



Newsletter

The Autumn term continues to fly by and the festive season is fast approaching. As always, we are exceptionally busy in school with many fantastic events planned and wonderful learning opportunities for all of our children to enjoy.

As the weather gets colder and nights darken, please do ensure your children have appropriate warm clothing (named) and that additional care is taken during journeys to and from school.

A reminder that our school website is: -

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

Staffing update

I am delighted to inform you that Governors have appointed Faye Tubb as Assistant Headteacher from January 2024. After over 20 years commitment and dedication to Donington Cowley Endowed Primary School and with the fantastic work which Faye is also undertaking at St Gilbert's, this is incredibly well deserved and on behalf of us all I would like to thank and congratulate Faye.

Attendance & Inclusion

The introduction of a termly challenge between all classes to have the highest attendance is proving very popular and the excitement during celebration assembly when the top classes are announced is amazing. All the children are keen to achieve the best attendance possible. The most common barrier to regular school attendance is pupils being unwell, minor illnesses such as coughs, colds, tummy ache and even tiredness do not require you to keep your child off school, in fact, often once they are in school pupils are ok. Please be assured that should your child become ill during the day the school office will contact you.

Please refer to the information provided in the link below for further advice

[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#)

SEND

If you have any concerns around your child's learning, the first person that you should speak to is always your child's teacher. Your child's teacher knows your child really well and will be able to talk through your concerns with you. He or she will know your child's strengths and weaknesses, how they are progressing in school and whether this is in line with your child's classmates. You will find that if there are any concerns in school your child's teacher will usually approach you before you approach them.

You can also contact the school's Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENDCo), Sarah Ogden. She oversees the provision for children with special educational needs or disabilities in school and will speak to your child's teacher if you have any concerns. Mrs Ogden can be contacted on 01529 240465

Nativity

Children in Hedgehogs and Red Squirrels have been working hard, rehearsing for our Christmas Nativity on Tuesday 10th December at 5pm. We are looking forward to performing to family and friends who have requested tickets. The performance will finish at approximately 5.45pm.

Christingle



At the end of this term, our children will gather in the hall to have a Christingle service. Keep an eye out on our school website and Facebook page to see photos and videos of our assembly.

Christmas Dinner

Our Christmas Dinner is on **16 December** – a copy of the menu is attached with this Newsletter. Please remember that the deadline for ordering this from Willoughby Foods is **Tuesday 10th December**.

Christmas Parties

On **Wednesday 18 December**, Christmas parties will be held in each class. Please do send children in non-uniform to enjoy the festivities.



Maths

Maths has continued to be developed this past month with us celebrating our Mathematician of the Month and the children have loved the celebration of this achievement. Keep up the hard work!

English

This month Badgers and Red Squirrels enjoyed taking part in a virtual author event with Peter Brown who wrote The Wild Robot. This included a wonderful draw-a-long too.

Hedgehogs are looking forward to taking part in a different author event by Rachael Davis and her book - A Roaring Time.

Music

Our school choir have continued practising our songs for Young Voices! We are so excited to attend the concert on January the 8th. We have also started learning some Christmas songs ready to perform at our Christmas fair. All children will know these songs from our choral worships so are welcome to join us for a festive sing along!

Sports



We have had a reshuffle of the lunchtime clubs offered to the children and they are enjoying the different activities on offer. Miss Nauyokas' netball club has moved to lunchtimes so more children are benefiting from this.

Our Year 4 archers have completed their initial fixtures in the Interschool competition, and we are pleased to announce that they won their group, topping the table with 9 points! Next up they have the quarter final match where they will compete against a school from one of the other groups.

Y3/4 Archery A

Name	Played	W	D	L	+	-	Points
St Gilberts of Sempringham	4	3	0	1	278	226	9
Horbling Browns	4	3	0	1	286	260	9
Morton Primary	4	2	1	1	126	132	7
Kirkby La Thorpe	4	1	1	2	236	272	4
Ruskington Primary	4	0	0	4	134	280	0

As the weather starts to turn colder, please support your child by ensuring they have and wear appropriate PE kit, including footwear, in school for PE sessions, both indoors and outdoors. If you are unsure as to which day your child does PE, please ask your class teacher.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Children In Need

Thank you for supporting Children in Need this year, we raised an amazing **£100.90**.



Parent Volunteer Group

We have a nursery party being held tonight **Friday 29th November** between 4-5pm followed by the school disco 6-7.30pm.

Tickets for both of these are available from the school office or on the door tonight if you are unable to get one beforehand.

There will be a tuck shop, and transfer tattoos and glowsticks available for your child to purchase if they wish.

Our annual Christmas Fair is fast approaching, and we are excited for it all to come together in a few weeks.

This year it will be held on **Friday 13th December 5-7pm**.

Last year we found that visits to see Santa worked well using the time slots so please make sure to head to our Grotto helpers to book your slots as soon as possible to ensure you get a time that suits you.

Finally, if you are able to send in any tombola donations they would be greatly appreciated, please leave them in the front entrance.



School Council

This term, our school council have continued their work on being 'Good Neighbours'. Last week, they led an assembly on Anti-Bullying week, with some children even leading a dramatic performance!



This week, they have decided to send home a challenge to every child in the school:

"Using the ideas below, tick off and write the date when you have completed the act of kindness. Once you have completed all of them, please hand them to the school councillors. They will then present you with a certificate in assembly."

<p>Smile and say good morning/afternoon to people that you meet.</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Date: _____	<p>Leave a note for someone telling them how wonderful they are!</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Date: _____	<p>Invite a different friend to sit with you at lunchtime.</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Date: _____	<p>Give someone you know a compliment, showing that you have noticed something brilliant about them.</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Date: _____
<p>Help someone.</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Date: _____	<p>Write a letter to a friend or relative whom you haven't seen for a while.</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Date: _____	<p>Invite other children to play games with you and your friends at lunchtime.</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Date: _____	<p>Talk to someone who looks like they might be lonely.</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Date: _____
<p>Tidy up at home – without being asked!</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Date: _____	<p>Read a book with someone.</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Date: _____	<p>Write a thank you letter to someone who has helped you.</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Date: _____	<p>Leave a note in a book you have read from the library, telling the next reader how brilliant it is.</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Date: _____
<p>Write three things that your teacher, headteacher or another adult in school is good at and give it to them.</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Date: _____	<p>Tell a joke to someone who looks like they may need to smile.</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Date: _____	<p>Tidy up the classroom – without being asked or reminded.</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Date: _____	<p>Make a card for someone who takes care of you, thanking them for everything that they do.</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Date: _____

After School Clubs



Gardening Club

Gardening Club – Since the weather has turned cooler, the children who have been attending our Gardening Club have been busy designing and making beautiful mosaics. These will be put on display when they are completed, we can't wait for you all to see them.

We have also been researching different vegetable and flower seeds we would like to start growing after Christmas. The children liked the idea of spinach, broad beans and cauliflower as well as sweet peas.

We hope to start injecting some colour into the winter months!

Choir - Mr Adams has continued with the after-school choir club each Monday; the children are practising Christmas songs and they continue with their preparations for Young Voices in January 2025.



Key Dates



November

29 November
29 November

School Disco
Non-Uniform Day – Bring a bottle

December

5 December
10 December
10 December
11 December
13 December
18 December
19 December
19 December

Year 5 and 6 Asian Discover workshop
School Christmas Dinner
Hedgehogs and Red Squirrels Nativity, Pointon Village Hall
Christmas Pantomime
Christmas Fair
Class Christmas Parties
Christingle Service
End of Autumn Term 2

January 2025

6 January

Start of Spring Term 1

