



Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Key Staffing and Communication Update – Spring Term**

Welcome back to school after the winter break. We share an update on staffing and communication at the start of each term, but if you have any questions or require further information, please don't hesitate to contact the school office – we're here to help.

Don't forget, you can find key information and updates on our school website, and the weekly newsletter.

#### **Staffing Update**

Staffing remains the same this term and you can find your child's teacher listed below. We are also delighted to welcome back Mr Macro after a period of absence.

Year Group	Teacher	2025-26 Class
<b>Nursery</b>	Miss James	Blossom
<b>Reception</b>	Miss Nabi	Acorn
<b>Year 1</b>	Miss Cabey Mrs Vella 0.8/Miss Cross 0.2	Ash Willow
<b>Year 2</b>	Miss Belov Miss Barzey	Beech Pine
<b>Year 3</b>	Miss Wajchandler Mr Opoku	Cedar Elm
<b>Year 4</b>	Mrs Afzal Miss Dawson	Maple Hazel
<b>Year 5</b>	Mrs Twyford 0.6/Miss Razzaq 0.4 Mr Pallet	Chestnut Sycamore
<b>Year 6</b>	Miss Turtington Miss Morris	Elder Oak



### **Curriculum Provision**

#### Whole Class Instrumental Tuition

Year 3 Elm recorders – Wednesday

Year 4 Maple violins – Tuesday

Year 5 Sycamore cornets – Friday

Whole-class instrument tuition will continue as normal for these classes until the end of the first half of the spring term. After half term, the other class in the year groups will begin their lessons on the same day.

Peripatetic piano lessons and Rocksteady lessons continue as timetabled.

#### Your Child's Learning

Parents can find out what pupils are learning in each subject on our [website](#) where we have long term plans and progression maps in place. Parents can also find the Spring 1 half termly year group curriculum maps [here](#) which provide details of what your child will be learning in each subject this half term.

#### PE

On PE days, Children should come into school wearing their PE kit. Please refer to our [school uniform guidance](#) on the website for PE uniform.

Tuesday – Year 5 and Year 6

Wednesday – Year 4 and Year 2

Thursday – Year 3 and Year 1

Friday – Reception

### **Open Classrooms and Assemblies**

Each term, parents will be invited to attend either an 'open classroom' session in your child's class or a class/year group performance. During the Spring term, the following events will take place. Dates will be confirmed on the newsletter and the website:

- Reception open classroom – 21<sup>st</sup> January, 9.15-10.00am
- Year 1 Willow class assembly – 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2.45-3.15pm
- Year 1 Ash class assembly – 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2.45-3.15pm
- Year 3 Elm recorder concert – date tbc
- Year 4 Hazel violin concert – date tbc
- Year 5 Sycamore cornet concert – date tbc

### **School Uniform**

Our uniform is designed to be simple, practical and affordable. We ask that all children attending Gilbert Colvin adhere to the uniform policy; however, please do contact us if there is any reason why your child is not able to wear an item of school uniform (e.g. shoes, jumper, t-shirt) – we may be able to help. If your child

Strafford Avenue, Clayhall, Ilford, Essex IG5 0TL

Headteacher: Ms Liz Cohen   E-mail: [admin.gilbertcolvin@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:admin.gilbertcolvin@redbridge.gov.uk)   Tel: 020 8550 4630   [www.gilbertcolvin.co.uk](http://www.gilbertcolvin.co.uk)



wears an item that is not part of our school uniform, such as non-regulation jewellery, a member of staff will contact you.

We find that the non-uniform item of clothing most commonly worn are trainers that do not adhere to the school policy. **Black shoes or black trainers** are relatively easy to find in shops and are often less expensive than brand name trainers. Please ensure that your child is attending school wearing school uniform. Our uniform policy can be found [here](#).

If your child attends school wearing non-uniform footwear or jewellery, a member of staff will contact you initially to bring this to your attention. Should this continue, a formal letter will be sent home. Please note that certain items – such as hooped earrings – pose a health and safety risk. In line with our policy, and advice from the PE association, children wearing non-regulation jewellery may be unable to take part in PE lessons or active play during break times if the issue persists and jewellery is not removed.

### **SEND**

If you have any queries related to SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities), please raise these with your child's teacher initially. If necessary, the class teacher will refer concerns to Mrs Begum, Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion, or another member of the core leadership team.

### **Attendance**

At our school, good attendance is essential for every child's success and well-being. Research consistently shows a strong link between high attendance and academic success. Every child has the right to an education, and we encourage and expect 100% attendance for all pupils.

From time to time, your child may need to miss school due to illness. At Gilbert Colvin, we ask that parents report all absences to the school office, clearly stating their child's first name, surname, and class. Please also provide the specific reason for absence, including details of any illness. If your child is absent due to illness for more than three consecutive days, we will request medical evidence from the third day onwards. This can be in the form of a doctor's note or medical certificate. These procedures help us to safeguard children's wellbeing, maintain accurate records, and ensure that learning is disrupted as little as possible.

### **Parent/School Communication**

For most communication the school office will be parents' first port of call. You can email the admin team on [Admin.GilbertColvin@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:Admin.GilbertColvin@redbridge.gov.uk) or telephone directly. For anything class related, you can contact your teacher by sending an email to the office. If your query is about day-to-day arrangements including absence, changes to pick up arrangements, please let the office know.



# Gilbert Colvin

## Primary School

If you have a concern and have already raised it with the class teacher, the phase leader should be contacted via the office. If a concern is escalated, one of the core leadership team will speak with parents.

Our [Complaints Policy](#) provides parents with clear guidance on how to raise a concern and outlines the steps involved in the process. However, the school is committed to addressing and resolving any issues before they escalate to a formal complaint.

If an email is sent to the office that is not a day-to-day enquiry handled by the admin team, it will be forwarded to the appropriate member of staff. Unless it is an urgent safeguarding matter, we will aim to send an initial response within five working days. Please be aware that the volume of emails with concerns, enquiries and feedback we receive has increased significantly, and there may be occasions when we are unable to respond within this timeframe, particularly as most of our work is practical and child-facing, rather than desk-based.

As always, we ask that parents speak to all of our staff politely and respectfully, and of course, you should expect exactly the same from us!

### Contacts

The admin team at [Admin.GilbertColvin@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:Admin.GilbertColvin@redbridge.gov.uk)

- Mrs Malik – School Business Manager (Finance/HR/Premises)
- Mrs Hammond – Office Manager (Admissions/Attendance)
- Mrs Idris – Deputy Office Manager (Attendance/Finance)
- Mrs Williams – Admin Assistant (Welfare)

### Core Leadership Team

- Ms Cohen, Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Mr Endacott, Deputy Headteacher and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Mrs Begum, Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Miss Turtington, Assistant Headteacher and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

### Contact Phase Leaders via the school office

- Mrs Vella – Year 1/2 and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Miss Wajchandler – Year 3/4
- Mrs Twyford – Year 5/6

If you have any questions relating to this email, please don't hesitate to contact our office. I look forward to working and meeting with parents throughout the term.

Sincerely,

Strafford Avenue, Clayhall, Ilford, Essex IG5 0TL

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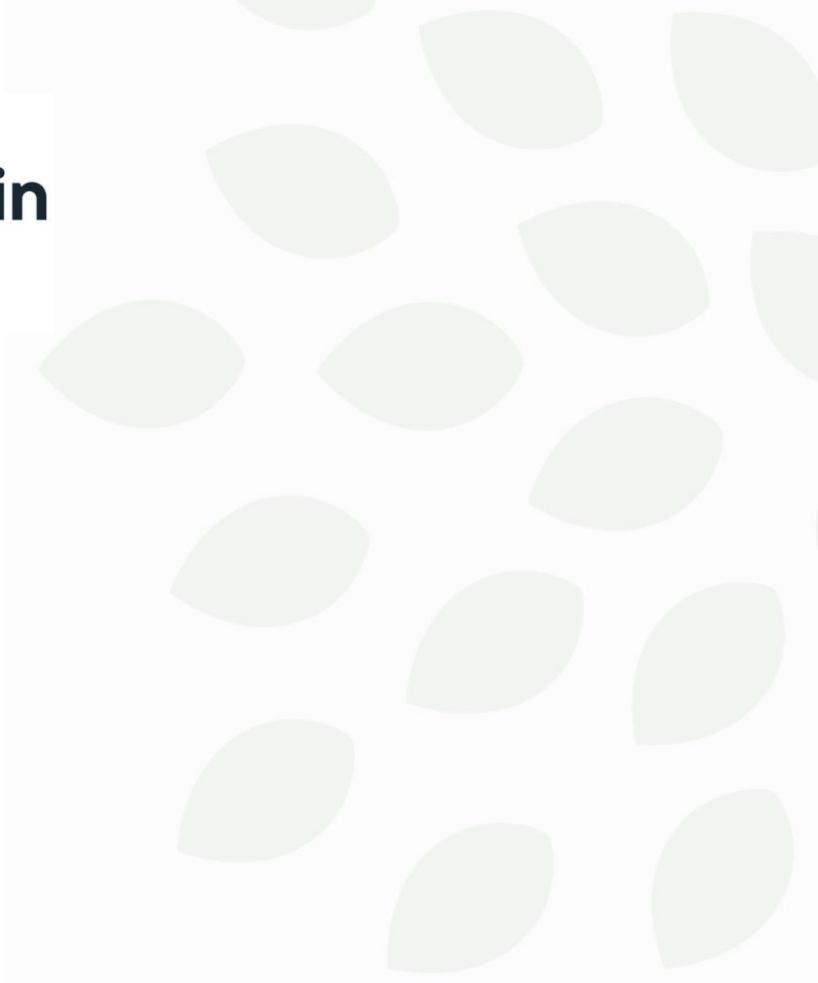


# **Gilbert Colvin**

## Primary School



**Ms Cohen**  
**Headteacher**



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