



William Gilbert Endowed (Church of England)

Primary School & Nursery

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Headteacher: Mrs E H Britten



10th May 2023

Dear Parents

Wrap around care provision for William Gilbert Pupils

A week into term I received several emails from concerned parents regarding the wrap around care operating out of Meadows Primary School. I responded to each of these parents and outlined how I proposed supporting working parents with this emerging issue.

As a working mother of 3 children, I know only too well the challenges of finding childcare provision before and after school. Having worked at William Gilbert School for many years I can confidently say we have looked at the viability and feasibility of providing such care ourselves or contracting a company to do this for us using our venue. It has also been discussed at governor and staff meetings. As existing parents, who have visited the school site, you will be familiar with the physical constraints of our school. It is a compact setting with every possible teaching space used as a classroom. The school hall is in use most evenings for our many after school sports clubs, run by school staff, for our children to attend.

I have only recently been made aware of the impending retirement of the manager at Meadows out of school club.

Since learning of these changes which will impact on the continuity and security of the current wrap around care, I have been investigating the issue and looking for a solution to support the families within our community.

I have given the issue my attention in the following ways:

- I have spoken to the Headteacher, Mrs Novak Lemming, at Meadows Primary School to seek clarification around the future of wrap around care that we signpost parents to.
- I have had a meeting with the owner of 'School's Out Club', Amanda Hudson, last week. Amanda Hudson runs highly successful wrap around care in Allestree, Kilburn and Mickleover currently.
- This area of concern was on the agenda for discussion at the last full governors meeting on Tuesday 2nd May.
- I have spoken to one of the parish councillors about raising the issue of childcare provision for consideration on the 'village plan' moving forward.

For those that raised this issue with me individually, I stated that I would provide further information when I had further updates to help you plan childcare provision moving forward.



Wrap around care at Meadows Primary School

In speaking to the Headteacher it seems that the current provision is closing. The current team that run the pre-school are looking to add wrap-around care to their existing business. Closing one business and starting a new one does not happen quickly, as I'm sure you can appreciate. What Mrs Novak Lemming did state was that she envisages that there will be wrap around care operating out of the current venue and this will be open to William Gilbert parents.

Wrap around care through 'Schools Out Club'.

During the detailed meeting with Amanda Hudson, it became clear that she has a successful business plan with a track record of success. Within the meeting we discussed the following:

- Venue – William Gilbert School, The Weston Centre, The Methodist Church (on King Street) and The Emmanuel Church (on Chapel Street)
- Wrap around care provision for nursery aged children that would allow working parents to access our nursery without incurring huge retention fees at private day care providers.
- Later pick ups from WGES to allow pupils to access our wide variety of extra-curricular clubs and give parents the option of extending their wrap around care.
- Childcare provision on school inset days and school holidays.

Out of School club need a minimum number of 30 children attending the provision to be financially viable. This provision would be available to both William Gilbert and Meadows pupils. Based on the volume of enquiries in the past, Meadows out of school club could not always meet the demand for places, and it is our feeling that an additional provider for wrap around care is what the community greatly needs.

Whilst drafting this letter yesterday, we received communication from Schools Out Club confirming that they will be opening for wrap around care, starting in September 2023. This will run from 7am to 6pm out of the Emmanuel Community Church in Duffield.

Please find the attached letter we have received from School's Out Club with further information, costings and a link to the questionnaire to help them understand the level of need within the community.

Please complete the questionnaire at your earliest convenience to register your interest.

We are now working with Amanda at Schools Out Club to agree on a suitable date for an open afternoon/evening for parents and children to visit and ask any questions.

I hope that this news brings reassurance to all parents requiring wrap around care, but if there are any queries please do not hesitate to contact myself or the school office.

Yours sincerely

Helen Britten
Headteacher