



Golden Valley Primary School

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

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

23rd January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a rather wild, wet and windy start to 2026 but despite the dark clouds our school remains a beacon of light and learning. It is a real joy to visit classes, take part in forest school in our new outdoor learning area and see how well your children have done in their January assessments.

INSET

Last Friday our teachers took part in Trust wide training with colleagues from over 30 schools. This was focussed on the pedagogy of writing and ensuring accurate assessment of writing.

I stayed at Golden Valley and worked with our amazing team of support staff, delivering training on the 6 Principles of Nurture, supporting children with Dyslexia and reviewing some of our curriculum wide pedagogy based on the research and methodology from Doug Lemov (Teach Like A Champion 3.0), Rosenshine's Principles of Instruction and Tom Sherrington's Walk Thrus.

School Day Consultation

During the last 2 and ½ years the school has regularly received feedback on the challenges of dropping off and picking up children on our separate playgrounds. The start and finish times of all pupils is currently the same. This makes it very difficult for parents of children whose classrooms are on separate playgrounds to speak to teachers in the morning and/or get their children in to school at the same time as the bell goes. The school has reviewed the school day at a variety of local and other LSP schools, many of which have a staggered start or children can access the classrooms directly without the need to line up. The school does not wish to introduce direct access to the classrooms as we know that parents value the morning visibility of teaching staff and the opportunity to speak to them at both ends of the school day. Therefore, we are proposing a five minute change at the start and end of the day for children in EYFS and Year 1 to allow parents a small window for movement between both playgrounds. This has no effect on the length of the school day or time children will spend in school.

Current start and end times for EYFS and Year 1: 8:50am and 3:30pm

Proposed start and end times for EYFS and Year 1: 8:45am and 3:25pm

[Please share your views using this link.](#) This form will be accessible until Friday 6th February at 12pm.

Children in Cars

Our local PCSO has asked to share the following guidance with our families:

<https://www.gov.uk/child-car-seats-the-rules>



Dental Hygiene

We would like to extend a big thank you to Mrs Ryan for visiting our Year 1 and 2 students as part of the Aquafresh Shine Bright School Program. Mrs Ryan spoke to the children about the importance of regular teeth brushing and good dental hygiene. The session was extremely beneficial, helping to reinforce healthy habits, and the children thoroughly enjoyed the activities and learning experience. We are very grateful for the time and effort Mrs Ryan put into making this visit so informative.

Have a lovely weekend.

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](#)

January 2026	
Mon 26 – Feb 6	Y5 Bikeability (exact group dates to follow)
Tues 27	Y4 Outdoor Learning
Thurs 29	Y5+6 SARI Workshops
February 2026	
Thurs 5	YR School Nurse Visit
Fri 6	GVSA Uniform Sale
Tues 10	Internet Safety Day
Weds 11	YR & Y5 Explorer Dome (YR Letter Y5 Letter)
Thurs 12	Y1 Great Fire of London Presentation
Fri 13	INSET Day End of Term 3
Mon 16-Fri 20	Half term holiday
Mon 23	First day of Term 4 World Thinking Day
Tues 24	Y1 Outdoor Learning
Weds 25	Y6 Lifeskills trip (more details to follow)
Thurs 26	YR + Y1 Kurling sports event (in school)

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

