



September Newsletter



Friday 5th September
2025

Headteacher Message

Welcome Back!

We hope you all had a wonderful summer holiday! It already feels like such a long time ago, but what a joy it has been to spend time with our wonderful pupils again. We're sure you're all ready for another exciting year—starting with our brand-new monthly newsletter!

If you would like to share any feedback or suggestions about the newsletter, please do so using the link below:

[!\[\]\(17413706fd4997a1a4bdf85c6864eee1_img.jpg\) Click here to leave your feedback](#)

Firstly, it was an absolute pleasure to welcome back our children this week and to meet our new Reception class. It was so lovely to see the children looking so smart in their uniforms and school shoes, showing our school value of 'Pride in our School'.

We are delighted to have welcomed Mr. Edgar, Mr. Moat, Miss Anderson-Jones, and Miss Estlin to our Gillibrand team. We know you will help make them feel part of the Gillibrand family over the coming weeks—it's already been lovely to see them settling in so well.

You may be aware of a new room built over the summer, just outside the school office. This space is called The Rose Room. It will be used for one-to-one and small group sessions focused on social, emotional, and mental health. It will also serve as a private space for social workers, external agencies, and parents.

As an early notice, we'd like to let you know that this year's Celebration Assemblies will take place on Fridays at 2:40pm, with doors opening to parents from 2:30pm. As always, we aim to give you a week's notice when your child is due to receive an award. We look forward to welcoming you to join us in celebrating the children's achievements each week!

Warm wishes,
Mrs. Clark





OPAL LUNCH TIMES



Embracing All-Weather Play: Preparing for Winter with Wellies and Waterproofs

As the colder months approach, we are committed to ensuring that our pupils continue to enjoy the benefits of outdoor play through our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) provision. To facilitate this, we will soon be encouraging ALL children to bring in a pair of wellies and waterproofs to school. These items will be kept at school to ensure consistent access to outdoor activities, regardless of the weather. We are currently working diligently to secure adequate storage facilities for these items, ensuring they are easily accessible and well-maintained. Additionally, we will be providing a selection of wellies and waterproofs to ensure all pupils have access to outdoor provision.

The Importance of Outdoor Play in All Weathers

Outdoor play is a vital component of child development, offering numerous benefits that extend beyond physical health. Engaging in play, even in less-than-ideal weather conditions, fosters resilience, creativity, and a connection to nature. Research indicates that children who play outside regularly exhibit better focus, improved mood, and enhanced social skills.

The OPAL program emphasises the significance of unstructured outdoor play, allowing children to explore, take risks, and develop problem-solving abilities. By embracing all-weather play, we not only support physical development but also nurture emotional well-being and cognitive growth.

Our Commitment

We believe that there is no such thing as bad weather, only inappropriate clothing. By equipping our pupils with the necessary gear, we ensure that they can fully participate in outdoor activities year-round. This approach aligns with our dedication to providing a holistic education that values the role of play in learning and development.

Thank you for your continued support in fostering an environment where children can thrive through play, come rain or shine.

Coming Soon:

Our next OPAL play developments include:

- Launching tyre mountain
- Fitting outdoor taps and sinks for waterplay
- Introducing the 'Golden Welly Award' to support tidying up at lunchtimes
- Outdoor Storage for Wellies and Waterproofs





Pride in Gillibrand



Pride in Our Uniform

Firstly, and most importantly, thank you for your support in helping to raise the standards and consistency of our school uniform. It was certainly noticeable, and we really appreciate your efforts. We have taken on board some of the comments that have already been shared and will be sending out a parent questionnaire later this term to gather a wider range of views. This feedback will help inform any potential changes to the uniform policy for the next academic year.

At Gillibrand, we believe that wearing the correct school uniform, including black school shoes, is an important part of promoting pride, unity, and a sense of belonging within our school community. Our uniform reflects our shared commitment of high expectations and high standards, and helps unite us as one Gillibrand family.

We kindly ask that all children arrive in full school uniform each day, with PE kit worn only on designated PE days to maintain a consistent and smart appearance.

To further promote our values and culture, this year, class teachers have also been provided with a Gillibrand-branded PE uniform to wear when teaching PE lessons and attending sporting events, helping to model our high standards and promote team spirit.

School uniform is available to buy from: <https://www.slaters-schoolwear.co.uk/product-category/gillibrandprimaryschool/> and can be delivered to school FREE of charge.. Don't forget to add a note of your child's name when ordering so we can distribute it to the correct class when received at school!

Some of our class teachers, sporting their new P.E uniform:





Pride in Gillibrand



Celebrating Our School Values

This academic year, we are excited to introduce a new range of certificates as part of our ongoing efforts to raise standards and support pupils' confidence and self-belief. These include a new Values Certificate and a Pride in Presentation Certificate, which will recognise pupils who consistently demonstrate our high expectations and positive school ethos.

Each half term, we will focus on a specific value, starting with Pride in Our School. Every week, class teachers will select pupils who have shown this value to receive a special certificate.

Additionally, ALL staff have also been given a set of gold stickers to reward those showing our focus value throughout the day. Finally, throughout the year, Mrs Clark will be writing personally to the parents of pupils who are consistently noticed for living out our school values. We are proud of our pupils and look forward to celebrating their achievements.





Attendance Matters!



In order to facilitate teaching and learning, good attendance is essential. Pupils cannot achieve their full potential if they do not regularly attend school. We understand that barriers to attendance are complex, and that some pupils find it harder than others to attend school; therefore, we will continue to prioritise cultivating a safe and supportive environment at our schools, as well as strong and trusting relationships with pupils and parents.

We take a whole-school approach to securing good attendance, and recognise the impact that our efforts in other areas – such as the curriculum, behaviour standards, bullying, SEND support, pastoral support, and the effective use of resources such as pupil premium – can have on improving pupil attendance.

As a school we are committed to:

- Promoting and modelling high attendance and its benefits.
- Ensuring equality and fairness for all.
- Intervening early and working with other agencies to ensure the health and safety of our pupils.
- Building strong relationships with families to overcome barriers to attendance.
- Working collaboratively with other schools in the area, as well as other agencies.
- Ensuring parents follow the framework set in section 7 of the Education Act 1996, which states that the parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause them to receive efficient full-time education suitable to their age, ability and aptitude, and to any SEND they may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.
- Ensuring our attendance policy is clear and easily understood by all staff, parents and pupils.
- Regularly monitoring and analysing attendance and absence data to identify pupils or cohorts that require more support.

As a school, we have a legal duty to support families and pupils in ensuring that all children maintain attendance of 95% or above. In line with our Parent Code of Conduct we would like to politely remind you that if you are asked about your child's absence, our staff are simply carrying out their duty to safeguard all pupils.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.





Autumn Term Dates

We aim to provide you with as much notice as possible for our school events however please note that there are odd occasions where dates may need to be changed. Outdoor events are at weather permitting!

Monday 8th September - Gillibrand's 50th Birthday Party - Pupils only

Friday 12th September - Gillibrand's 50th Birthday Community Celebration

Monday 22nd September - SEND Parent Coffee Afternoon - 2pm - 3.15pm

Tuesday 23rd September - Y1 Victorian Day

Tuesday 23rd September - Year 5 Trip to Anderton Centre

Wednesday 25th September: Early Reading and Phonics Parent Session - 2.45pm

Monday 29th September - 2.15pm - 3pm - EYFS Family Event - Memory Boxes

Monday 29th September - Macmillan Coffee Afternoon - 1.30pm

Tuesday 30th September - Whole School Sustainability Day

Wednesday 1st October - Friday 3rd October - Year 6 Residential

Tuesday 7th October - Perspective Parents Open Day

Friday 10th October - Whole School Harvest Festival - Parents invited

Tuesday 14th October - Year 3 French Afternoon - Parents Invited

Tuesday 14th October: Year 4 River Valley Trust Workshop

Thursday 16th October: Year 5 and Year 6 Crucial Crew at Inspire

Wednesday 22nd October - Autumn Disco

Thursday 23rd October - Y1 geography walk in the community

Friday 24th October - PLP Day - a new retention of learning initiative

