



Gilbertstone Primary School

September 2026 Newsletter



What a lovely start to the new school year!

The start of a new school year is always a special time, and it has been wonderful to see Gilbertstone filled with such enthusiasm, kindness and a shared love of learning. We are delighted to welcome our new families into the school community, particularly those whose children have joined us in Reception. They have settled confidently into school life and are already making new friendships and embracing new experiences.

Throughout the school, pupils have returned with positive attitudes and a strong commitment to their learning. Their excellent behaviour and willingness to engage have helped create a calm and purposeful atmosphere. Our dedicated staff have put a great deal of effort into designing exciting and meaningful learning experiences, and it has been fantastic to witness the positive impact of this from the very beginning of the term.

Here are a few highlights from the term so far:

Skills builder challenge day: school became a crash landing site, the Aliens landed! The children had to think about ways to make them feel welcome in our school.

Year 6 WWII History Workshop, a hands on experience that brought history to life and deepened understanding of this important era.

Year 3 Volcano Projects: stunning models and research are now proudly on display in school, come and take a look!

Thank you for your continued support in helping to make the Autumn Term such a great one!

Mrs Hoo and Mrs Carrington



Could your child be entitled to Free School Meals?

If your family receives Universal Credit, your child may now be entitled to free school meals. Registering is quick and confidential and could save families money while also bringing additional funding into school through the Pupil Premium.

This funding helps us provide extra support, resources and opportunities for pupils across the school.

Even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and already receives a free meal, we still encourage families receiving Universal Credit to register, as this may generate valuable additional funding for the school. Please contact the school office if you would like help checking your eligibility or making an application.



Harvest Festival



As usual, we are looking to do a Harvest Festival collection in school. We will be donating our collection to Birmingham Sifa Fireside Charity who are a charity that are based in Birmingham City Centre and support the homeless. We would really appreciate any donations that we could collect for the mission.

The following items are the most useful for them -

Instant coffee, baked beans, fruit squash, instant snacks (i.e pot noodles) tinned vegetables, tinned meat or fish, tinned soup, sugar, cereal, chocolate, biscuits, crisps, soft drinks and any non perishable snacks.

Please can they start being sent in to school no later than **Monday 12 October.**

The Charity are so very grateful for your support and the help that you are giving to some of our most vulnerable Birmingham residents. Thank you so much.

Dates for your diary... so far!

Please note these dates are always subject to change and it is not a definitive list. Thank you!

Date	Event
Tuesday 29 September	Class 1S Phonics Workshop 8.50am
Wednesday 30 September	Reception Reading Parents Meeting 8.50am
Tuesday 5 October	Year 5 to The Gurdwara Temple
Thursday 8 October	Year 2 Spelling Workshop 8.50am (Class 2L)
Monday 12 October	Open day for new reception parents 2027 intake at 4.00pm
Tuesday 13 October	Parents Evening 3.30pm - 6.00pm
Thursday 15 October	Year 2 Spelling Workshop 8.50am (Class 2P)
Thursday 15 October	Parents Evening 3.30pm - 6.00pm
Monday 19 October	School Photos
Monday 26 October - Friday 30 October	School closed for half term
Monday 2 November	School closed for Training Day
Tuesday 3 November	Children return to school
Monday 9 November	Open day for new reception parents 2027 intake at 4.00pm
Tuesday 10 November	Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 dress up as nursery rhyme character
Thursday 12 November	Year 2 African Drumming Workshop
Monday 16 November	Odd Socks Day
Friday 20 November	Children In Need
Thursday 26 November	Year 4 Cadbury World Trip
Tuesday 8 December	Reception Christmas Workshop (Green)
Thursday 10 December	Reception Christmas Workshop (Red)
Friday 11 December	Year 4 Class Assembly
Wednesday 16 December	Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Dinner
Thursday 17 December	Christmas Party Day
Friday 18 December	Break up for Christmas
Monday 4 January	School Closed for Training Day

Attendance Reminders



Good attendance and punctuality play a vital role in helping children feel settled, confident and successful in their learning. We would greatly appreciate your support in ensuring that your child attends school every day and arrives on time.

School are required to monitor attendance closely, and where a child's attendance falls below 90% we must follow specific procedures in line with government guidance.

Please remember that the school gates open between 8.35am and 8.45am and children should arrive during this time so that they are ready to start learning promptly.

We also ask that children are collected on time at 3.15pm.

We have noticed an increase in the number of late drop offs and collections. Whilst we understand that occasional delays can happen, repeated lates can become a safeguarding concern as there are no staff to supervise children after 3.15pm.

We have also received a growing number of requests for leave during term time. We would like to remind families that schools are unable to authorise holidays during term time except in truly exceptional circumstances. Unauthorised absences may result in the local authority issuing a penalty notice. Thank you for your continued support and partnership in helping us provide the best possible education and care for all of our children.