

# November Newsletter

## A message from Mrs Foston

*We have had a fantastic start to Autumn Term 2! As you will have seen in our Christmas Flyer, sent out earlier this month, we are busily preparing for the Christmas season with lots of exciting events planned which we look forward to sharing with you.*

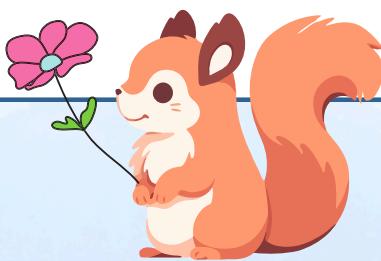
## Staffing update

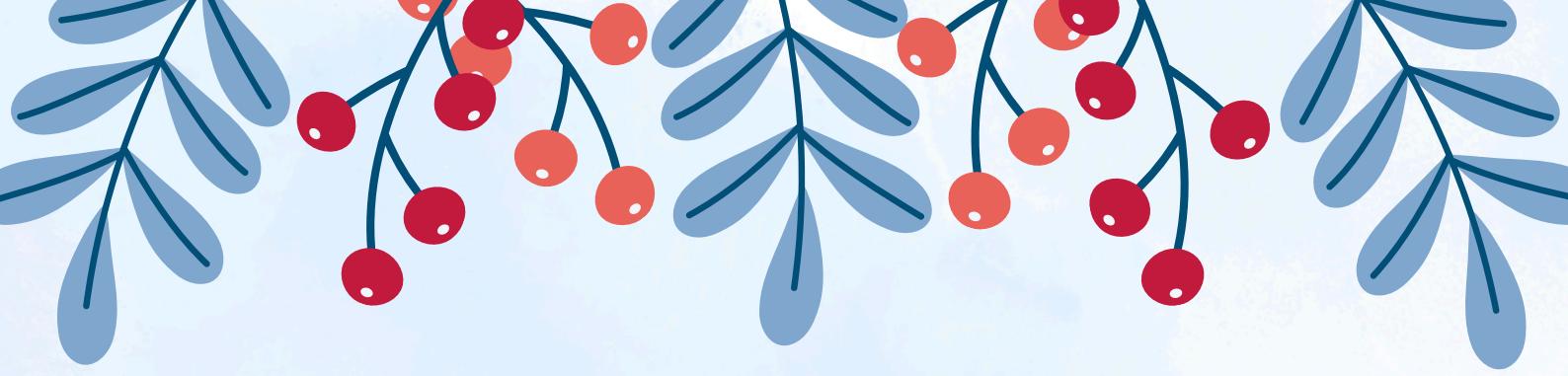
At the end of this term, Susan McArd will be retiring from her position of Administrator at St Gilberts. Susan has been a hugely valued member of our school community since childhood having attended the school herself. Her mother was a long serving governor of the school and Susan herself has been part of our governing body, serving as clerk for over 14 years and working in our school office for the past 7 years. Susan will be greatly missed by all members of our federation community; a source of knowledge and understanding. However, now is the time for some well-deserved rest and recuperation and of course some lovely term-time holidays.

Fortunately, she has promised to come back from time to time to support in school when needed and to catch up with her St Gilbert's family. I am sure I speak for all staff across the Federation, governors, parents and children in extending our sincerest thanks to Susan and wish her the very best.



We will also be saying goodbye to Amy Wright who has been teaching Red Squirrels at St Gilbert's since September. We wish Amy every success for the future and thank her for her contributions to our school. Mrs Tubb is delighted to be re joining Red Squirrels as class teacher from January.





## Reading

Our children have been thoroughly enjoying their class books. They have produced some fantastic pieces of work, demonstrating not only creativity but also a strong understanding of the texts. Their comprehension skills are really shining through, and we are incredibly proud of the thoughtful discussions and written responses they've been sharing across Donington and St Gilbert's.

### St Gilberts

We're very excited at St Gilberts to host another reading event. This term we would like families to come together to read and discuss books in a café-style setting. We would love to see you!

### Reading Café

Come along on  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December

3.30 – 4.00pm

Have a drink and enjoy a  
book with your child.

(SAS Classroom)



## Maths

November has been a fun and busy month in Maths! Our primary students have been working hard, learning new skills, and enjoying lots of hands-on activities. Children continued to practise important number work, including addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. We focused on understanding number patterns and using different strategies to solve problems with confidence.

This month, classes learned about exciting new areas of Maths, such as:

**Shapes and Space:** identifying 2D and 3D shapes, exploring symmetry, and describing shape properties

**Measurements:** using rulers and measuring tools to compare lengths, heights, and weights

**Data Handling:** creating simple charts and talking about information in tables and pictograms

These topics helped students make real-life connections in fun and practical ways. Children enjoyed maths games, group challenges, and problem-solving activities that encouraged teamwork and creativity. Many students showed excellent enthusiasm and perseverance—well done, everyone!

## Music

The sound of music is filling the corridors as music lessons are being conducted and celebrated throughout school. There are children learning musical instruments with Rory from Pop Rox. He teaches electric guitar, drums and vocals. If you are interested in signing up for these lessons – please look on the pop Rox website – [Pop Rox Music School](#). The choirs across St Gilberts and Donington have been busy practicing in preparation for their trip to Young Voices at Sheffield arena on February 11<sup>th</sup>. A letter has gone out with details about how to sign up for the event. Please complete this as soon as possible if you want your child to go.

There are several Christmas events coming up for our choirs to perform at over the coming weeks, details will be sent via the school offices.



## Sports – Donington

This month has been full of energy and excitement in our PE and sports activities! A group of our pupils proudly represented the school at a local football competition this month. The children showed fantastic teamwork, determination, and brilliant sportsmanship throughout the event. Although the results were not the focus, every child tried their absolute hardest and demonstrated great resilience on the pitch. We are incredibly proud of how well they represented our school—well done, team! We are now looking forward to our Sports Hall Athletics event coming up soon. Selected pupils will take part in a variety of indoor athletic activities, including running, jumping, and throwing challenges. Training has already begun in PE lessons, and the children are very excited to take part. We can't wait to share more about their achievements in next month's newsletter!



## Sports – St Gilberts

Some of the children from Red Squirrels class took part in Level 1 Bikeability at the beginning of the month. They all improved on and learnt new skill to help them be safe and confident on their bicycles.



Our Year 3 and 4 Archery league is well underway, with the team so far being undefeated! We have some fantastic archers in our school and we are hoping to retain our title as champions. Watch this space!



## School Council - Donington

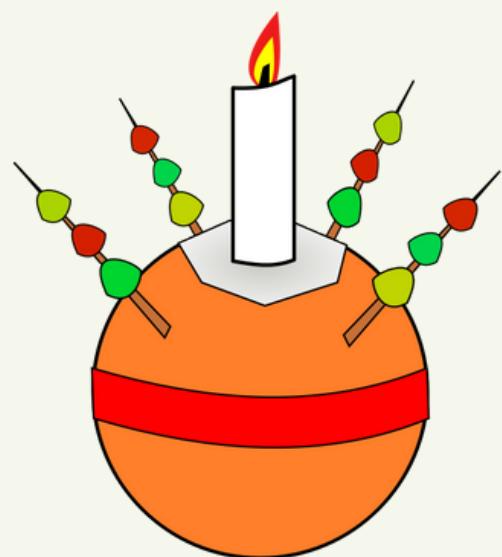
School Council have continued to meet every Wednesday to discuss upcoming events in school and within the PSHE Awareness Calendar. For anti-bullying week, children wore odd socks to celebrate being different and to raise awareness of bullying. School Council spent time taking photos of the odd socks and captured the funkiest pairs! On Thursday, they also led an assembly, which they had written themselves, for World Kindness Day. During this assembly, they gave suggestions on how to 'Bee kind' to others (for example, asking people how they are and saying good morning) but also suggested ways to be kind to themselves. This focuses on taking care of our mental health and making time for ourselves. Thank you to "Willoughbee" from Willoughby Foods for coming to visit us for our special assembly.

During our meetings, we have begun to prepare ideas for our stall at the Christmas fair and we look forward to getting this ready in the next few weeks!



## School Council - St Gilberts

School Council have met this term to discuss how we can continue to spread kindness and be neighbours to one another. Some members of our School Council joined Reverend Rebecca to lead our Bible stories assembly about how Jesus showed kindness to others no matter who they were or what they believe in. Later in the term, members of our school council are going to be helping our younger children to make Christingles ready for our Christingle service!



# Attendance

Thank you to all our families for your hard work with attendance. Our schools rely heavily on parent's getting their children to school on time and ensuring attendance is as regular as possible.

While we appreciate some absences are unavoidable, there are still children where their attendance is lower than we would want for them to thrive, as well as children arriving late regularly. We will be in contact individually with these families to see what further support can be offered to strive for good attendance.

Please can we also ask that where possible any dental or medical appointments are scheduled outside of the school day to ensure minimal disruption and missed lessons.

If you are concerned about your child's attendance or lateness, please speak to Mrs Ogden, Mrs Millard or Mrs Goode.

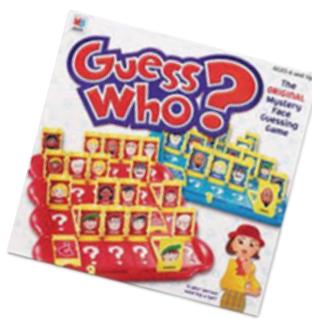
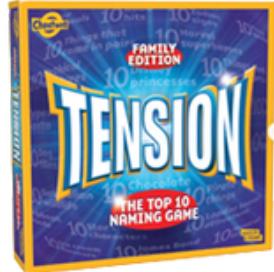
## Reminder!

- The school gates open at 8.45am.
- Registration is at 8.55am.



# SEND & Inclusion

Looking for Christmas presents? Below are some recommendations from the Speech and Language therapy team for presents that support children's language and emotional development across different age phases.



## News from the Office

### Arbor

Following the new Arbor Parent Portal launch, if you have any problems with setting up the app please contact the School Office so that we can help you.

If you wish to log your child's absence using Arbor, please click the menu button located on the bottom left corner of the screen, select attendance, then click the green 'log absence' button and complete the details.

Although all communication is now sent through Arbor, some messages will pop up in the parent portal and some will be in your email inbox so please keep an eye on both. This is mainly due to not being able to add attachments to the in-app messages. Our IT support have updated our security setting so all emails should now go to your email inbox rather than your junk mail.

### Parking at Donington

We continue to have a number of cars parking on the yellow zigzag lines outside of the school causing obstructions. Please can we ask for your co-operation in ensuring the road outside of the school is kept clear for the safety of all our children and families. [This includes breakfast club drop offs.](#)

Information regarding parking safely outside schools can be found on the following link.

<https://www.lincs.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/rs/road-safety/parking-outside-schools/>



## News from the Office

### Warm clothes

As we are heading into winter, please can all children come to school with coats, scarves, gloves and/or woolly hats. If your child does refuse to bring their coat on rainy days, please pop it into the office and we will make sure your child gets it before play time.



### Office cover at St Gilberts

Alongside her role as Attendance Officer, Mrs Goodge is also working part time in the School Office.

### Christmas Cards – Donington

If your child wishes to bring Christmas Cards in for their friends, the Christmas Post Box will be appearing again this year. Please ensure envelopes have names and classes of the recipients written on them clearly.





## Christmas Fair

Our annual Christmas Fair is fast approaching, and we are excited for it all to come together in a few weeks. We have some amazing raffle prizes ready for you to win and our amazing choir singing.

This year it will be held **Friday 12th December 5-7pm**.

Finally, if you are able to send any tombola donations they would be greatly appreciated, please leave them in the front entrance of the school.





## Christmas Fair

Our PTFA are very busy preparing for our Christmas Fair that is on **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 5pm - 7pm**.

This year, to share our love for reading with the community, we will be having a 'Book Tombola'! If you have any books you would like to donate, please bring them to the school office. Books can be for any age group including adults.

Thank you to everyone for their kind donations of bottles last Friday! The Bottle Stall table will be full once again with a fabulous range of bottles to be won. Be sure to come early as the bottles are quick to go!

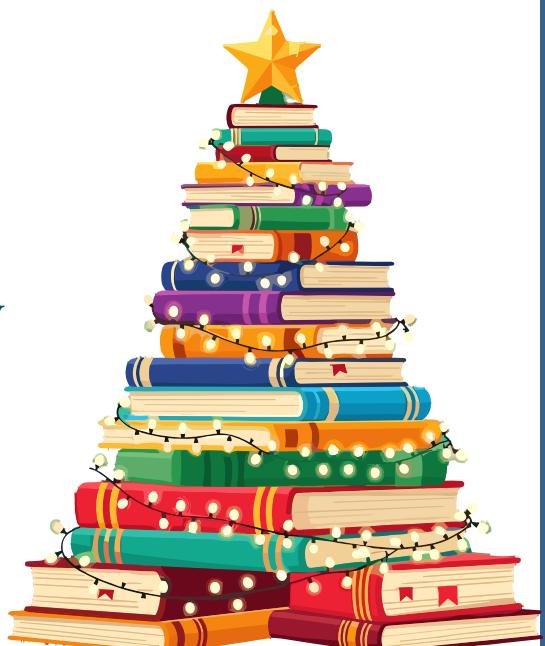
## Wet play boxes

Our wet play boxes are almost filled and ready to be handed out. These will be a great addition to each class room and will be filled with games, and arts and crafts for the children to enjoy on rainy days when they cannot go outside at break times.

## Electric Piano

Part of our Fundraising for 2024/2025 was to fund a new piano for the school. It has now arrived and will be used for music lessons and our school performances.

**Thank you to all our families for your ongoing support. If you ever have any ideas for fundraising or would like to get involved, please email [ptfa@cowley.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:ptfa@cowley.lincs.sch.uk)**



## Import Dates

### December

4<sup>th</sup> - Lincolnshire Music Services Assembly 2.30pm

5<sup>th</sup> - Sports Hall Athletics- Donington

5<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Fair- Donington 5pm - 7pm

5<sup>th</sup> - New nursery intake information session 1:30-2:15pm – Donington

6<sup>th</sup> - Donington Choir - Christmas Market - 5.30pm

7<sup>th</sup> - Nursery Christmas party - St Gilberts

8<sup>th</sup> - Choir recital- Donington - 3.40pm

9<sup>th</sup> - Reception open event (5-6pm) – Donington

11<sup>th</sup> - Y5 French Workshop at Cowley Academy- morning- Donington

11<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day - both schools

11<sup>th</sup> - Pop Rox Assembly- Donington - 9.15am

12<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Fair- St Gilbert's

12<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Disco- Donington - EYFS/KS1 – 5.30pm-6.30pm – KS2 6.45pm - 8pm

15<sup>th</sup> - Nursery Christmas Sing a long- St Gilbert's

15<sup>th</sup> - Nursery and Reception Christmas party (morning) - Donington

15<sup>th</sup> - Nursery and Reception Christmas Performance- Donington 2pm

16<sup>th</sup> - Reception/KS1 Nativity- St Gilbert's

17<sup>th</sup> - KS1 and KS2 Christmas Church Performance- Donington  
10:30am (KS1) and 1:45 (KS2)

18<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Parties – both schools

19<sup>th</sup> - Christingle- St Gilbert's

19<sup>th</sup> - End of Autumn Term 2



## Import Dates

### January

- 5<sup>th</sup> - Training Day
- 6<sup>th</sup> - Start of Spring Term 1
- 8<sup>th</sup> - Table Tennis tournament- Donington
- 20<sup>th</sup> - Nursery Open Events 1.30-2.30pm and 5-6pm
- 26<sup>th</sup> - Y4/5/6 Swimming week- each afternoon- St Gilbert's
- 26th - Year 5 Bikeability week - Donington
- 28<sup>th</sup> - Dance development day- Donington
- 30<sup>th</sup> - Sports Hall Athletics- Donington



### February

- 5<sup>th</sup> - Nursery Open Events 1.30-2.30 and 5-6pm
- 13<sup>th</sup> - End of Spring term 1
- 23<sup>rd</sup> - Start of Spring term 2
- 24<sup>th</sup> - Gymnastics Development day- Donington

### March

- 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> - Y5/6 Bikeability- St Gilbert's
- 5<sup>th</sup> - World Book Day
- 10<sup>th</sup> - Parent Consultations- Donington
- 11<sup>th</sup> - Parent Consultations- St Gilbert's
- 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> - Roots to Food- Donington
- 18<sup>th</sup> - Roots to Food- St Gilbert's
- 27<sup>th</sup> - Nursery- New intake parent coffee afternoon 1:30-2:15
- 30<sup>th</sup> - School Production week- St Gilbert's – details to follow
- 2nd- End of Spring Term





**Facebook**

[Donington Cowley Endowed Primary School](#)

[St Gilbert of Sempringham C of E Primary School](#)

**Website**

<https://horizon.eschoolswebsites.com>

**Contact Info - St Gilberts**

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Phone: 01529 240465

**Contact Info - Donington**

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