



# CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER



## A MESSAGE FROM MRS FOSTON

*After a whirlwind Autumn Term 2, Christmas is here!! I would like to wish all of our federation community a wonderful Christmas and happy new year. I hope everyone has a lovely break, spending time with loved ones and look forward to seeing you all in 2026!*

## STAFFING UPDATE

We say goodbye to Susan McArd and Amy Wright from St Gilbert's. On behalf of our federation community we would like to thank them for their dedication and commitment, wish them the very best for the future and hope they stay in touch!



## REMINDER

As advised previously, Mrs Foston will be absent at the start of January. Mrs Ogden will deputise during this time.





# ST GILBERT'S NEWS

## CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Christmas is a busy time for everyone, and we have had a wonderful end to the term. Hedgehog Class put on a fantastic Nativity performance – the children were amazing, sang beautifully, and told the Nativity story with great confidence. We also enjoyed a very successful disco in the evening with lots of dancing. Thank you to everyone who came and helped make these events so special.



## MUSIC

This term we have had so many music events happening! Choirs at both Donington and St. Gilberts have been busy learning Christmas songs to perform for the community over the festive period.

Next term we will be busy practicing songs for our upcoming trip to Young Voices which is at Sheffield Utilita arena on February 11th. If you have not already bought yourself a t-shirt online, please make sure you order one quickly! Miss Tyler and Miss Rolfe will continue to support both choirs at Donington and St. Gilberts. More details about Young Voices will be sent out in the New year.



## SPORTS

Our Year 3 and 4 children have been competing in an archery league during the Autumn term and we are proud to say that out of 28 local schools, we came second, losing narrowly in the final. The children have been fantastic and we have some promising archers in our school. Well done to all who took part.

Looking forward into 2026, we have many activities planned such as New Age Kurling, Rugby, Cross Country and much more!

Please do check the PE days for your child's class in the New Year and ensure that they are prepared by wearing or bringing their PE kit on the correct days.





# ST GILBERT'S NEWS



## READING

We are very proud to announce we have been awarded the Lincolnshire Reading Pledge Bronze Award. The Lincolnshire Reading Pledge has been developed by Witham St Hugh's English Hub and L.E.A.D. Teaching School Hub.

The ultimate aim of the Lincolnshire Reading Pledge is to ensure that every child, regardless of their background, needs or abilities, becomes a confident, fluent and enthusiastic reader. To achieve the award staff and pupils worked towards meeting a range of criteria throughout the academic year. Thank you to everyone who supported our World Book Day and reading for pleasure events. We look forward to continuing our journey towards achieving Silver!

Please see the reading section on our school website for more information.



## SHARED READING

All children from across school and nursery took part in this reading event. Shared reading with peers is important because it fosters collaboration, builds confidence, and enhances understanding of texts. It provides a supportive environment for developing literacy skills, encouraging active engagement, and promoting a love for reading. We love to share our books with children from different classes!



## READING CAFE

We recently held another Reading for Pleasure event after school. This event was in a café-style environment where adults and children shared books together with squash, biscuits and some yummy mince pies! Thank you to everyone who attended.



# ST GILBERT'S NEWS

## PTFA

Following our official formation back in November, we have had a very busy few weeks organising and preparing for our first events.

We are extremely proud to be able to share, that thanks to your amazing support we have raised a staggering £2,028.49!! across our Autumn term events; the Winter Disco, Christmas Fair and Nativity refreshments.

We would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to everyone who attended and supported our Christmas Fair last week. It was truly magical to see so many families celebrating together and helping to support our school.

After the Christmas break, we look forward to getting back to work organising some brand new family events for you all in the New Year!

We would like to wish our whole school community a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, with heartfelt thanks from everyone in the PTFA





# DONINGTON NEWS

## CHRISTMAS EVENTS

What a wonderfully busy few weeks we have had in school! It was lovely to see so many of you at our Christmas Fair, and we are grateful for your continued support. The children have made us incredibly proud with their Christmas Carol Service, where they sang a beautiful selection of traditional and modern carols. Key Stage 1, together with EYFS and Nursery, also shone brightly in their Nativity performance. Our Christmas discos for KS1 and KS2 were once again a great success and gave the children a fantastic start to the festive season. We now look forward to rounding off the term with our class parties and celebrating the end of a brilliant term together.



## SPORTS

It has been another fantastic half term for sport across school! Our KS2 pupils have thoroughly enjoyed archery practice, developing focus, control and perseverance while learning a brand-new skill. It has been brilliant to see so many children showing determination and encouraging one another.

We are also incredibly proud of our Year 5/6 sports hall athletics team, who competed superbly and finished in an excellent 3rd place. Their teamwork, effort and positive attitude were a real credit to the school. Looking ahead, there are lots of exciting opportunities coming up. Pupils will soon be taking part in Boccia, Year 3/4 sports hall athletics, and a dance development day, where children will have the chance to work with specialists and build confidence through movement and performance. Well done to everyone involved so far – we look forward to sharing more sporting successes very soon!



## MUSIC

This term we have had so many music events happening! Choirs at both Donington and St. Gilberts have been busy learning Christmas songs to perform for the community over the festive period. At Donington, this has included performing at the Christmas market lights switch on, Christmas Fair, carol concert, community lunch and many more!

Next term we will be busy practicing songs for our upcoming trip to Young Voices which is at Sheffield Utilita Arena on February 11th. If you have not already bought yourself a t-shirt online, please make sure you order one quickly! Miss Tyler and Miss Rolfe will continue to support both choirs at Donington and St. Gilberts. More details about Young Voices will be sent out in the New year.

*order now!*

**CHILD**

Sing it loud and wear it proud! This official Young Voices t-shirt is the perfect way to celebrate your choir experience. Soft, breathable and machine washable.

Official Young Voices 2026 Choir T Shirt & Torch...



# DONINGTON NEWS

## PTFA

Thank you to everyone who came to support the school at our Christmas Fair! It was a huge success and wonderful to see everyone enjoying themselves.

I can confirm that the Christmas Fair took an amazing **£1143.23!** This will help go towards new resources for our school... more information on this to follow!

We will soon be starting to plan the Summer Fair and we will send the date out as soon as it is confirmed.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff and families of Donington Primary School for their support so far this academic year. Our new PTFA team are very dedicated and will continue to work hard to fund raise for our school.

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and look forward to announcing more events, ideas and goals for 2026.



# IMPORTANT DATES - ST GILBERT'S

2026

## JANUARY

- 5<sup>th</sup>- Training Day
- 6<sup>th</sup>- Start of Spring Term 1
- 7<sup>th</sup> - Year 3 & 4 trip - The Deep
- 26<sup>th</sup>- Y4/5/6 Swimming week- each afternoon

## FEBRUARY

- 13th- End of Spring term 1
- 23rd- Start of Spring term 2

## MARCH

- 2nd & 3rd- Y5/6 Bikeability
- 5th- World Book Day
- 11th- Parent Consultations
- 18th- Roots to Food
- 30th- School Production week- St Gilbert's – details to follow
- 2nd- End of Spring Term

# IMPORTANT DATES - DONINGTON



2026

## JANUARY

- 5th- Training Day
- 6th- Start of Spring Term 1
- 7<sup>th</sup> - Year 3 & 4 trip - The Deep
- 8th- Table Tennis tournament
- 20th- Nursery Open Events 1.30-2.30pm and 5-6pm
- 26<sup>th</sup> - Year 5 Bikeability Week
- 28th- Dance development day
- 30th- Sports Hall Athletics

## FEBRUARY

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

## MARCH

- 5th- Training Day
- 6th- Start of Spring Term 1
- 8th- Table Tennis tournament
- 20th- Nursery Open Events 1.30-2.30pm and 5-6pm
- 28th- Dance development day
- 30th- Sports Hall Athletics