



Gilbert Colvin
Primary School



NEWS

Headteacher: Ms Liz Cohen

11 September 2026

Headteacher's Note



It was wonderful to see so many happy faces at the gate on Monday morning – children *and* parents – and we've had a calm, purposeful start to the new school year.

Over the next couple of weeks, we'll be sending out a few important reminders:

- our key staffing and communication letter, which outlines essential school processes;
- reminders about other ways you can support us, including voluntary contributions, [Easyfundraising](#) and [My Nametags](#). We use the funds raised to buy additional resources to enhance pupils' learning.

As always, the best way to stay up to date is through this newsletter, which is also available on our website. Alongside it, you'll find the monthly [safeguarding newsletter](#), featuring helpful tips on supporting your child as they settle back into school and establish positive routines. I'm very much looking forward to seeing parents throughout the year. Welcome back!

Reading Recommendation



At the start of a new school year, we've been thinking about beginnings and the goals we want to set for the months ahead. In assembly, we explored what it feels like to step through the school gate for the first time after the summer break, and the mix of emotions it can bring. Pupils spoke about feeling nervous, excited, and sometimes both at once.

We also talked about how we can support each other at school, and this month's safeguarding newsletter includes helpful advice for parents on supporting children as they settle back into routines.

My reading recommendation this week is a book we shared in the KS1 assembly: *Chu's First Day at School* by Neil Gaiman and Adam Rex. It's a gentle, funny story about a little panda who worries about his first day at school and discovers that new beginnings can be full of surprises and courage. It's a lovely way to open conversations at home about starting something new and managing big feelings.



Key Dates



Monday 14th September | 'Meet the Teacher' class event, 3.30–4.30pm

Friday 25th September | European Day of Languages/Bring & Share event 3.30pm; Parent Forum – School Priorities, 9.05am

Monday 14th October | Year 4 Maple Redbridge Museum trip

Tuesday 15th October | Year 5 Sycamore library visit

Friday 16th October | Year 6 Oak class assembly, 9.15–9.45am; Bake Sale, 3.30pm

Tuesday 20th October | Year 5 Chestnut library visit

Thursday 22nd October | Year 5 Tower Bridge trip

Friday 23rd October | Year 6 Elder class assembly, 9.15–9.45am

Wednesday 21st & Thursday 22nd October | Parents' evenings

Attendance



Attendance w/b Monday 7th September 2026:

Reception – 97.9%
Year 1 – 94.5%
Year 2 – 96.7%
Year 3 – 96.4%
Year 4 – 98.7%
Year 5 – 96.4%
Year 6 – 97.2%

It has been a strong start to the year, with most year groups meeting the school's attendance target of 96% 😊 Whole school attendance was **96.8%**.



After School Clubs/Music



We want all our pupils to enjoy a rich range of clubs and enrichment opportunities throughout their time at school. Every child in Years 3, 4 and 5 takes part in whole-class ensemble teaching in recorder, violin and cornet, and some pupils also learn piano with our peripatetic teacher. If your child is interested in learning an instrument, you can contact [Redbridge Music Services here](#). If enough families sign up, lessons can take place here in school. A letter with further details has already been sent home.

Following another successful year with **Rocksteady**, children will have the chance to sign up again for next year. Information is available on the attached poster.

We are also organising our after school clubs which will start in the week beginning 21st September. To help more children take part, we are reducing the cost of each session from £6 to £3. Our drop-in Gardening Club, Pupil Premium Reading Breakfast Club and Key Stage 2 Homework Club will continue to be free. Parents will be able to sign up for clubs from next week. In the meantime, here is the clubs schedule, which may still be subject to slight change. Please note, if there is a low take-up for a club, it may not be able to run.

Reception Intake 2027



We warmly invite prospective Reception parents to visit Gilbert Colvin Primary School and discover what makes our school so special. Come and explore our welcoming environment, learn about our engaging curriculum, and see first-hand how we support and nurture every child's growth and development. We believe that every child's journey at our school is unique, and we'd love for you to be part of it. We would be delighted to show you around and share more about how we can support your child's education. Join our Headteacher for a welcome tour for prospective Reception parents.

Friday 18th September, 9.30am

Friday 25th September, 10.00am

Friday 2nd October, 9.30am

Friday 9th October, 9.30am

Friday 16th October, 9.30am

Friday 23rd October, 9.30am

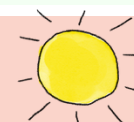
Friday 6th November, 9.30am

Friday 13th November, 9.30am

Friday 20th November, 9.30am

To arrange a tour of the school, please email Admin.GilbertColvin@redbridge.gov.uk. We look forward to welcoming you!

Autumn Clubs Schedule



Club	Organiser	Year group	Day
Football (team)	Mr Wilson	Year 5, 6	Monday, 3.30-4.30pm
Dance	Miss Pell	Year 3, 4, 5, 6	Tuesday, 8.00-8.45am
PP Reading Breakfast	Miss Collins	All year groups	Tuesday, 8.00-8.45am
Homework Club	Miss Turtington	Year 3, 4, 5, 6	Tuesday, 12.15-1.00pm
Arts & Crafts	Mrs Rashid	Reception, Year 1, Year 2	Tuesday, 3.30-4.30pm
Lego	Mrs Ionel	Reception, Year 1, Year 2	Tuesday, 3.30-4.30pm
Badminton	Miss James	Year 5, 6	Tuesday, 3.30-4.30pm
Netball	Ms Cohen/Mrs Idris	Year 4, 5, 6	Tuesday, 3.30-4.30pm
KS2 Gymnastics	Miss Pell	Year 3, 4, 5, 6	Wednesday, 8.00-8.45am
KS1 Gymnastics	Miss Pell	Year 1, Year 2	Wednesday, 3.30-4.30pm
Arts & Crafts	Miss Collins	Years 3, 4, 5, 6	Wednesday, 3.30-4.30pm
Cricket/Rounders	Mr Pallet	Year 3, 4, 5, 6	Wednesday, 3.30-4.30pm
Football	Mr Opoku	Year 3, 4	Thursday, 3.30-4.30pm
Debate	Miss Turtington	Year 5, 6	Thursday, 3.30-4.30pm
Singing & Drama	Miss Collins	Year 3, 4, 5, 6	Friday, 3.30-4.30pm