incredible contribution at St Gilbert's and wish her well in her new role and extend a warm welcome to our team at Donington.

### **AUTISM AWARENESS DAY- TUESDAY 1ST APRIL**

April is Autism awareness month and on 1 April we will be inviting all children to attend school in non-uniform, wearing blue clothing, as part of the 'Light it up blue' campaign.

## ATTENDANCE

When we come back after the Easter holidays there are only 59 school days left this academic year!



**SCHOOL DAYS ARE  
PACKED WITH  
MOMENTS OF...**

**CURIOSITY, WONDER  
AND CONNECTION.**

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**

SEARCH 'ATTENDANCE'  
ON THE EDUCATION HUB

HM Government **NHS**

## SEND

We will be celebrating World Autism Day on Tuesday 1st April 2025, which is a brilliant opportunity for us to learn more about autism and to appreciate the wonder of neurodivergence and how everybody's brain works differently!

Autism can affect how a person communicates with others and how their senses interact with the world around them. It can also make it more challenging for the individual to understand and respond to their emotions. It is a timely reminder to us all that some disabilities are hidden, and that kindness is the greatest gift we can offer each other. If you would like to find out more about autism or would like some advice and guidance on how to support a child with autism, the National Autistic Society hold a treasure trove of resources and can be found at [www.autism.org.uk](http://www.autism.org.uk)

Please come to school wearing something blue.

### **MATHEMATICS**

Maths at both schools continues to flourish and our Times Tables Rock Stars battle is coming to an end, the children have been incredibly engaged with the competition and it has been a tight competition and it has come down to the wire between Squirrels class of Donington and Badgers class of St Gilberts. Keep an eye out on Times Tables Rock Stars for any other competitions that may begin.



### **STATUTORY ASSESSMENTS**

Year 6 SATs will be taking place week commencing Monday 12 May 2025. These are external statutory tests to assess pupil progress and attainment in English and Maths in readiness for transition to secondary education. The timetable for the week will be as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Tests</b>
Monday 12 May	English: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grammar and punctuation paper</li><li>• Spelling paper</li></ul>
Tuesday 13 May	English reading paper
Wednesday 14 May	Maths: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Arithmetic paper</li><li>• Reasoning paper 1</li></ul>
Thursday 15 May	Maths reasoning paper 2

Attendance and punctuality are extremely important- we want to be able to start the tests as soon as possible once the children arrive. **All children must attend each day.**

To support your child and ensure they have a good start to the day, we ask that all year 6 children arrive between 8:30 and 8:45 am.

### **Y1 PHONICS CHECK**

The phonics screening check will be administered during the week beginning 9 June. Children will be reading 40 words. 20 real words and 20 'alien' words.

To prepare for this, please read with your children as much as possible and encourage them to use their Read Write Inc techniques 'Special Friends, Fred Talk, Read the Word.' Class teachers will be able to tell you if there are any sounds your child needs support with.

### **MUSIC**

The Choir have been busy learning their songs for the school production!



We have also chosen and practised some new songs for choral worship.

### **SCHOOL PRODUCTION INFORMATION**

The children and staff are very excited about our upcoming production of 'Much Ado About Disco'. They have all been working hard, learning songs and dance moves!



Performances will take place on Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd April at the village hall, Pointon. There will be an afternoon performance on Wednesday at 2pm and two performances on Thursday, the first at 2pm and the second at 6pm.

For the evening performances, children will need to be at the village hall for 5.30pm so they are ready to be on stage for the performance at 6pm.

## SPORTS

We have been very lucky to have Coach Sarah visit our school and hold football sessions for the Year 5 and 6 children.

For the girls, this was part of a nationwide initiative called 'Let Girls Play', run by The Football Association, and we are looking forward to welcoming her to school again soon to build on their skills.



In addition, the Year 3/4 Kurling Team won their group unbeaten and have progressed through the quarter final with ease too. Regardless of the results of the semi-final (and the final if we are lucky enough to win!), the children have done brilliantly to make it to the final 4 out of 25 local schools!

Children from Badgers classroom have taken part in Bikeability Level 1 and Level 2 training. Communications have been sent home for next year's training for Red Squirrels and Badgers classes. Please get in touch if you have not received these or have any questions.

We will be trying another new sport next term when we welcome Elite Sports for a Tri-Golf development day.

### **ROOTS TO FOOD**

All classes had the fantastic opportunity to work with Darren from Roots to Food. They took part in the cooking workshops, where they learned new skills, such as chopping, mixing, folding, crushing and stirring and made an extremely tasty Tandoori Chicken with Sag Aloo. The children enjoyed trying the different spices and there were lots of empty plates after tasting!

### **PARENT VOLUNTEER GROUP**

We hope the children have enjoyed taking part in all the Easter activities we have put on over the last few weeks, thank you all for taking the time to make your Easter creations.

Shortly after we return from the Easter break we will be finalising plans for our VE Day celebrations, which will involve the whole community.

The children will have the opportunity to dress up in 1940's inspired clothing, learn some popular songs from the decade as well as make decorations for the celebration. We think they will thoroughly enjoy getting involved.

More information will be shared soon.

### **SCHOOL COUNCIL**

Our School Council continues to look at courageous advocacy and decided to use Comic Relief as an opportunity to reopen our school food bank! School

Council are now making posters to advertise our school food bank to those that need it most.

We have also purchased a badge maker so School Council can run some more school competitions similar to our kindness awards.

### **COMIC RELIEF**

Thank you so much for all your donations for our school food bank – this is now well stocked!

### **LINCOLN CASTLE**

Children from Year 1 had an amazing trip to Lincoln Castle to coincide with their topic for this term: 'Castles, Crowns and Coronations' in which they have been learning about the royals and how they controlled their kingdoms throughout history.

The children (and adults) had such a lovely day and we were super lucky with the weather as well. The children got to walk around the walls of the castle, taking in the amazing sights and understanding from the tour guide about the fascinating history of the castle. They got to take part in lots of exciting activities such as archery, a pretend banquet, making shields; they tried on armour, helmets and shields so they could experience what it was like being a knight and they even had a go firing a bow and arrow. To finish off the trip, they got to make their very own shields and have a banquet with the children dressing up as Kings, Queens, Lords, Ladies and even the Master of Hounds!

It was a fantastic day and was described as 'Best day ever!'

### **DUXFORD**

Children from Years 4, 5 and 6 had a fantastic trip to Duxford Imperial War Museum to reinforce their learning around our history topic: 'Goodnight Mr Tom', which focuses on World War II.

Children explored the different hangars and got to see lots of different vehicles from World War II including Spitfires, Hurricanes, submarines and tanks. We were also incredibly lucky to see a Spitfire take off on the airfield runway. A favourite experience of the trip was seeing a reconstruction of a real operations

room. Children were fascinated to learn about the different things that were dropped and used by parachute regiments – even dogs!

## **PARLIAMENT**

Earlier this half-term, children in Year 6 had the amazing opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament.

We started off the day when we were dropped off at Buckingham Palace – we just managed to see the Royal Guard and horses through the rain! When we arrived at Parliament, we started with a tour and saw the Palace of Westminster as well as the House of Commons and House of Lords. Children were very interested to see part of a live debate in the House of Commons. We learned more about the different parts of Parliament including how laws are made in our workshop. Before we left, we even got the chance to meet our local MP and ask him questions about his job and our community.

## **ARLO**

It has been lovely to welcome Arlo to our school. Arlo has loved meeting our children and exploring our school grounds. He is looking forward to more visits in the summer term.





# Key Dates



## APRIL

- 1 April Autism Awareness Day- Light it up Blue!
- 2 April Whole School Production - 2pm
- 3 April Whole School Production – 2pm and 6pm  
(Children to arrive at 5.30pm)
- 4 April End of spring term
  
- 23 April Start of summer term
- 24 April Swimming Lessons Start (Badgers)
- 28 April Tri-Golf Development Day

## MAY

- 5 May Bank Holiday Monday
- 8 – 9 May VE Celebrations- Details to be confirmed
- 12 – 15 May Y6 SATs
- 23 May End of Summer term 1

## JUNE

- 2 June Start of summer term 2
- 9 -13 June Phonics Screening Check Y1/Multiplication Check Y4
- 11 June Y6 Theatre Trip - The Lion King
- 19 June Y6 Gala Dinner
- 20 June Non-Uniform- bring a bottle for the summer fair
- 27 June Summer Disco

## JULY

- 4 July Summer Fair
- 10 July Sports Day
- 22 July Y6 Leavers assembly and end of academic year

