



Gilbert Colvin
Primary School



NEWS

Headteacher: Ms Liz Cohen

7 November 2025

Headteacher's Note



Thank you to all the parents who attended today's 'Understanding and Tackling Bullying' parent forum and shared their views and ideas. As always, the presentation and feedback summary are available on our website [here](#).

Next week marks the start of Anti-Bullying Week, and on Friday, we'll be celebrating Odd Socks Day - a fun way to promote individuality and kindness. Children are invited to wear odd socks to school to show that it's okay to be different.

We'll also be running online safety workshops for our older pupils, and hosting a parent workshop on Monday morning delivered by Shorifa Khanum, online safety expert. Parents are invited to attend and feel free to bring your devices along for support and guidance.

Finally, a gentle reminder to return the parent questionnaire sent home this week. If your copy has gone missing, please ask the office for a replacement. Thank you for your support.

Reading Recommendation



In assemblies this week, we explored the story of Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot. Children learned about the history behind Bonfire Night and impressed me with their listening when answering questions. To end the assembly, I read the traditional poem 'On the Fifth of November', originally written by John Milton in 1626, and invited pupils to come and share their interpretations. Well done to the four children who earned 10 green points for their interpretations of the poem's meaning!

*Remember, remember, the 5th of November,
Gunpowder, treason and plot.*

I see no reason

Why gunpowder treason

Should ever be forgot.

Guy Fawkes, Guy Fawkes, 'twas his intent

To blow up the King and the Parliament

Three score barrels of powder below

Poor old England to overthrow

By God's providence he was catch'd

With a dark lantern and burning match

Holler boys, holler boys, let the bells ring

Holler boys, holler boys

God save the King!



Key Dates



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

Friday 14th November | 'Odd Socks' Day

Monday 17th November | Year 6 Claybury Woods visit

Tuesday 18th November | Flu vaccine catch up clinic

Thursday 20th November | Year 5 Science Museum

Tuesday 25th November | Year 2 Pine library visit

Wednesday 26th November | Year 1 Willow library visit

Attendance



Attendance w/b Monday 3rd November 2025:

Reception - 91.33%

Year 1 - 98.56%

Year 2 - 96.51%

Year 3 - 98.15%

Year 4 - 93.28%

Year 5 - 97.37%

Year 6 - 94.83%

Well done Years 1, 2, 3 and 5 for achieving the school's target of **96%**. Whole school attendance: **96.13%**

Overall attendance has improved this year, with whole school attendance at 96.43% during the first half of the Autumn term, and persistent absence at 8.52% (lower than national figures). Thank you for your continued efforts to make sure your child is attending school all of the time.



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 places for September 2026. If you have a child due to start school 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:

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.