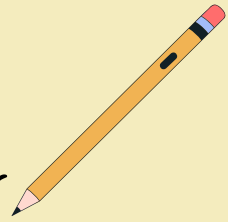


# Horizon Schools Federation

September Newsletter



## A message from Mrs Foston...

*What a wonderful start to our Autumn Term! The children have returned to school brilliantly, engaging in their learning, exploring their environment and enjoying fantastic new experiences. It has been a very busy few weeks!*



Horizon  
Schools Federation

# Donington Nursery

Welcome Bumblebees!



We are open!!! We are delighted to welcome our nursery children at Donington. It has been lovely to see how well our youngest children have settled in and are enjoying their incredible new learning environment. Funded spaces remain available! Please contact Donington's school office for more information.



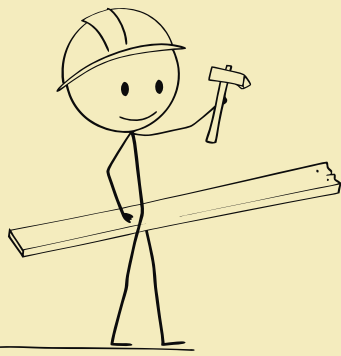


## Robin's Nest - Donington

We are delighted to announce the opening of Robin's Nest, our new outdoor library and learning space at Donington. This incredible facility, opened on Monday 15th September, would not have been possible without the generous donations from the Cowely Trust. We are incredibly grateful for their commitment to our school and offer our heartfelt thanks for this.



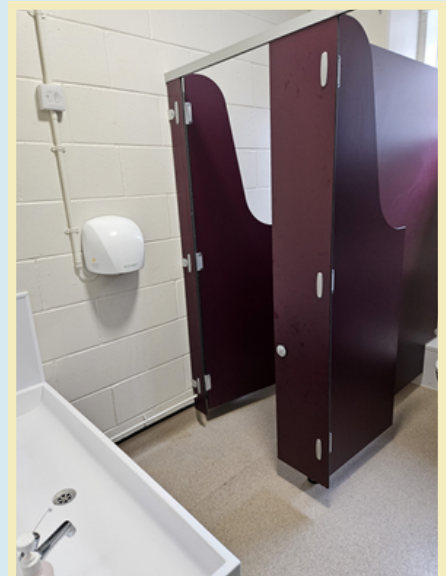




## Refurbishments - St Gilbert's



Over the Summer holidays we had a complete transformation of Badgers Classroom, it has been completely refurbished. We also had the Reception/Nursery toilets refurbished.





# Attendance

Attendance percentages explained.



## SEND & Inclusion

Your child's class teacher is always the first point of call for any concerns around special educational needs. However, if you would like to discuss anything further, then please do not hesitate to make an appointment with our special educational needs co-ordinator, Mrs S Ogden.





## Sports updates



### St Gilbert's

We are delighted to announce that the school have been awarded the School Games Gold Sports Mark Award for the 2024/2025 academic year.

The School Games Sports Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward and recognises school engagement (provision and uptake) in the School Games against a national benchmark and to celebrate keeping young people active, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

We are extremely proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of physical activity and school sport and we have lots more planned for this year!



### Donington

This year, we will continue to take part in a variety of sporting events and activities from football to athletics to table tennis. Our first event will take place on the 1st of October when some of our girls in KS2 will go to Boston United's stadium for a morning of different footballing activities.



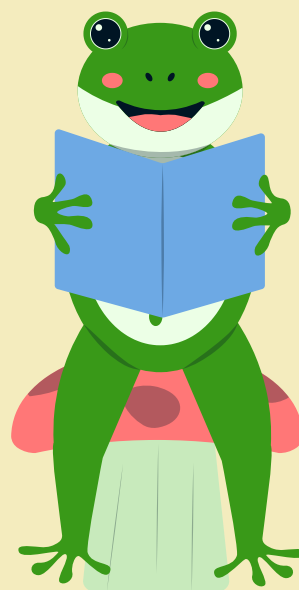


# Reading



We are currently in the process of selecting our new Reading Ambassadors at both schools for 2025-26. The children are all excited to apply and we look forward to our upcoming exciting projects this year!

Read Write Inc phonics has gotten off to a successful start this year and the children have all been working hard in their sessions. We encourage all children to read their book to an adult as often as possible and we appreciate any comments made in reading diaries that help support your child's reading development. It is always useful to practice the red and green words in the storybooks at the front and back and support children in identifying 'special friends', 'Fred talking' and 'read the word.'



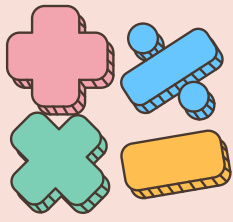
## Donington

On October 13th at 3.30pm, Miss Gilhespy and Miss Rolfe will be holding an information session for all year 1 parents all about this year's phonics screening check. We look forward to seeing as many faces as possible and talking about all things reading.

This month we are starting new lunch time clubs for EYFS - Year 6 that are based in the brand new outdoor library! We will be doing some lovely activities such as book clubs, crafts based on books, sharing stories and enjoying the lovely facilities that Robin's Nest offers us. Keep an eye out for exciting updates on the website!







# Maths



Maths continues to develop and thrive at our school with the children keen to develop their mathematical knowledge. Times Tables Rock Stars continues to be a key part of our maths curriculum, and the children need to continue to use this app at home to improve their times tables knowledge.

## Reminder - No Nuts

Due to severe allergies in school, please can I remind you that both Donington and St Gilbert's are Nut Free schools. This includes all products containing nuts.





# Our School Councils



## Donington

This year, we will be having 10 School Councillors, which will include a boy and a girl from each year group. Similar to last year, we will focus on raising money for charity and school events such as the Christmas Fayre and Young Voices. We will also be organising events and assemblies to raise awareness of certain topics such as anti-bullying and World Kindness Day. One of our main goals this year will be collecting badges to earn the Superkind Award! This award focuses on children completing social actions which benefit others or their community and earning a badge for their hard work. The badges will be given out termly and can be collected for actions such as donating, making a speech, fundraising or showing positive behaviour. We hope to reach our goal of collecting 250 badges by the end of the school year.



## St Gilbert's

Last week, our children learned about democracy and each class held a vote to elect our new school councillors. Our school councillors will meet throughout the term as we work to establish our school and Christian values throughout the school and continue to work towards our Global Neighbours accreditation.





# Space Centre



On Monday, Year 5 and 6 enjoyed an exciting trip to the National Space Centre in Leicester as part of their science topic on space and our history topic on “out of this world”. From the moment we arrived, the children were amazed by the impressive Rocket Tower. During the visit, pupils explored interactive galleries filled with fascinating exhibits about planets, stars, astronauts, and space exploration. A highlight for many was the chance to step inside a replica space capsule and experience what it might be like to travel beyond Earth. The children also enjoyed learning how astronauts live and work in space.

The planetarium show was another memorable experience, taking everyone on an immersive journey through the solar system. Pupils were enthralled by the visuals and came away with a greater understanding of the planets in our solar system.





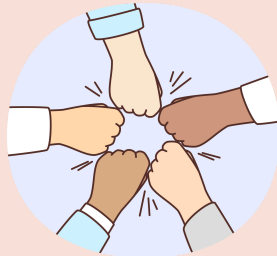


# PGL 2025

LET'S GO

ADVENTURE

The Year 4 children had a wonderful time at their first residential at PGL in Caythorpe, despite lots of rain! Children participated in a wide variety of adventure activities such as climbing, archery, raft building, problem solving and the giant swing! Our Y4's developed confidence, resilience, and independence by participating in the many adventure activities and overcame challenges. We are so proud of them all!





# Messages from the school offices

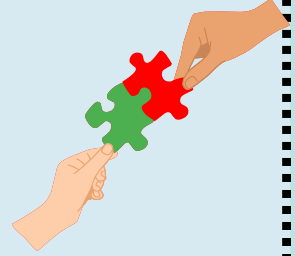


- A reminder when you collect your children after school, please can you collect your child(ren) and leave the school premises; children should not be using the playground equipment and field/playground after school – thank you.
- The school photographers will be in both schools this term for individual and siblings photos. Please ensure your child(ren) come to school in full school uniform, there will be no PE on these days.  
Donington - Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September  
St Gilbert's - Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October
- Both schools will be moving to a new Parent Portal after half term. We will keep you updated with developments. This portal will allow parents to complete consent forms, make payments, log absences and book parents meetings.
- Uniform donations - thank you to all who contributed to St Gilbert's pre-loved uniform rail!  
We are not taking any more donations of full school uniform at Donington, however, if you have any PE kits to donate we would be grateful of these.
- Parent Consultations are taking place in October at both schools. Each office will communicate how and when to book.





# Governance



Our Governing Body has responsibility for ensuring strategic oversight and effective leadership across our federation. We are fortunate to have incredibly skilled, committed and passionate governors, who dedicate their time and efforts to our schools.

Our Governors are:

- Mr Rob Cole - Chair of Governors/ LA Governor
- Mr Matt Timings - Co-Chair of Governors/ Foundation Governor
- Mrs Sophie Foston - Executive Headteacher
- Mrs Jane King - Vice Chair of Governors/ Foundation Governor
- Rev Mark Williams - Foundation Governor
- Mr David Spoors - Foundation Governor
- Dr S Spoors - Foundation Governor
- Mrs Janet Lambert - Foundation Governor
- Mr Tony Keast - Foundation Governor
- Mr Simon Walsh - Foundation Governor
- Mr Sam Creasey - Foundation Governor
- Miss Laura Craigie - Staff Governor
- Mrs Laura Powell - Parent Governor
- Mrs Rachel Chapman - Parent Governor





# Dates for your Diary- Donington

## October

1st - Girls Football Development Day- Donington  
2<sup>nd</sup> - Harvest Festival Celebrations  
6th – 7th Roots to Food – Donington  
13th - Phonics Screening Check Parent Meeting- Donington 3.30pm  
17th - 20th Y5/6 Aylmerton Residential  
22nd - Parent Consultations- Donington  
23rd - End of Autumn Term 1  
24th - Training Day

## November

3rd - Start of Autumn Term 2  
14th - Children in Need - Non uniform

## December

5th - Sports Hall Athletics- Donington  
5th - Christmas Fair- Donington  
11th - Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day  
17th - Christmas Performance- Donington  
18th - Christmas Parties  
19th - End of Autumn Term 2

## January

5th - Training Day  
6th - Start of Spring Term 1



# Dates for your Diary- St Gilbert's

## October

6th - Individual School Photographs – St Gilbert's  
8th - Roots to Food- St Gilbert's  
14th - Parent Consultations- St Gilbert's  
17th - 20th Y5/6 Aylmerton Residential  
23rd - End of Autumn Term 1  
24th - Training Day

## November

3rd - Start of Autumn Term 2  
7th - Y3/4 Bikeability- St Gilbert's  
14<sup>th</sup> -Children in Need - Non uniform  
28th - Christmas Disco- St Gilbert's

## December

11th- Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day  
12th- Christmas Fair- St Gilbert's  
16th- Nativity- St Gilbert's  
18th- Christmas Parties  
19th- Christingle- St Gilbert's  
19th- End of Autumn Term 2

## January

5th- Training Day  
6th- Start of Spring Term 1



## Contact us

Donington

01775 820467

St Gilbert's

01529 240465



## Visit our Website

<https://horizon.eschoolswbsites.com>



## Follow us on Facebook

Donington

Donington Cowley  
Endowed Primary  
School Facebook  
page

St Gilbert's

St Gilbert of Sempringham C  
of E Primary School  
Facebook Page



Thank you for reading.

