



William Gilbert Endowed

(Church of England) *Voluntary Aided*

Primary School

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Healthy School

NEWSLETTER

19th June 2008

No. 347

Dear Parents

On behalf of the Governors and staff of the school, Mrs Carmichael-Smith and I are delighted to share our Ofsted report with you.

The report accompanies this letter and includes a letter to the pupils which has been shared with them today. The report may be accessed on the Ofsted website from the 26th June. I am sure you will be very pleased that your child is a member of our “outstanding” school.

Church Inspection

Our Church Inspection was carried out yesterday and we look forward to sharing the report with you in due course.

Platinum Status Award ‘Sing Up’

I am thrilled to share further good news that our school has been nominated and awarded ‘Platinum Status’ in the National ‘Sing Up’ Awards. We are the only school in Derbyshire to achieve this award and just one of two schools in the whole of the East Midlands.

The Sing Up campaign has been launched with £40 million funding over four years. Its aim is to put singing at the heart of every primary school in England by 2011.

The £40 million government investment in singing aims to ensure that every primary school-aged child has the opportunity to experience high quality singing as part of their everyday lives in the school, the home and the wider community.

The investment in singing is part of a wider government commitment to provide £316m to support music making in schools over the next three years.

Howard Goodall, National Singing Ambassador, said “Research has shown that young people who are lucky enough to learn music and sing from an early age develop better social skills, memory, ability to listen and have more confidence. It can be used to improve motor-skills and language development, as well as cognitive abilities in maths. The skills needed for singing, including coordination and listening also help develop the brain”.

“Singing also builds a child’s self-esteem, promotes team-work irrespective of age, gender and background, celebrates diversity, facilitates self-expression – and is just plain fun”.

Leading the support for the initiative, urban artist and Sing Up spokesperson **Jamelia** says: “Singing in a class is something I got a great deal from as a child – it really helped to build up my confidence and taught me how to express myself better”.

Schools across the whole of England are encouraged to join the ‘Sing Up’ campaign and work towards Bronze, Silver or Gold accreditation. As a Platinum School we are recognised for the outstanding quality of our singing and the opportunities for children to make music together. We will now be involved in advising other schools on their Sing Up Awards journey and the school will be featured in various Sing Up publications and publicity as examples of good practice.

Staff Departure

Following a period of sick leave Mr Palethorpe has resigned from his position as Caretaker of our school. I am grateful to a number of staff who have taken on his various duties to cover his absence and continue to do so. We are advertising for a new caretaker to commence in September.

Following 17 years of committed work at William Gilbert, Mrs Bexon has decided to move on to pastures new and I know you will join the staff and Governors in wishing her every success in the future. Key Stage 1 staffing for September is organised and you will be informed of the staffing arrangements for the whole school in due course.

Mrs Ollett also officially leaves at the end of this term following her promotion earlier this year. The Governors will be re-advertising her post in September. Although the school is without a specialist SENCO, the various needs of our pupils who need extra support will be maintained by the class teachers with support from a variety of specialists that come into school. Mrs Ollett has promised she is only a phone call away!

Class Photographs

Class and team photographs have been taken today and will be on display with purchase details in due course.

S J Whyld
Headteacher