



Golden Valley Primary School

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*'Sharing Kindness,
Challenging Ourselves and Others,
Achieving Excellence'*

Headteacher: Mr R Riordan BA (QTS) Hons., NPQH

28th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is beginning to look a lot like Christmas and it's never lost on us what a privilege it is to share these memories with your children at this festive time.

As well as all of this, the leadership team have been meeting with teaching staff to discuss the progress of your children and see how we can help to ensure we maximise their learning opportunities. We have been dropping in to lessons to coach our staff and the Trust have visited to help us reflect on how our curriculum is adapted to challenge all learners (a piece of work that the whole Trust is working on).

I have been fortunate to visit three other schools which has given me the space to reflect on what we do really well at Golden Valley and has challenged my thinking on areas we can continue to develop. A key strength of our school is the openness to new learning that all of our staff embody, coupled with their hard work and commitment to your children.

Punctuality

One of the things you can do to help your children on that journey is to ensure that children arrive at school promptly for 8.50am so that they can join their classmates in the line and begin their early morning tasks during registration. These tasks are carefully selected by the teaching staff to close gaps or develop skills that they have identified as priorities for the class.

Christmas Events

I am lucky enough that as an aging headteacher, I've been witness to nearly 20 years' worth of festive fun across 3 schools. My joy does not diminish and I look forward to hosting you across our festive offer over the next few weeks. More details of our upcoming events have been published in our Christmas Newsletter: [Christmas Newsletter](#)

Please be aware that seating capacity in the hall is limited. To ensure the best experience for all attendees, we kindly request that pre-school children do not attend these performances if possible. Please be particularly mindful that the Key Stage 2 Carol performances are likely to be extremely busy, with standing room only.

Additionally, as a reminder, the use of all photography and filming equipment is strictly prohibited during the performances.

Children in Need

Thank you for you all your generous donations for this worthwhile cause - we raised a massive £554 in total!



Enjoy your weekend, watch out for those naughty elves come Monday, and make the most of the legitimate excuse to eat chocolate with breakfast!

Thought for the weekend ... TINSEL - Ho ho ho or no no no??!

Yours sincerely



R Riordan
Headteacher

DIARY DATES

Please be aware that this list of dates is subject to change, and additional dates will be included when other events/activities have been finalised.

You can view the school calendar online; this contains planned dates for the whole school year: [School Calendar](#)

December 2025	
Weds 3	YR Writing Workshop and Post Box walk Y4 Christmas Festival Sports trip (selected children)
Fri 5	Y6 Kooth Session
Mon 8	Y1 Carols Around the Tree Share a Tray
Tues 9	Y2 Nativity
Weds 10	Y2 Nativity
Fri 12	GVSA Uniform Sale
Mon 15	Open the Book Assembly YR Nativity
Tues 16	YR Nativity Y3 Light Exhibition (more details to follow shortly)
Weds 17	Christmas Dinner day
Thurs 18	KS2 Carols
Fri 19	Christmas Parties Last day of term
January 2026	
Mon 5	First day of term
Fri 16	INSET Day

Further details about most of the events will be given nearer the time where appropriate.