



Founded 1565

William Gilbert Endowed

(Church of England)

Primary School & Nursery

Vicarage Lane, Duffield, Belper, Derbyshire, DE56 4EB

Telephone: 01332 840395

Website: <https://www.williamgilbertend.derbyshire.sch.uk/>

E-mail: enquiries@williamgilbertend.derbyshire.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs H Britten



15th February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

I last wrote to you regarding PTA fundraising in June 2023. Following a recent PTA meeting, I feel it is important to update all members of the PTA. Every parent is automatically a member of the school PTA. The last meeting held on 2nd February had 8 parent representatives, 3 of these were PTA committee members.

As president of the PTA and Headteacher of William Gilbert, I am writing again to request much needed support and share how grateful we are for the continued support from the PTA and every parent that have contributed to the success of events this year.

Our school, like all state schools, is funded by money from the Department for Education which comes to us via our academy trust (DDAT). The Headteacher, the School Business Manager, and the governors then rigorously monitor and scrutinise how this money is spent.

Our school is in an area with a low level of deprivation, as defined by the government, and is considered to be in an affluent area. Schools situated in areas with high levels of deprivation can access a great deal of additional financial support; and rightly so. We are not eligible for such funding and with the rising cost of living, wages, and utilities we rely heavily on the fundraising from the PTA.

Good News!

The Christmas Fayre led by Mrs Ackroyd, Mrs Bains and their team of helpers raised just over £3700 and was a wonderful and successful evening enjoyed by many. Thank you – a fantastic example of community, organisation, and teamwork.

The Willy Gilly Ball – the date is set, and preparations are underway to organise our traditional parents and community ball. Historically this has been a huge fundraiser, and we hope it can be again. Mrs Cummings and Mrs Hughes have agreed to run the ball committee and I know they are looking for further volunteers and support to join their committee. Tickets are coming soon, so save the date – Saturday 19th October 2024

Other exciting events to get involved with include:-

- Quiz night – Friday 8th March at the Patternmakers (donations for the raffle gratefully received e.g. chocolates, wine/beer, unwanted gift sets)
- Wrapping and selling Mothering Sunday gifts ahead of being sold in school on 1st and 4th March
- World book day event – Willy Gilly golden ticket chocolate bars – Thursday 7th March
- A PTA run cash raffle at the parents' evenings in March.
- Summer Fayre – 17th May
- Silent Disco
- Carnival committee
- Colour Run





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To get involved please contact the PTA via williamgilbertpta@gmail.com or using the school email address enquiries@williamgilbertend.derbyshire.sch.uk

A way ahead

For parents with older children in the school who have been part of William Gilbert school for a long time, and before the pandemic, will remember how certain PTA events were organised and run. For parents new to the school since 2019, I would like to share how things used to be. Traditionally, groups of interested parents would get together and form mini committees to run certain events. This would spread the workload and enabled a wide range of events to be highly successful and lucrative. For example,

- * Year 2 Parents would organise and run the Christmas Fayre
- * Year 5 Parents would organise and run the Summer Fayre
- * Ball committee
- * School disco committee
- * Carnival committee
- * Groups that would run Mother's Day/Father's Day and Christmas gifting

From a school perspective, and as a past parent this seemed to work very well. However, I appreciate not everyone shares the same view. Natalie Macdonald, chair of the PTA, organises regular PTA meetings at different times and venues throughout the year. Every parent is welcome to attend these meetings and it is an opportunity to get involved or share your views. There will be a PTA AGM later in the year and I strongly encourage you to attend to help shape your PTA for the future. I will inform you of this closer to the time.

How can you help?

Colour Run Natalie Macdonald is keen to hear from parents that would be willing to support the organisation of this event. The aim is to host a Colour Run that will be a community event hopefully at Eyes Meadows or Greys Rec. Would you like to join this group of parents and make this a memorable event for all our community? Please get in touch.

Duffield Carnival – This year the theme is 'pirates' and I would like to create a sustainable, environmentally friendly, and plastic free float to be proud of! I would like as many children to be involved in this as possible. Are you creative? Or great at organising? Or have some innovative ideas? We really do need you!

Donations – If you are not able to offer your time, could you make a donation? Coming soon there will be an opportunity to make a donation to help fund our school in becoming a Bridge the Gap school. This will further strengthen our mental health and wellbeing offer for all pupils.

World Book Day – During the first week of March we will be sharing a range of books we would like to buy for the benefit of all pupils, to boost and improve our class and school libraries. Could you scan the code and have a book delivered to school? This information will be posted on the school noticeboard at the bottom of the infant ramp after half term.





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Summer Fayre – Could you get together and form a summer fayre committee and equal the success of the Christmas Fayre? If you are a Y5 parent and like the idea of returning to this way of organising the event, please do get in touch with the PTA. But of course, volunteers of support can come from all year groups as ‘many hands, make light work’.

Reuse and Repurpose

We are currently working to improve the outdoor provision for pupils through donations, fundraising and bids to the Parish Council and Duffield Community Association. To save funds further do you have any of the following items that you could donate?

- Children’s umbrellas
- Wellies (for 3–4-year-olds)
- Waterproof all in ones/jackets/trousers for outdoor play – Ages 3-7
- Crates- plastic/wooden (like bread or milk crates – a pack of 8 to buy costs us nearly £70!)
- Guttering/piping/tubing of various lengths and widths
- Trio (construction sets- very expensive online now and its children’s favourite – have older children’s interests moved on and you would be willing to donate)
- Scarves/cloths/ribbons/streamers/pompoms for dance/movement
- 10 tyres (a set of 10 tyres costs over £80!)
- Bark chippings – large bags for outdoor areas
- Tree stumps for sitting on
- Compost bin
- Water butts
- Watering cans
- Cable reels (these can be used as little tables with our youngest pupils in the outdoor areas)



Don’t throw them away – ‘one man’s rubbish is another man’s treasure!’

Our fundraising wish list - Some of the projects we would like to embark on include:

- Continue to refurbish and improve our outside areas and playgrounds.
- Resourcing and equipping our ‘Retreat’ which is a room for pupils to access. It is an important facility for children who need extra support and for families who are experiencing difficulties.
- Continue to fund our ‘Energy Wall’ in the KS2 playground.
- Funding a ‘mood tracker’ to be used by all pupils across the school to support the mental health and wellbeing.
- Upgrade of the nursery toilets and nursery garden.
- Replace the infant toilet facilities.
- Replenish the infant and junior libraries with further books to enhance the topics they are learning about.





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- Create reading/reflection spaces through the use of sheds/huts on the infant and junior playgrounds for children to access at breaktimes.
- Provide shading for children on the junior playground with a fixed shelter and temporary shading for sports events.
- Continue to provide curriculum enhancements such as visits from authors, artists, musicians and athletes to inspire and enrich children.

Could you give some time and energy to this organisation?

Could you join together with other parents in your child's class to organise a new event.

Do you own or work for a business which could sponsor a sports activity/ classroom refurbishment/ equipment drive?

Do you have any furniture / equipment which might be used in school or in the playground. Before you sell it on social media, could the school make use of it?

Could you organise a working party to help improve the nursery garden or paint some of our wooden benches and huts?

Every penny raised will be for the benefit of your children and to improve the facilities they access. The chair of the PTA will continue to communicate all the exciting events they are organising to bring us all together as a community, through the PTA newsletter. We extend our gratitude to the continued hard work of the core PTA committee in ensuring our PTA continues to run as a successful charity for the benefit of all pupils and our community.

If you can help in anyway please contact the PTA via williamgilbertpta@gmail.com your class rep on the WhatsApp group or via the school office on enquiries@williamgilbertend.derbyshire.sch.uk or approach Mrs Britten on the school gate.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter; we need your support now more than ever.

Kind Regards

Mrs E H Britten
Headteacher

Mrs K Woods
Chair of Governors

