



**William Gilbert Endowed
(Church of England) Voluntary Aided
Primary School**
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NEWSLETTER

21st November 2007

No. 338

Dear Parents

Antibullying Week/Launch of ABC Accreditation

This week is 'antibullying week' and it seems appropriate to launch our aim to work towards the Local Authority ABC Scheme accreditation for antibullying.

Earlier this half term we undertook an audit of our policy and practice and the areas where we could collectively improve. To further inform our strengths and areas to develop we invite you as parents to complete the attached questionnaire and return it to school by Friday 30th November.

Staff and pupils will also complete a questionnaire and we will collate and publish the results of the analysis of all 3 questionnaires, which will drive our action plan.

'Dress Blue' – Friday 23rd November

Schools engaged with antibullying schemes are encouraged to host a special day when all pupils dress in blue on Friday 23rd November. We would like to invite all our pupils to partake in a 'non-uniform day' this Friday and dress in 'blue' or as many blue items as possible.

There is no charge for this non-uniform day but if you wish to send a £1 or more donation we will put the money towards our Childhood Cancer charity.

School Clubs

School clubs will finish on the following dates:-

<u>Club</u>	<u>Last Date</u>
Cookery and Dance	Monday 26 th November
5-a-side Football	Monday 3 rd December
Hockey	Already finished for this term
'Active Kids'	Wednesday 28 th November
Computers	Thursday 29 th November
Gardening	Thursday 29 th November
Soccer Starts	Thursday 13 th December *

- * Please note Soccer Stars will finish at 4.15 p.m. on Thursday 6th and 13th December due to the darker evenings. Pupils may depart school in their football kit direct from the playground providing a parent/carer is on the playground/driveway to collect them. Pupils will sit in the entrance hall if parents/carers are late.

I will inform you of club availability and start dates in the New Year.

Thank you to all staff/parents and friends of the school who have provided a club this term.

Mrs Rogers who runs our Hockey Club is looking for help to run the Hockey after Christmas with a view to taking over the running of the club in the future. Any interested parties to contact Mrs Rogers direct or leave their details with the school office.

PTA Christmas Fayre – Friday 23rd November

I hope many of you will be attending the Christmas Fayre. Please remember that children should be accompanied by an adult who is responsible for them. Please make sure your child is fully aware of food products eg, chocolate with nut traces which they must not eat.

PTA Christmas Cards

Remember to place your orders for individually and uniquely designed cards by your child. The details enclosed in your sample pack are rather confusing. You need to fill in the order form and send £6.50 to receive a pack of 10 cards with envelopes. I hope this helps clarify a number of queries.

Year 6 Residential to Whitby

Year 6 pupils returned from a successful residential journey to Whitby on Sunday 11th November. How proud we all are, of both parents and pupils who conquered fears of staying away from home. Numerous comments were reported from members of the public, the hotel and the sweetshop; as to how polite and well behaved our children were.

A huge thank you to Mr and Mrs Stevenson, Mrs Wall and Mrs Guard who gave freely of their time. Having taken many residential journeys I can only inform you that they are very rewarding but jolly hard work.

Y4 Visit to Tutbury Castle on Wednesday 14th November

Well done Year 4 on an excellent visit to Tutbury Castle. I was thrilled to receive a letter about your conduct and knowledge, the letter states:

"I must congratulate you on your children's behaviour today on their visit to the Castle. Their comprehension of the subject and their interest in history was well focussed given their young age.

The questions and answers were all first class and well thought out.

Our armourer was also very impressed with the children and the staff in the tearoom said how polite and courteous they were.

They are, indeed, a credit to the school".

Hockey Success

Thanks to Mrs Rogers and the Under 9 hockey team for winning their tournament on November 11th. We have celebrated the high amount of goals scored in this morning's Golden Assembly.

Well done to the U10's who played really well in the absence of the U11's who were at Whitby.

The match reports are on display on the Golden Board.

School Photographs

Please place your orders by Friday 30th November to ensure delivery before Christmas and free post and packing.

A Message of Inspiration

Last week was a difficult week for many and resulted in postponing the KS2 production.

Thank you to the numerous parents who have offered their support. Your response has been overwhelming, most uplifting and greatly appreciated. My final key message is that there will be zero tolerance to aggressive behaviour but that does not mean you cannot come into school with a worry, concern or when necessary and appropriate, a complaint.

Please use before the school day for quick messages eg, informing us about a piano exam or dentist appointment and make an appointment to see staff at a mutually convenient time after school for other issues.

I am anxious that the school moves on from the situation and to that end I share with you a prayer and sung blessing, which the children embraced last Thursday.

Prayer:

Serving Lord, it is too easy to be the shadow in the middle

Pointing the finger of blame – quick to condemn and slow to forgive.

You hesitated – you did not respond quickly – your gut instinct was not to condemn but to restore.

May we see through the eyes of others – and listen and understand and recognize how we would have behaved in similar circumstances and under similar pressures.

As we seek to be those living right may we never fail to empathize, to understand, to forgive and where possible to restore

because this is what you have done to us and continue to do for us.

Your grace and mercy is our hope – may we pass it on to others, so that the bitter seed of self-righteousness is not allowed to grow in us.

Sung Blessing:

“May your life in this world be a happy one,
may the sun be warm and may the skies be blue.
May each storm that comes your way
clear the air for a brighter day,
may the Saints and Saviour watch over you”

Dismay, tears and disbelief stared at the staff and I from innocent young faces; but together we continue to learn and improve and ultimately the concert will go ahead and the children will not be penalised. You should be incredibly proud of your child’s conduct in the light of such disappointment.

On behalf of the staff, I thank you once again for your support.

Yours sincerely

S J Whyld
Headteacher