

NEWSLETTER

William Gilbert Endowed School

11 October 2006

No: 319

Dear Parents

Harvest Celebration

Thank you for your tremendous support and generous donation of gifts for our Harvest celebration. The Barnados Charity was delighted with the number of goods donated.

Year 6 pupils visited and chatted to our neighbours on St Alkmunds Close before presenting them with a box of harvest goodies. The pleasure they gave was clearly immense to residents who probably wouldn't see or speak to anyone else that day. In return Year 6 have received several thank you letters. Congratulations Year 6 on a job well undertaken and some good 'life skills' practised and learned.

Pumpkin Winners

Congratulations to Robert Collins in the Juniors, Heidi Whittingham in the Infants and Hannah Slade-Walker in the Foundation Stage for growing the largest pumpkins this year. Well done to everyone who took part.

School Uniform

Autumn is creeping up on us and when term restarts on Monday 30th October all pupils need to be in full winter uniform. This means a collar and tie for everyone with the appropriate trousers, skirt or pinafore. Please note only red or navy blue jumpers or cardigans are allowed and girl's tights should only be plain red, navy, grey or black. Your co-operation and support with our uniform is always appreciated.

Junior Pupils – Games Lessons

After half term pupils will need their navy and white P.E. kit and plimsolls in their pump bag in school at all times. In addition on a Monday and Tuesday (unless attending swimming lessons) they will need:

- Navy or black tracksuit (as plain as possible)
- White T shirt
- Waterproof/cagoule
- Socks
- Trainers
- Small hand towel

These items need to come to school in a separate bag in preparation for the block of lessons which will take place outside next half term with our specialist PE teacher, Mr Robinson.

It is essential the children have this complete change of clothes as the lesson will take place irrespective of the weather, and we do not wish the children to be sat in damp socks and clothes for the rest of the day.

If we have torrential rain or the playground is dangerous due to ice then Mr Robinson will provide an alternative lesson.

School Lunches

Uptake for school lunches is very high and reflects the determination of the kitchen staff to provide high quality and enjoyable meals.

Although every school has received some 'Jamie Oliver' money it is not sufficient to compensate for the extra costs incurred by purchasing fresh produce. After much debate the Governors have found it necessary to raise the cost of a school meal by 10p to £1.60 a day.

Despite the increase we are confident that the meals do provide excellent value for money and we hope you will feel the same.

The school office will be sending out details of costs for next half term on Friday and a prompt payment either weekly or half termly would be appreciated at the beginning of next half term.

Half Term Activities

Allestree 'Schools Out' Club are running activities during half term Monday 23 October-Friday 27 October.

To book a place or for further information and details of fees telephone Amanda on 01332 737947 or 07984 908836 or e-mail allestreeschoolsoutclub@hotmail.com

Named Charity for the Year

We have chosen to support the County Air Ambulance this year. They need to raise over 3 million pounds to keep the service operational. A representative is coming to talk to the children after half term. Details of our fundraising activities will follow.

Complaints

I am duty bound to annually remind you of the school complaints procedure, which is available in full in the school office. In summary, day to day problems should be solved in conjunction with your child's class teacher. If you feel it necessary to make a complaint then in the first instance you should arrange an appointment to share your complaint with me. If after investigation and discussion you are still not satisfied then you are entitled to make your complaint in writing to the Chair of Governors, Mr R Beevers.

Half-Term Holiday

School will close to pupils on Friday 20 October at 3.30pm and re-opens to all pupils on Monday 30th October. I hope everyone enjoys the half term break and returns to school feeling rested and ready for the run up to Christmas!

Yours sincerely

S J Whyld