



Gilbert Colvin
Primary School



NEWS

Headteacher: Ms Liz Cohen

24 October 2025

Headteacher's Note



As we reach the end of the first half term, everyone is ready for a well-earned break. School resumes on Monday 3rd November, and we look forward to welcoming you back then.

Thank you once again for your generous support of last week's bake sale - we raised an impressive £271.76, and our school librarians are already planning how to invest it in enriching our library. It was lovely to see so many of you at Parents' Evening this week. Your engagement makes a real difference. Before your meeting, you may have spotted an optional parent survey to complete - if not, don't worry. Hard copies will be sent home with your child on the first day back. We'd really value your feedback, as it helps shape our school development plans, even where budget constraints limit immediate action.

Wishing you a restful and enjoyable half term. See you on Monday 3rd November.

Key Dates



Monday 3rd November | Return to school

Friday 7th November | Parent Forum, 9.15-10.00am

Monday 10th November | Anti-Bullying Week;
parent workshop - online safety 9.00-10.00am

Tuesday 11th November | Year 4 Hazel library visit

Wednesday 12th November | Year 4 Maple library visit

Thursday 13th November | Year 2 London Transport Museum visit; Year 3 library visit; Reception 'Culture Day', parent event PM

Tuesday 18th November | Flu vaccine catch up clinic

Thursday 20th November | Year 5 Science Museum

Reading Recommendation



In assemblies this week, we explored the celebration of Diwali, the Festival of Lights. We read the story of Rama and Sita, which tells how Prince Rama rescues Sita from the demon king Ravana with the help of Hanuman. The story represents the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness - values at the heart of Diwali. We also discussed the significance of light in the story and why Diwali is known as the Festival of Lights, with families lighting lamps to symbolise hope, joy, and the victory of good.

This week's reading recommendation is *The Best Diwali Ever* by Sonali Shah - a story about a young girl named Ariana who wants everything to be perfect for Diwali, but learns that the best celebrations are those shared with loved ones.



Attendance



Attendance w/b Monday 20th October 2025:

Reception - 93%

Year 1 - 94.77%

Year 2 - 94.42%

Year 3 - 98.16%

Year 4 - 96.72%

Year 5 - 96.97%

Year 6 - 95.33%

Well done Years 3, 4 and 5 for achieving the school's target of **96%**. Whole school attendance: **95.71%**

This week, we sent out a general attendance report for each child. These reports are simply intended to keep parents informed about their child's attendance so far this term. Please let the office know if you did not receive your child's report.



Voluntary Donations



With increasing pressure on state school funding, we, like many schools across the country, have felt the pinch. At the same time, we recognise that many families are facing their own challenges. We are grateful that so many of you continue to ask how you can support the school, and we're proud to be part of such a generous and committed community. This year, we are inviting parents and carers to make a voluntary contribution of £15 per term (£7.50 per half term). These donations will help us fund additional learning resources and update curriculum and classroom equipment to enrich the children's experience. As we do not currently have an established PTA to organise fundraising events, voluntary contributions offer an alternative way to support the school. Further details of how to contribute can be found [here](#). Please be assured that there is absolutely no expectation for families to contribute - this is entirely optional, and no child will ever be treated differently based on whether a donation is made. We simply want to offer a way for those who wish to support the school in this way to do so. Thank you, as ever, for your support.

Fundraising



We are always looking for simple, effective ways to raise extra funds to support our school and enhance the learning experiences of our pupils. One easy way you can help - at no cost to you - is by signing up to easyfundraising.org.

It's quick and free to use. When you shop online with thousands of popular retailers (including Amazon, M&S, Argos, and more), a small donation is made to the school every time you make a purchase - at no extra cost to you!

All you need to do is:

- Sign up using our unique school link [here](#).
- Start your shopping via the easyfundraising website or app.
- The school receives a donation automatically from the retailer!

Every little helps, and it's a great way to support the school while doing your usual online shopping. An easyfundraising poster is on our [website](#) with more information and a QR code to make signing up even easier. Thank you!

Performance Dates



As the festive season approaches, we have a number of exciting performances planned - here are some key dates for your diary.

Monday 8th December | Rocksteady Concert, 1.30pm

Tuesday 9th December | Reception Christmas Concert, 9.15-9.45am

Wednesday 10th December | Nursery Christmas Concert, 9.15-9.45am

Thursday 11th December | Rocksteady Concert, 9.30am

Wednesday 17th December | Year 1 & 2 Christmas Nativity, 9.15am (Year 2 parents/carers invited)

Thursday 18th December | Year 1 & 2 Christmas Nativity, 9.15am (Year 1 parents/carers invited)

We're also hoping to hold a Christmas Fair on Friday 5th December, however, it can only run if parent volunteers organise and run stalls alongside school staff. If you're interested in helping, please speak to the office or Ms Cohen.

Reception 2026 Tours



A reminder to all families that applications are now open for Reception and Year 7 places for September 2026. If you have a child due to start school or transition to secondary next year, please ensure you submit your application by the published deadline.

For families considering Reception entry, we will be holding a series of open mornings this term which include a tour of the school. November dates are:

Thursday 6th November, 9.30-10.15am

Monday 10th November, 9.30-10.15am

Monday 17th November, 9.30-10.15am

Friday 21st November, 9.30-10.15am

These are a great opportunity to visit the school, meet staff, and learn more about our Early Years provision. More dates and booking details will be posted on the school website.

If you have any questions about the admissions process, please don't hesitate to contact the school office.