

JANUARY NEWSLETTER



<https://horizon.eschoolswebsites.com/>

A MESSAGE FROM MRS FOSTON

It has been a fantastic start to the new year! Children across the federation have been involved in wonderful learning opportunities within and outside of the classroom with many more planned for the term ahead.

We have been delighted to welcome our newest staff members Mr Luke Smeeth (Badger's Class Teacher- St Gilbert's), Mrs Charlene Keuneke (1:1 Teaching Assistant- St Gilbert's) and Miss Rebecca Meech (1:1 Teaching Assistant- Donington), who have all settled into their new roles brilliantly.

On behalf of our federation, we would like to thank our incredible PTFAs for their outstanding fundraising efforts last term. Across both schools, our PTFA members worked incredibly hard to support our schools and their time and commitment is hugely appreciated and valued. Thank you!

The weather remains variable, with some cold blasts possibly still to come! Please ensure children have appropriate outdoor clothing, including hats and gloves and that these are clearly named.



*thank
★ you ★*





MESSAGES FROM THE OFFICE

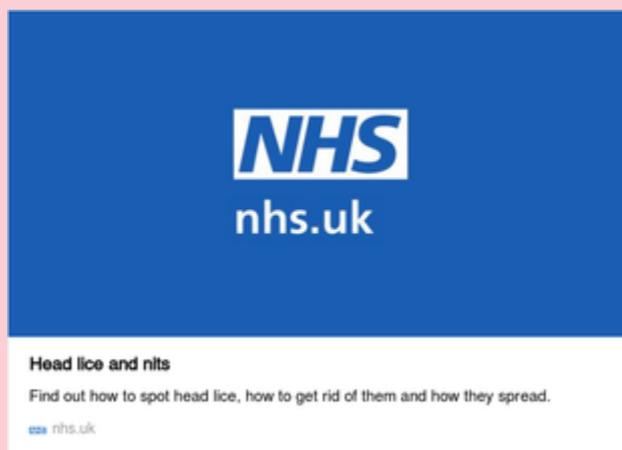
ARBOR PARENT PORTAL

We hope everyone is getting to grips with the new Arbor Parent Portal. Please give either school office a call if you have any questions or require assistance. Just a reminder that absences can be logged using the Parent Portal. To do this, please follow the steps below:

- Open your Parent Portal
- Select the school
- Select the child you are logging the absence for
- Click the menu tab on the bottom left corner of your screen
- Select 'Attendance'
- Finally, click the large green box at the top of your screen that says 'Log Absence' and fill in the details of the absence with as much information as possible.

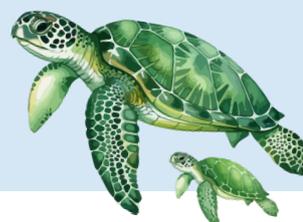
HEADLICE

We have had some cases of headlice reported. Please can we ask all parents to be extra vigilant and treat head lice as necessary. Please read the information on the NHS link for effective ways to treat headlice and nits.



YEAR 3 / 4 TRIP - THE DEEP

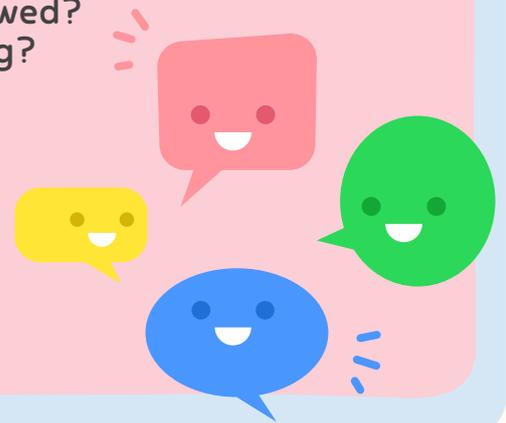
Children from Donington and St Gilberts had an amazing day at The Deep as part of our Blue Planet topic. They began the day travelling through the infamous bubble lift through a huge tank with sharks, stingrays and many other sea creatures surrounding them. All children attended a special workshop about the effects of plastic on the environment. We walked around the aquarium and saw penguins, sea turtles, jelly fish and many other species. The children were beautifully behaved and lots of new friendships were made throughout the day.



SEND & INCLUSION

We have all experienced the child at the end of the school day who can't remember what they did that day, gives one-word answers or says they don't know when asked if they had a good day. Here are some ideas to encourage your child to talk at the end of the day and share what they have been doing:

1. What made you smile today?
2. Can you tell me an example of kindness you saw/showed?
3. What was the book about that your teacher is reading?
4. Did anyone do anything to make you laugh?
5. What did you do that was creative?
6. What is the most popular game at playtime?
7. What was the best thing that happened today?
8. Did you help anyone today?
9. Did you tell anyone thank you?
10. Who did you sit with at lunch?



ATTENDANCE

A huge thank you to all our families, we really appreciate the hard work and effort that has been put in towards improving attendance.

Currently, both schools are performing ABOVE the national attendance rate of 93.37% with St Gilberts at 94.18% and Donington at 94.8% for the Autumn term!

We appreciate that at this time of year attendance levels can be affected by illnesses, in particular colds, and absences are sometimes unavoidable. We would like to encourage all parents to send their children into school whenever possible and as always, please can we also ask parents to try and schedule any dental or medical appointments outside of the school day to ensure minimal disruption and missed lessons.

We want to remind parents that as a school we are always looking for ways that we can offer further support. If you are concerned about your child's attendance or lateness, please speak to Mrs Ogden or Mrs Goodge.

Also, just a friendly reminder that the school gates will open at 8.45am every morning and registration is at 08.55am. Recently we have seen an increase in children arriving late which can have an impact on their school day. Thank you.

DID YOU KNOW?

Arriving just 10 minutes late every day is the equivalent of missing 6.5 days in a school year!

COME
to
CLASS
on
TIME

MUSIC

Across the federation, both choirs have been working hard in preparation for their Young Voices trip on February 11th. T-shirts and tickets can be ordered from the official website, and need to be delivered to parents/ guardians (not to school).

<https://shop.youngvoices.co.uk>

On the day we will be intending to reach Sheffield by 12.45pm. We will eat lunch on the coach and then go inside to begin rehearsals. At 6pm parents arrive if they have booked tickets and the show is on from 7pm-8.45pm. To ensure there are no delays on our return journey, we will not be going to the parent pick up point, we will be heading straight to the coach which will take us back to St Gilberts and then to Donington. Updates will be delivered to both schools throughout the day via Arbor. Any questions relating to Young Voices - please email badgers.class@cowley.lincs.sch.uk so that Miss Tyler will be able to respond.

Choir will continue at both schools after Young Voices with Miss Tyler and Miss Rolfe. If anyone would like to join, please get in touch with the offices.



READING

World Book Day is fast approaching, and we cannot wait to celebrate this exciting time in school!

We welcome all children (and staff of course) to come to school in their comfiest clothes that they enjoy reading in. This could be pyjamas, a onesie or even a cosy tracksuit. Children are also welcome to bring one of their favourite books from home into school to share within our paired reading activities.



WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

5 MARCH 2026

PTFA

Earlier this week, the PTFA held our first meeting of 2026. We are all looking forward to planning our events for this year and have some extremely exciting ideas for family events in the pipeline already!

If you haven't already, please use the QR code to sign up to our Easyfundraising page and help us raise more money for our school. Easyfundraising partners with over 8000 retailers who donate part of what you spend with them to our cause at no cost to you! Accessing these donations is easy once you have downloaded the App to your phone or device and selected St Gilbert of Sempringham PTFA as your cause. Please remember to set up the 'browser extension' when prompted - this will pop up on every eligible retailer's webpage, allowing for an easier donation process (please also remember to allow cookies!). The App also runs regular competitions for extra cash prizes, so please take part in these, and invite your friends and family to the App for an extra £1 towards our cause. So far, our Easyfundraising total is £256.18 and increasing every day! This is such a great way of supporting our school at no extra cost to you.

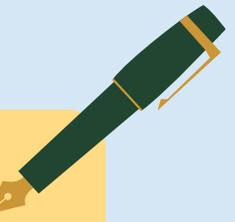


Thank you again for continuing to support our PTFA fundraising events - we look forward to bringing more fun events over the coming months!





dates for your diary



February

- 3rd - Y5/Y6 Cross country competition
- 5th - Nursery Open Events 1.30-2.30 and 3.45-4.45
- 10th - Virtual Author - Red Squirrels class
- 11th- Young Voices
- 13th- End of Spring term 1
- 23rd- Start of Spring term 2



March

- 2nd and 3rd- Y5/6 Bikeability
- 5th- World Book Day
- 11th- Parent Consultations
- 18th- Roots to Food
- 20th - Y4/Y5/Y6 Girls rugby at Sleaford Rugby Club
- 27th - Nursery - New intake parent coffee afternoon 2.15pm-3.00pm
- 2nd- End of Spring Term



We are presently liaising with the village hall to confirm dates for our Whole School Production, which work around existing bookings and our school calendar. We hope to be able to confirm these dates very soon 😊