



Gilberdyke Primary School

Newsletter

Thursday 21st October 2021



Dear Parents and Carers

We can't quite believe how quickly half term has crept up on us!

The normality we have resumed has been an absolute joy! We may have had to make slight tweaks or adaptations but events like our annual MacMillan cake fundraiser and the fact that we have taken nearly the whole school on a trip already this year is a welcome return to the school life we all love!

We're very excited about our in-person parent's evening in the first week back after the half term holiday – please ensure you have made an appointment with your child's teacher – we're looking forward to these important discussions and opportunities to check in with our families.

Illness

We have been extremely grateful for everyone's understanding and care when their child has been ill over the last half term.

It's been a testing time since September because we have seen a return to wide spread mixing which has resulted in a LOT of winter viruses circulating, as well as COVID still obviously been present.



Many, many families have taken their child to get a COVID test in order to rule this out and I can't stress how important this remains in our school community, especially for some pupils who live with vulnerable family members and indeed for our vulnerable and pregnant staff too – thank you for your continued commitment to keeping those that need to be kept safe, safe.

Halloween Disco

As disappointing as it was, the need to cancel the Halloween disco was unexpected but necessary.

It resulted from the very high proportion of pupils and staff who have been ill this week or are currently poorly – some with covid but the majority with nasty viruses.



Sorry for the upset this will have caused. We are hopeful that the half term break will provide a much-needed rest for everyone and a chance to break transmission cycles.

Baby Boom!

We have this great news to share with you; here are the newest members of our extended Gilberdyke family.

Introducing...

Ettie Frey Joplin; a welcome little sister for Seth.



And...

Reuben Oliver Dorsey; a welcome little brother for Alfie.



Both Mrs Joplin and Mrs Dorsey are looking and doing great since their latest editions have arrived. Congratulations from all of us in our Gilberdyke community.

Thank you Scalby Grange!

Our fantastic neighbours down the road have, once again, overwhelmed us with their generosity. The Robins class were invited to pick pumpkins at Scalby Grange for their first school trip and a great time was had by all. Farmers Pat and Sally donated a pumpkin to each class to carve and we have launched a class pumpkin carving competition with prizes! Many thanks Pat and Sally for your support.



Year Six Residential

We have made a change to our traditional year 6 residential arrangements this year, choosing to take them much earlier than usual in January to Kingswood Outdoor Education Centre in Dearne Valley.

The skills, characteristics, relationships and independence that pupils develop by going on residential without their families are immeasurable. The experience impacts hugely on their work when back in school and this has influenced our decision to take them earlier. Obviously, they will not be able to participate in the water-based adventurous activities so we have planned a day visit to Welton Waters for them in June so that they can participate in these experiences too.

There is an obvious buzz of excitement in year 6 with something to look forward to in January and we are interested to see how it works out this year for this great group of young people.



Just a polite reminder for year 6 parents that payment is now due please.

Enjoy the half term holiday. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Tuesday 2nd November.

Take care,

Melissa Shirley, Headteacher