



Gilbert Colvin
Primary School



NEWS

Headteacher: Ms Liz Cohen

23 January 2026

Headteacher's Note



Ahead of Year 6's Bikeability week, Dr Bike will be visiting the school on Wednesday. Children from all year groups and staff are welcome to bring their bikes in for a free check-up. Please park bikes in the bicycle stands by the back gate, and Dr Bike will carry out inspections throughout the day.

Bookings for this term's parents' evenings will open during the week beginning 2nd February. Appointments will take place on 11th and 12th February. Parents will have the opportunity to speak with their child's teacher about their work and progress this term and to look through their class books. If your child requires additional support, the class teacher will discuss and agree the strategies with you, and these will be recorded on the pupil learning plan. A big thank you, as always, for attending our parents' evenings and working closely with the school.

Key Dates



Wednesday 28th January | Dr Bike in the playground

Monday 2nd February | Level 2 Bikeability Year 6

Tuesday 3rd February | Year 4 Hazel violin concert for parents 10.15am

Wednesday 4th February | Nursery open classroom 9.00-9.45am

Friday 6th February | Parent forum 9.00-9.45am;
Date Change Year 1 Ash/Willow class assembly 2.45-3.15pm

Monday 9th February | SEND coffee morning with the Educational Psychologist - Focus SEMH

Wednesday 11th & Thursday 12th February | Parents' Evening

Monday 16th - Friday 20th February | Half term

Monday 23rd February | INSET Day

Tuesday 24th February | Children return to school

Reading Recommendation



It was our first full week of assemblies since returning after the Christmas break. As well as introducing our snazzy new Star of the Week certificates, we talked about behaviour around the school and how we show respect to one another through the way we speak and act. We agreed that the start of a new term is a good time for a reset - to revisit the goals we've set and the expectations we have for ourselves.

In the Key Stage 1 assembly, we explored the importance of kindness and what it looks like in everyday school life. We read 'A Sprinkle of Happiness', a story about a character who discovers that small acts of kindness can brighten someone else's day, and even their own. The children then thought about how they could sprinkle a little happiness around school by being kind to others to make a big difference to someone's day.



Attendance



Attendance w/b Monday 19th January 2026:

Reception - 83%
Year 1 - 86.43%
Year 2 - 93.2%
Year 3 - 96.58%
Year 4 - 93.66%
Year 5 - 91.22%
Year 6 - 94.64%

We have seen a higher level of sickness in our younger year groups this week. Well done to Year 3 for meeting the school's target of **96%**.

Whole school attendance: **91.74%**



Curriculum Enrichment



Alongside out-of-school visits that enrich their learning, children also take part in workshops, themed days and curriculum-linked activities within school. Children learn best when they feel excited, curious and actively involved in what they're doing. Engaging activities and real-life examples help them make meaningful connections between their lessons and the world around them, deepening their understanding and strengthening their confidence. By bringing learning to life through hands-on experiences, practical exploration and memorable activities, we aim to spark their enthusiasm and nurture a genuine love of learning.

Children also learn best when parents are involved - whether that's supporting learning at home or joining us in school for events such as our open classrooms. When school and home work together, children feel supported, motivated and proud of their achievements, and this has a powerful impact on their progress. Below are some photos of a couple of recent in-school activities to support learning: Reception's dinosaur themed open classroom session and Year 5's Victorian Day.

Healthy Snacks - Break



We encourage pupils in Years 3-6 to bring a healthy and nutritious snack for break time to help maintain their energy and focus throughout the school day. Early Years and Key Stage 1 pupils are provided with free fruit at break time, so they do not need to bring a snack from home. Nursery and Reception children who are aged 3 and 4 are provided with free milk every day.

I would like to remind parents to avoid sending in foods that are high in sugar. Chocolate and sweets will be sent home.

Healthy Snack Ideas:

- Fresh fruit (e.g. apples, bananas, grapes)
- Vegetable sticks (e.g. carrot, cucumber, pepper)
- Plain rice cakes or oatcakes
- Cheese cubes or a small portion of plain popcorn

[This NHS webpage](#) is full of great ideas for healthier snacks for children - whether at home, picked up from the shops, or packed to take on the go.

Thank you for supporting our commitment to promoting healthy eating habits!

Reception Open Classroom and Year 5 Victorian Day

