



Golden Valley Primary School

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

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

Friday 17th July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Next Week

A reminder that Share a Tray will take place on Monday from 3:30pm to 4:00pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to spend time with your child, explore their learning and celebrate the progress they have made.

On Wednesday, please send your child to school with a **named carrier bag** (such as a Bag for Life) so that they can bring their books home safely.

As temperatures are expected to be slightly cooler next week, **we will be returning to full school uniform from Monday.**

Sports Days

It was a pleasure to host you for our two sports days. I'm so proud of the sporting behaviour our children demonstrate and the great time they have competing and having fun. I know how much it means to the children to share these moments with you and we really value you giving up your time.

My thanks to the team from Shine and to everyone who made both mornings so special.

Golden Valley 50th Birthday Celebrations

In September, Golden Valley Primary School will celebrate its 50th anniversary. To mark this special milestone, we will be holding a celebration on Friday 11th September and creating a new school library as a lasting legacy for future generations of children. Please look out for the separate letter containing further details about our celebrations.

Changes to EYFS and KS1 Lunchtime from September

From September, all children will have a one-hour lunch break, bringing EYFS and KS1 in line with the arrangements for our older pupils.

We have recognised for some time that our younger children can find a longer period of unstructured time challenging. In addition, increasingly extreme weather conditions, from cold and wet winter days to very hot summer temperatures, can make longer lunchtimes less enjoyable. Our aim is to ensure that lunchtimes are a positive and enjoyable part of every child's day.

Staff will continue to have the flexibility to provide additional breaks whenever needed. Our EYFS children will also continue to learn through play and spend around half of their time learning outdoors.



LSP Newsletter – The Beacon - Parents Edition

As you may be aware, our school is part of the Lighthouse Schools Partnership (LSP) – a Trust of 34 schools in the local area. The LSP has a parent/carer newsletter, called The Beacon, which is for anyone with children within a LSP school. Please [click here](#) to read the latest version of this newsletter which includes lots of exciting news and updates from across the trust.

We hope you enjoy reading about the exciting things that have been happening across LSP and in our school.

Great British Summer Savings

Rising prices can make family days out and holiday activities more difficult to afford. To help support families, the Government has introduced the Great British Summer Savings Scheme.

From 25 June to 1 September 2026, VAT has been temporarily reduced from 20% to 5% on:

- Children's meals in restaurants
- Children's and family tickets for cinemas, theatres, concerts and exhibitions
- Admission to a range of attractions

In addition, children aged 5 to 15 in England will be able to travel by bus free of charge throughout August. These measures aim to help families enjoy enriching cultural, educational and recreational experiences during the summer holidays.

A big thank you to our Support Staff

This year, schools across our Trust have undertaken the challenging task of reviewing support staff roles and contracts as we continue to develop the role of our classroom support staff as **Learning Partners**. This work is informed by research from University College London and focuses on maximising the impact of support staff on children's learning and development.

We are excited about the opportunities this brings, including increased professional development for staff and greater support for children throughout the school day, including during lunchtimes.

I would like to thank all of our support staff for the enthusiasm, flexibility and commitment they have shown throughout this process. Their willingness to embrace both the opportunities and challenges has been greatly appreciated.

[You can find out more about Maximising the Impact of Teaching Assistants here.](#)

Pauline Davis – Former Chair of Governors

At our final Governing Body meeting of the academic year, we said goodbye and heartfelt thanks to Pauline Davis, who is stepping down after 16 years of dedicated service as a governor at Golden Valley Primary School.

Pauline has also served as our Chair of Governors and has made an exceptional contribution to the school community. A former primary teacher, SENDCo and a valued member of Trendlewood Church, Pauline has brought wisdom, compassion and unwavering commitment to the children, families and staff of Golden Valley.

Her kindness, support and dedication have had a lasting impact on our school, and we are incredibly grateful for everything she has given over the years. On behalf of the entire Golden Valley community, thank you, Pauline, for your outstanding service and support. If angels walk among us, then she is one.

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](#)

July 2026	
Mon 20	Share a Tray
Tues 21	Y6 Forest School
Weds 22	Y6 Leavers Service Last day of term (send your child into school with a bag!)
September 2026	
Thurs 3	INSET Day
Fri 4	INSET Day
Mon 7	First day of term
Fri 11	50 th Birthday Celebration and Fancy Dress
Mon 14	Y2 Parent Meeting
Weds 16	Y1 Parent Meeting Y6 Parent Information Evening
Thurs 17	Y4 Parent Meeting
Fri 18	Y3 Parent Meeting
Weds 23	Y5 Parent Meeting
Tues 29	YR Drop In Session
October 2026	
Thurs 1	YR Drop In Session

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

