



William Gilbert Endowed

(Church of England) Voluntary Aided

Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs S J Whyld



Healthy School



NEWSLETTER

13 November 2008

No. 356

Dear Parents

Welcome back after the half term break. I look forward to inviting you to the forthcoming Christmas activities in due course.

School Clubs

Listed below are the finish dates until the New Year for the after school clubs.

Please note that further to the letter sent to the hockey club members by Mrs Bashir and Mrs Barke there will be no more hockey sessions, after tonight, until next year. This is a very popular and oversubscribed group and the leaders would like to regroup the children to ensure full participation and safe practice for everyone. Mrs Bashir and Mrs Barke will be writing to all members in the New Year.

	Club	Last Date
Monday	5-a-side	Monday 24 November
	Healthy Cookery	Monday 17 November
	Art	Monday 24 November
Tuesday	Soccer Stars	Tuesday 16 December
Wednesday	Computers	Wednesday 19 November
	Gardening	Wednesday 28 November
Thursday	Hockey	Thursday 13 November

Please note Soccer Stars will finish at 4.15pm on Thursday 4th, 11th & 16th 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.

PARENTAL VISITS TO SCHOOL

Following a recent inspection a health and safety issue was highlighted: that visitors to school press the bell and enter school but do not report to the school office. We are having to reconsider our entrance procedures but I must ask all visitors, which includes all parents, to report to the school office upon entering the school. Only when issued with a visitors badge can you then proceed into school. Forgotten lunch boxes and sports kits can be left at the office and when medicine administration or collection for appointments is necessary your child will be fetched for you. For your own protection it is necessary for me to insist that parents do not walk through the school during the day without a visitors badge giving you permission to do so. Parental helpers need to continue to sign in and collect a badge.

Parents should be using home/school communication books for messages but if it is necessary to see a member of staff in the morning then you must ensure you have seen them and left the building before the school day starts or make an appointment.

Teachers need to be available to their pupils at 8.55am and parents must not prevent them from beginning the

Please do not think you are not welcome – you are very welcome, but the health, safety and well being of every pupil is paramount. If you are unable to access the member of staff you want, then please find me.

Your support in following these instructions would be greatly appreciated. If you are concerned or need further clarification please contact me. I am always willing to listen to your comments.

PARENTAL PARKING (THIS IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ THOROUGHLY)

Once again, I need to ask parents to consider others when parking their cars. Since half term I have had to deal with 2 complaints due to inconsiderate parking and unacceptable exchanges taking place between the people involved.

Following the disco a resident quite rightly complained that a parent blocked their access by parking their car across a driveway. This is unacceptable.

Yesterday an emergency charge nurse attended school to complain about parking on St Alkmunds Close. The nurse was trying to attend a resident in the bungalows on St Alkmunds Close who needed emergency medication to be administered. From the resident calling their alarm the nurse has 7 minutes to attend. On this occasion the nurse could not gain access to St Alkmunds Close due to the volume of cars, so in his duty of care he abandoned his emergency vehicle with a flashing light on top and ran with all his equipment to the person in need. Unfortunately the resident had passed away whilst waiting. On returning to his vehicle to call for the doctor and inform the family he was met with a verbal attack from a parent, who the nurse described as female, blonde and drove a black Range Rover. Can you imagine how I felt, as the Headteacher of a Church School, in trying to deliver an appropriate response? I could only apologise on your behalf.

In addition the nurse also made known his concern about the number of parents who have pushchairs and young children walking in the road on Vicarage Lane. When he has had to approach St Alkmunds Close in an emergency he has been greeted with rude gestures from parents who felt aggrieved by his need to travel safely but with urgency.

Many of you would have witnessed our critical incident plan in practice last Thursday following a serious playground accident to one of our pupils. The school site was accessible by your acceptance of necessary safety measures of waiting on the pavement outside the junior entrance – this enables us to implement our critical incident plan at any time of the day. However, the ambulance had difficulty leaving the site due to inconsiderate parking.

Please can you help me? I need to be able to lead William Gilbert School and educate your children rather than spending excessive time on such issues. It is my duty to educate your children to think about others not just themselves.

The senior citizens on St Alkmunds Close need to be able to access emergency vehicles, hospital transport, taxis etc. That is their entitlement and we should be compassionate to their needs.

Every one of our pupils, your children, and our staff are entitled to the most effective critical care we can provide in the event of an emergency.

I look forward to your support and co-operation in this matter.

Yours sincerely

S J Whyld