



**Gilbert Colvin**  
Primary School



# NEWS

Headteacher: Ms Liz Cohen

12 December 2025

## Headteacher's Note



A huge thank you to all the parents and staff who helped organise last week's Christmas Fair, led by parent and staff member, Charlotte Handelaar. The event was a wonderful success, raising an impressive profit of approximately £1,300.

Next week, we will share a detailed breakdown of the funds raised through the various activities held this term, along with information on how the money will be used to benefit our school community.

We are truly grateful for your continued support! As we approach the end of the autumn term, we have noticed some non-uniform shoes and trainers appearing. Thank you to those parents who have informed us if new regulation shoes are on the way. Black school shoes or trainers can be purchased at a reasonable cost, and we look forward to seeing all pupils in full school uniform at the start of next term. Here's a reminder that our full [school uniform policy](#) can be found on the website.

## Key Dates



**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December** | Year 6 visit to The Globe

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December** | Key Stage 2 visit to Holy Trinity Church for a Christmas concert

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

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

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December** | End of term, 1.30pm

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January** | Start of Spring term

## Reading Recommendation



With Christmas around the corner, we also recognise that other faiths are celebrating important festivals at this time of year. This Sunday marks the start of the Jewish festival of Hanukkah, which commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem and the miracle of the oil that lasted eight days. There are many wonderful books and stories that share the Hanukkah story.

Our reading recommendation this week is *Eight Nights, Eight Lights* by Natalie Barnes, which introduces readers to the rituals and traditions of Hanukkah in an engaging way. The story follows different families as they celebrate each night of Hanukkah, from lighting candles and playing dreidel to enjoying food and visiting the synagogue.



## Attendance



**Attendance w/b Monday 8th December 2025:**

Reception - 83%

Year 1 - 92.73%

Year 2 - 92.13%

Year 3 - 96.76%

Year 4 - 91.07%

Year 5 - 95%

Year 6 - 93.39%

Well done Year 3 for achieving the school's target of **96%**. Whole school attendance: **92.38%**

Our attendance has been lower than usual recently. This is due to a number of factors, including increased illness in some year groups, term-time absence abroad, and pupils who have left the school but remain on our register. At today's parents' forum, I discussed the importance of good school attendance - the presentation notes can be found [here](#).



## Partnership with Caterham High School



Year 5 spent the morning at Caterham High School this week, taking part in various sporting activities, such as judo, dancing and trampolining. The children behaved really well and enjoyed learning new skills. Here are some photos from the day.



Please remember to come and watch the Winter Concert at Caterham High School on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm. The children have worked really hard and are eager to share the songs with you!

Mrs Twyford and Mr Pallet

## 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.

From Monday, children will be eating their break time snacks in their classrooms. This change is designed to reduce mess in the playground, provide a calm environment for pupils to enjoy their snacks, and allow teachers to more closely monitor what is being eaten. After Christmas, we will share a list of healthy snack ideas, but in the meantime we ask 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

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

## This Week in Pictures: Christmas Fair and Lunch

